



Find us online at theyodeler.org and sierraclub.org/sfbay

Chapter achievements of 2015: paving the way to a sustainable future

Thanks to our dedicated volunteer leaders and loyal members, 2015 was a year of great progress for the environment in the Bay Area. The reality that climate disruption is happening now adds urgency to our campaigns to preserve our land, water, air, and wildlife for future generations — and you, our members, responded to that urgency by showing up at meetings, calling your representatives, signing petitions, planting trees, and taking action in so many other ways to protect and improve the environment of the Bay Area, California, and the world.

The Bay Area's natural resources are increasingly threatened by drought, sea-level rise, wildfires, and heat waves: harbingers of a disrupted climate. This year, we made great strides in protecting our precious natural resources from these grave threats. We've gone toe-to-toe with some of the biggest fossil fuel interests in the world — and we're winning, thwarting the encroachment of more highly polluting and carbon-intensive fossil fuels. We also went on the offense, championing renewable-energy solutions that position the Bay Area as a global leader in the transition to a clean-energy economy. Today, every county in the Bay Chapter area is either served by a Community Choice energy program or is actively moving toward that goal.

The Bay Area will be home to an additional two million new residents by 2040. This year, we continued to fight sprawl by advocating for complete, compact communities that are walkable, bikeable, and well served by public transit. To prevent displacement, we supported policies and initiatives that promote affordable housing and a higher minimum wage.

We want to thank every one of our members, partners, and supporters for making 2015 such a successful year for the Bay Chapter. None of the accomplishments listed below would have been possible without a membership ready and willing to answer our calls to action. These victories are your victories. We look forward to working with you in the new year and beyond!

Modeling the clean-energy transition

CleanPowerSF is a go! After twelve years of diligent advocacy, we achieved a major victory for climate with the



Mobilizing the community against a proposal to export coal out of Oakland was one of the Bay Chapter's priority campaigns in 2015. Photo of July rally at Oakland City Hall by Brooke Anderson.

launch of CleanPowerSF. The City's renewable-power program will roll out to customers in 2016, providing consumers with cheaper, cleaner power than the investor-owned utility, PG&E. Pre-enroll at cleanpowersf.org to get cleaner power this spring! Read more on page 15.

Contra Costa looks to a clean-energy future. The county currently known for its fossil fuel infrastructure could soon reestablish itself as a hub of clean and renewable power. Contra Costa County is officially exploring joining or creating a Community Choice energy program, and cities are lining up to support the proposal. Read more on page 15.

MCE invests in local renewable-power infrastructure. California's first Community Choice energy program, Marin Clean Energy, is creating jobs, economic investment, and energy independence by investing profits in local clean-energy production. Its newest "Solar One" project on a brownfield site leased from Chevron in Richmond will soon house 80,000 ground-mounted solar panels with the ability to power about 3,400 homes, all while creating more than 100 jobs for local residents. Read more at theyodeler.org/?p=10715.

Proposed decision on net metering protects rooftop solar. The California Public Utilities Commission is updating the system that compensates solar-energy-system owners for the electricity they add to the grid. A proposed decision issued in December rejects the punitive fees proposed by the utilities to disincentivize solar. A final decision may come as soon as January 28th. Read more on page 14.

SF voters show up for clean power. On November 3rd, San Franciscans voted overwhelmingly for a clean-energy future by handily defeating Prop. G (designed by PG&E allies to

undermine CleanPowerSF) and passing Prop. H (reinforcing fair standards for all energy providers). The Sierra Club also supported Aaron Peskin for District 3 Supervisor; his election victory will give CleanPowerSF and other green programs a boost at City Hall. Read more at theyodeler.org/?p=10917.

Blocking fossil fuels

WesPac oil terminal defeated: California's biggest proposed crude-oil project was stopped in its tracks by a hard-fought, community-led campaign. This means that 242,000 barrels a day of toxic and explosive extreme crude oil from the tar sands and the Bakken will stay in the ground, and off the tankers,

Continued on page 4.



Go Solar with the Sierra Club!

A Club partnership with Sungevity makes it easy to take advantage of the benefits of solar with little up-front cost. You pay through your monthly energy bill, and an average Sungevity customer saves 15% on electricity costs! When you sign your solar contract in February or March you'll receive a \$1,000 discount and Sungevity will make a \$750 donation to the Bay Chapter.

Know your solar options and be the brightest home on the block: request a solar quote today at sc.org/solarprint or call (855)438-7860 to speak with the Sierra Club solar homes coordinator.

Find the fullest and most up-to-date coverage at theYodeler.org.

Election results for Bay Chapter leaders

Thanks to everyone who voted in the 2015 Sierra Club San Francisco Bay Chapter elections! Vote counts are as follows (asterisks denote candidates who were elected to serve two-year terms beginning in 2016):

Chapter Executive Committee (ExCom):

- * John Rizzo: 1139
- * Norman La Force: 718
- * Jennifer Hidalgo Ong: 679
- * Igor Tregub: 571
- * Sarah Brinker: 526
- Matt Morrison: 482
- Luis Amezcua: 469
- Stephen Murphy: 458

Southern Alameda County Group ExCom:

- * Jewell (Hargleroad) Spalding: 28
- * Toni Pryor Wise: 25

Tri-Valley Group ExCom:

- * Janis Kate Turner: 26
- * Donna Cabanne: 23

Marin Group ExCom:

- * Max Perry: 67
- * Doug Karpa: 66
- * Michele Barni: 65
- * Louie Nuyens: 59
- * Sue Lattanzio: 59

Northern Alameda County Group ExCom:

- * Sophie Hahn: 265
- * Andy Katz: 257
- * Igor Tregub: 251
- * Corina N. Lopez: 242
- * Andy Kelley: 234

San Francisco Group ExCom:

- * Howard Strassner: 912
- * John Rizzo: 793
- * Arthur Feinstein: 782
- * Sue Vaughan: 761
- * Barry Hermanson: 742
- Jacquelyn Omotalade: 283
- Rebecca Lee: 282
- Leah Pimentel: 267
- Donald Dewsup: 184

The Chapter thanks Nominations and

Elections Committee chair Maritessa Bravo and vote-counters Joanne Drabek, William Yragui, Helen Burke, Gayle Eads, Elizabeth Stern, Merna Strassner, Michelle Myers, Olga Bolotina, Carol Evans, Glenn Kirby, Becky Evans, Gabe Quinto, and Peter Gould.

The nomination and election process is still ongoing for the Delta, West Contra Costa County, and Mount Diablo Group Executive Committees, and the Tri-Valley Group had fewer candidates than vacancies. If you are a member of one of these groups, contact your group chair to inquire about running for open positions:

- Delta Group chair: Tim Donahue, (925)754-8801 or timothy-donahue@sbc-global.net
- West Contra Costa Group chair: Gabe Quinto, (415)265-4610 or gtq2002@yahoo.com
- Tri-Valley Group chair: Janis Kate-Turner, (925)344-6150 or janiskate@gmail.com
- Mount Diablo Group chair: Jim Blickenstaff, (925)830-1929 or jpblick@comcast.net




We also need people to serve on this year's Nominations and Elections Committee. You don't need to be an insider, but it helps to be organized and a self-starter. It's a great chance to get to know lots of wonderful Sierra Club leaders and identify potential new ones! Tasks begin in April and last through vote-counting in December. They include:

- Identifying and recruiting candidates for the Chapter ExCom;
- Encouraging local groups to recruit diverse and qualified candidates;
- Gathering candidate materials and preparing the Chapter election supplement; and
- Increasing member participation in the election.

If you're interested in serving on this year's Nominations and Elections Committee, send an email to elections@sfbaysc.org.

The Bay Chapter Online

Follow us on social media!

-  /SierraClubSFBayChapter
-  @SFBaySierraClub
-  SierraClub_SFBay

Explore our new website!

The Bay Chapter has launched a new website, online at sierraclub.org/sfbay. Head there to explore all sorts of great resources and opportunities including:

- Issue briefs
- Group info and leadership roster
- Full events and activities calendar
- Volunteer opportunities

New member event

Join us for afternoon snacks and learn about the Sierra Club

Saturday, February 6, 3 to 6 pm
Mission Coffee / Fremont Roasting Company, 151 Washington Blvd., Fremont (near Mission Blvd.)

No-host beverages. Snacks provided.

New and not-so-new members are welcome to come to a Sierra Club orientation led by local leaders. Learn about the actions behind our motto "Explore, enjoy, and protect the planet." We are a volunteer-led organization, so there are ample opportunities to be involved: hiking, tabling, learning, socializing, endorsing political candidates, and many more. Come learn about how you can get the most out of your membership!

For more information contact Joanne Drabek at (510)530-5216 or joanne1892@gmail.com, or William Yragui at wyragai@infobond.com.

SIERRA CLUB YODELER

Volume 79 • Number 1
February-March 2016
Sierra Club Yodeler (ISSN 8750-5681) is published bi-monthly (issues are dated Feb.-March, April-May, June-July, Aug.-Sep., Oct.-Nov., and Dec.-Jan.) by the San Francisco Bay Chapter of the

Sierra Club
2530 San Pablo Ave., Suite 1
Berkeley, CA 94702
(510)848-0800

Monday - Thursday, 10:00 - 5:00
Friday, 10:00 - 2:00
yodedit@sfbaysc.org

EDITOR
Virginia Reinhart

ADVERTISING MANAGER
Chris Lynch

DEDICATED VOLUNTEERS

Illustrations
Section icons by Emily Rasmussen
www.emilyras.com

Subscription Manager
Lev Pope

Distribution
Yvette Simpson, Christina Oldenburg, Charlotte Rieger, Lucy Henderson, Rita Stein, Janess Hanson, Jim Bonsey, Ray Gordon, Virginia Goeckner

Chapter Chair
Becky Evans (415)775-3309

POSTMASTER

Send change of address to Sierra Club Yodeler, 2530 San Pablo Ave., Suite 1, Berkeley, CA 94702. Periodicals postage paid at Berkeley, CA, and additional mailing offices. Printed at Fricke-Parks Press, Inc., 33250 Transit Ave., Union City, CA 94587. Copyright San Francisco Bay Chapter Sierra Club, Sierra Club Yodeler 2014

SUBSCRIPTIONS

Annual Sierra Club dues are \$39 and include a subscription to the Yodeler for Bay Chapter members. Subscriptions for non-members and for members of other chapters are \$8. Send check payable to "Sierra Club" to: Sierra Club Yodeler Subscriptions, 2530 San Pablo Ave., Suite 1, Berkeley, CA 94702. Specify your preferred starting issue.

ADDRESS CHANGES

Sierra Club Membership Services
P.O. Box 421042
Palm Coast, FL 32142-1042
address.changes@sierraclub.org
(415)977-5649

ADVERTISING

For information about display advertising, contact ad manager Chris Lynch at sierraclubyodeler@gmail.com. For information about classifieds, see page 15.

SUBMISSIONS AND VOLUNTEERING

To find out more, contact the editor at yodedit@sierraclub.org or (510)848-0800.



National Club election coming this spring — vote by April 27!

The annual election for the Sierra Club's national Board of Directors is now underway. Those eligible to vote in the national Club election will receive their ballot in the mail (or by email if you chose the electronic delivery option), including information on the candidates. Visit the election website at sierraclub.org/board/election for additional information about candidates and their views on a variety of issues facing the Club and the environment.

The Sierra Club is a democratically structured organization at all levels. The Club requires the regular flow of views on policy and priorities from its grassroots membership in order to function well. Yearly participation in elections at all Club levels is a major membership obligation. Your Board of Directors is required to stand for election by the member-

ship. This Board sets Club policy and budgets at the national level and works closely with the Executive Director and staff to operate the Club. Voting for candidates who express your views on how the Club should grow and change is both a privilege and responsibility of membership.

Members frequently state that they don't know the candidates and find it difficult to vote without learning more. If you don't find the information you need at sierraclub.org/board/election or in your ballot, you can learn more by asking questions of your group and chapter leadership (contacts at sierraclub.org/sfbay/leadership-roster) and other experienced members you know. You should use your own judgment by taking several minutes to read the ballot statement of each candidate. Then make

your choice and cast your vote. Even if you receive your election materials in the mail, please go to the user-friendly Internet voting site to save time and postage.





Protecting the Richmond hills from intensive future development — Signature gatherers needed!

The Richmond hills north of Wildcat Canyon Regional Park is an undeveloped stretch of scenic land with panoramic views of Mount Diablo, the mountains of the North Bay, the Napa Valley, and Sonoma County. Home to numerous common animals (fox, bobcats, deer, coyotes, and many birds species) and habitat for special-status plants and wildlife, the land has been threatened by numerous development proposals over the years. The Richmond Hills Scenic Area Initiative will protect this land from future harmful development and protect the wildlife and plants that live there.

The initiative was conceived by a coalition of local and regional conservation groups after fighting back development proposals one by one. It will make a lasting change in land protection by rezoning the area to preserve scenic views, protect wildlife habitat, and prevent residential subdivisions and other harmful development. It will allow non-motorized recreation (hiking, horseback riding, nature observation, study, and enjoyment), as well as small-scale agriculture and grazing. The initiative is modeled after the successful 2004 Hercules Protect Franklin Canyon Area

Initiative that saved the land along Highway 4 above the Franklin Canyon Golf Course.

WhatYouCanDo

It takes 4,200 valid signatures of Richmond registered voters to qualify the initiative for the ballot. Signature collecting will take place on weekends from March through May. We need your help in this all-volunteer effort.

You do *not* have to be a Richmond resident to collect signatures. The only requirement is that you be at least 18 years old. We will work in pairs in two-hour shifts in front of grocery stores and other high-foot-traffic areas of Richmond. We'll also be at farmers' markets, Earth Day celebrations, and other special events during the spring. We will not go door-to-door.

From past experience, we can tell you that this is immensely rewarding work. People are very appreciative of our work and are very happy to sign the initiative petitions.

If you can help protect this beautiful area by volunteering for a two-hour shift this spring, or for more information, please contact Dick Schneider at richs59354@aol.com or (510)926-0010.



Strolling in the area targeted for protection by the Richmond Hills Scenic Area Initiative. Photo by Cary Croner, carycronerphotos.com.

Time is running out to save Tesla Park, vital wildlife corridor and historic site in eastern Alameda County

The State Parks Off Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation Division (OHMVR) has posted notice of a February 4th and 5th hearing on the Proposed Final Environmental Impact Report (FEIR) and General Plan for the expansion of the Carnegie off-road-vehicle area into Tesla Park. This is one of our last chances to save one of eastern Alameda County's most beautiful open spaces.

OHMVR did not release the documents to the public when they provided the 30-day notice of the hearing; the FEIR is now available online at carnegiegeneralplan.com/document-library, though the Draft General Plan will not be released until spring. Remember, the Draft EIR implausibly concluded there were no significant impacts from the existing Carnegie State Vehicular Recreation Area or from opening up Tesla to off-road-vehicle use. Rather than address the inadequacies in the Draft EIR identified by extensive comments from the public, environmental organizations, and public agencies, it appears OHMVR plans to ram through approval of the Carnegie expansion plan that will destroy Tesla as we know it.

WhatYouCanDo

Years of work to save Tesla Park has been building up to this final stage of the EIR process. Please help us continue to fight. Here's what you can do:

Attend the public hearing:

When: Friday, February 5, 8:30 a.m.

Where: Tracy City Hall, Council Chambers, 333 Civic Center Plaza, Tracy

If you can't attend the hearing in person, please send an email to Assemblymember Catherine Baker and Senator Steve Glazer. Thus far neither representative has supported Tesla preservation or helped protect Tesla in any way.

Please send separate emails to:

- Assemblymember.Baker@assembly.ca.gov
- Senator.Glazer@senate.ca.gov

Here is a sample letter. Please personalize it to explain why Tesla Park preservation matters to you.

Dear [Senator Glazer/Assemblymember Baker]:

I am asking for your help to permanently preserve the Tesla Park land. Tesla is in your district in eastern Alameda County. Tesla has numerous sensitive cultural and biologic resources important for our region. It is a vital wildlife corridor. It contains threatened and endangered species. It is the location of the historic Tesla town site and mine. It is productive cattle grazing land. Creating a nearly 5,000 acre off-highway vehicle park on the outskirts of Livermore by expanding Carnegie State Vehicular Recreation Area and opening Tesla to off-highway-vehicle use will forever damage Tesla's unique resources.

We all share a responsibility to preserve this important open space for future generations. Please support preservation of Tesla and do everything you can to change state policy so that this unique and irreplaceable natural landscape is permanently protected.

[Your name, address]

Celeste Garamendi, Friends of Tesla Park



The Richmond Hills Scenic Area Initiative applies to an undeveloped hillside area of roughly 430 acres (greyed out in map above) surrounded by public and private lands. The area offers a mixture of dense oak forest, rolling hills, and pasture. It includes nine streambeds and their associated riparian zones, as well as vernal pools and other wetlands.



Gifts to the Bay Chapter

In memory of Barbara Harless
Gift of Mike Harless

In memory of Kitty McLean
Gifts from Kitty's friends and family

The San Francisco Bay Chapter welcomes donations in general, as well as gifts in memory or honor of relatives and friends. Such gifts will be used as specified by the donor, or, if unspecified, at the discretion of the Executive Committee.

In 2015, the Bay Chapter stood up for greener lands and greener energy

Continued from page 1.

oil trains, and pipelines WesPac would have built to bring this dangerous crude to Bay Area refineries. Read more on page 12.

Strong new wood-burning regulations enacted. New regulations on wood-burning devices by the Bay Area Air Quality Management District take aim at the Bay Area's largest source of wintertime air pollution. Read more at theyodeler.org/?p=11044.

New refinery pollution controls. The Air District's passage of three new emission rules is expected to reduce pollution from the Bay Area's five refineries by 14%. The Air District also committed to voting on a rule capping refinery-wide emissions in 2016. Read more on page 12.

Mobilized opposition to Oakland coal exports. When we discovered a secretive plan to export up to ten million tons of coal out of Oakland each year, we helped mobilize a huge, diverse coalition against it. Community pressure forced the city council to hold a public hearing on the health and safety impacts of the proposal, at which hundreds of residents, activists, and experts spoke out against coal exports. The council has promised action in the new year, and we'll be there holding them accountable. Read more at sierraclub.org/sfbay/coalfreeoakland.

Dirty power plant blocked. Strong community outcry helped push the California Energy

Commission to terminate the certification of the proposed "Willow Pass" natural gas plant in Pittsburg. This is a big win for climate and public health in an area already overburdened by industrial pollution. Read more at theyodeler.org/?p=10867.

Richmond takes a bold stand on coal and petcoke pollution. The Richmond City Council passed two important resolutions intended to protect local communities and the environment from the harmful impacts of coal and petroleum coke (petcoke) pollution. The first resolution prohibits exports of the fossil fuels from ports on City land. The second calls on the Bay Area Air Quality Management District to require all piles of coal and petcoke to be

stored in enclosed facilities — action the Air District has promised to take in 2016. Read more at theyodeler.org/?p=10501.

Championed Chevron shareholders resolution against dirty money. The Sierra Club helped put forward a Chevron shareholders resolution that would prevent the company from dumping money into the political cycle. The resolution followed an election cycle in which Chevron (unsuccessfully) spent more than \$3 million on pro-refinery, anti-environment Richmond City Council candidates. Read more at theyodeler.org/?p=10140.

Raised up youth voices for clean air. The Bay Chapter brought 50 Oakland fifth graders to Sacramento to testify in favor of stricter EPA smog rules. Read more at theyodeler.org/?p=10164.

Protecting our parks and wildlife

Park expansion, not private development, at Alameda's Crown Beach. Following a multi-year campaign, the East Bay Regional Park District will soon purchase vacant surplus federal property next to Alameda's Crab Cove Visitor's Center on Crown Beach. Read more



The harbor seals of Alameda's Inner Bay Harbor will soon have a brand new haul-out dock. Photo courtesy Richard Bangert, alamedapointenvironmentalreport.wordpress.com.

at theyodeler.org/?p=10881.

A fix for congestion at Muir Woods. After years of study and public input, the National Park Service finalized a Memorandum of Understanding with Marin County to address parking and congestion problems in one of our region's most visited sites. The agreement includes increased public transit, a reservation system, and additional parking enforcement, as well as storm-water management to reduce potential impacts from roadside parking along Redwood Creek, home to endangered salmon. Read more at theyodeler.org/?p=10591.

Safe harbor for Alameda's seals. When a dock used by harbor seals in Alameda's Inner Bay Harbor is demolished for the construction of a new ferry terminal, a new purpose-built haul-out site will be built nearby. The replacement structure — the first of its kind in the Bay Area, and possibly the entire West Coast — will be delivered early this year. Read more at theyodeler.org/?p=10258.

Keeping an eye on the Bay Area's national parks. The Chapter formed a new Federal Parks Committee to work on issues in our region's many sites of natural and historic interest managed by the National Park Service. To get involved, contact committee chair Alan Carlton at (510)769-3403 or carltonal@yahoo.com.

Toward more sustainable Bay Area communities

Putting the "Explore" in "Explore, Enjoy, and Protect". In 2015, the Bay Chapter's outstanding volunteer outings leaders led over 700 trips to wild and beautiful places in the Bay Area and beyond. Visit sierraclub.org/sfbay/activities to find your next adventure.

Building up Oakland's "green lung". The Bay Chapter's Oakland Tree Team planted 364 trees and pruned 700 more last



The decor at our annual David Brower Dinner fundraiser showed the breadth of our work in 2015.

year. The program was also awarded new grants to fund tree-planting in 2016. Tree-planting season is in full swing and we need volunteers! Find out how you can get involved at sierraclub.org/sfbay/tree-planting.

Composting for all in Oakland. Our Zero Waste campaign won a major victory this summer when Oakland rolled out green-waste bins to 3,500 multi-unit buildings where organics collection had not happened before. Read more at theyodeler.org/?p=10605.

Community benefits from downtown Berkeley developers. This summer, the Berkeley City Council finalized a package of community benefits that developers of tall buildings must provide. The benefits include affordable housing, improved and accessible public transportation, streetscape and open-space improvements, and labor benefits. Read more at theyodeler.org/?p=10558.



A Tree Team volunteer poses by a newly planted street tree in Oakland.

Advancing sustainable shoreline development. As sea-level

rise threatens our shoreline areas, the Bay Chapter advocates for wetlands preservation and restoration. This year we succeeded in protecting the Edgewater Wetland, originally proposed as part of the site of the 800-acre Coliseum City development on Oakland's waterfront. Read more at theyodeler.org/?p=10480.

Zeke rides again! This summer, intrepid Berkeley teen Zeke Gerwein biked 4,334 miles from the Atlantic to the Pacific, raising \$4,939 for the Bay Chapter. Zeke's blog (link at sierraclub.org/sfbay/xclimatchallenge) chronicled his journey and documented evidence of climate disruption.

Thanks again to every Sierra Club member — these are your victories!

amazon smile



You shop. Amazon gives.

Your Amazon purchases can support the Bay Chapter!

Whenever you shop at Amazon, use the link at sc.org/sfbay/give and you'll earn a commission for our work to protect the environment!



Events & Activities

of the SAN FRANCISCO BAY CHAPTER
OF THE SIERRA CLUB

FEB-MAR
2016

Explore, enjoy and protect the planet

Our outings are open to all. They are designed to educate participants about the great outdoors through direct experience and contact with nature, and to cultivate an appreciation of nature and the local environment.

About this calendar

This calendar includes many Sierra Club Bay Chapter events and outings, but the most extensive calendar is found on the Chapter website at:

sierraclub.org/sfbay/activities.

The Calendar website may include changes, cancellations, or outings that were submitted after the print deadline. Many of our activity sections place additional information and more outings in section newsletters, or on section websites, which are found at the above URL.

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

Problem resolution

If you have an outing-related concern that you are not able to address via the outing's leader, please contact the chair of the sponsoring section or group. If that is not sufficient, you can call the Activities Committee ombudsman, Rob Postar, at (510)551-4979 or rpostar@gmail.com, or the Chapter office at (510)848-0800.

Carpooling

Carpooling helps the environment and allows folks without cars to participate. If you are driving to a hike, please stop by the carpool point to pick up others. If you're a rider, pay a share of expenses.

Many activities are listed on the Chapter's Meetup site a couple weeks in advance of the event. Join the Meetup group and post a comment requesting or offering a ride at:

www.meetup.com/sanfranciscobay.

Tuesdays

Lake Chabot Reservoir 1A hike. Optional dinner afterward. **Meet:** 4pm at boathouse. **Leader:** Dolores Gruenewald, (510)351-6247 or doloresgru@aol.com. (Solo Sierrans)

Wednesdays

Lafayette Reservoir 1A hike. Optional dinner afterward. **Meet:** 4pm in parking lot (takes five quarters or annual pass). **Leader:** Lee Cowden, (925)934-6357. (Solo Sierrans)

Last Saturdays

Corona Heights Natural Area habitat work project. Help plant native species grown from seeds collected at Corona Heights, remove invasive species, and do general park maintenance. All tools and gloves provided. Projects held rain or shine. Children welcome with parent or guardian. **Meet:** 10 am on north side of Randall Museum at end of Museum Way, just off Roosevelt Way. **Ends:** Noon. **Leader:** Russell Hartman, (650)242-2679 or rph1917@comcast.net. (Gay & Lesbian)

First and Second Saturdays

San Bruno Mountain 1B hike. Explore two of San Bruno Mountain's less-traveled canyons and learn about the history and ecology of this "Island of Biodiversity." The hike is on narrow footpaths surrounded by coastal scrub, riparian woodland, and coastal grassland. Includes an Ohlone shellmound visit. Moderate pace with many stops. Heavy rain cancels. **Meet:** 10 am at 44 Visitacion Avenue #206, Brisbane. **Ends:** 1:30 pm. **Leader:** Paul Bouscal, (415)467-6631 or sanbruno@mountainwatch.org. (Hiking and San Bruno Mountain Watch)

Jan 27 • Wed

Winter Wonderland south to north side 3B hike. Enjoy winter on Tam – a magical season with newts, moss, fungus amongus, moisture, and rich colors. Steady pace, good ups, easy-ish downs. Iffy weather might change (or enhance) plans so call or email leader if you are coming and we'll keep you apprised of any shift. **Meet:** 8:15 am at Bootjack parking lot, Mill Valley. **Ends:** 2 pm. **Leader:** Jayah Faye Paley, (415)699-3333 or seminar@polesformobility.com. (Hiking)

Jan 30 • Sat

Big Rock Ridge loop 4D Hike. We'll start at the end of Freitas Parkway and work our way up to Big Rock Ridge for lunch. We then drop down and head up to Loma Alta. Enjoy the second- and fourth-highest peaks in Marin on this hearty workout. Any rain cancels. **Meet:** 9 am at very end of Manuel T. Freitas Parkway, San Rafael. **Leader:** Tom Post, (415)690-6572 or tpost123@hotmail.com. (Hiking)

Jan 30 • Sat

Plant trees at San Antonio Park, Oakland, with the Sierra Club Tree Team. Heavy rain cancels. **Bring:** Wear closed-toed shoes, clothes that you won't mind getting dirty, and a hat for sun protection; bring your own water and a snack. We provide the shovels, picks, brooms, and gloves. **Meet:** 9 am at E. 19th St. & 17th Ave., Oakland. **Ends:** 1 pm. **Leader:** Derek K. Schubert, (510)435-2452 (cell/text) or derek.schubert@alumni.duke.edu. (N Alameda County Group)

Jan 30 • Sat

Bird-watching safari, Thornton area, Delta hike. Join Tish Brown for a car caravan to the Cosumnes River Preserve of the Nature Conservancy and Thornton agricultural area to see migratory birds, including sandhill cranes, geese, swans, ducks, and raptors. Rain alters plans. **Bring:** Lunch and binoculars. **Meet:** 9:30 am for carpooling in parking area near Macys/Chevron station. **Directions:** From Highway 80 or 24/680/242, take Highway 4 east to Antioch, Somersville Road South exit. Turn right on Somersville, toward shopping center on right. **Ends:** 4:30 pm. **Leader:** Tish Brown, (925)325-7228 or tishbbird@yahoo.com. (Delta Regional Group)

Jan 30 • Sat

Purisima Creek 2C hike. Join us at this lesser-known gem along the coast of Half Moon Bay. Wide variety of vegetation, including towering redwoods, coastal scrub, ferns, berries and wildflowers. 10-mile hike through the preserve begins with a long slow climb and is recommended for strong and experienced hikers only. **Meet:** 10:30 am at Purisima Creek Redwoods Open Space Preserve, Higgins-Purisima trailhead, 3604 Higgins Canyon Road, Half Moon Bay. **Leader:** Jeffrey Sanchez, (510)599-5238 or amagi@pacbell.net. (Sierra Singles)

Feb 5 • Fri

Diablo Falls & Donner Canyon 2B hike. Enjoy wildflowers and water on the rugged north side of Mount Diablo. Our route will take us up Back Canyon, over Meridian Ridge and then swing around the falls and catacombs at the base of North Peak. We'll return via a series of trails to lovely lower Donner Canyon. Steady rain cancels. **Cost:** \$6 vehicle entry fee. **Meet:** 11 am at Mount Diablo State Park, in front of Visitor Center at Mitchell Canyon trailhead at end of Mitchell Canyon Rd. in Clayton. **Leader:** Jake Van Akkeren, (925)933-3486 or jvanakkeren@comcast.net (preferred). (Mount Diablo Group & Save Mount Diablo)

Feb 7 • Sun

Martinez to Port Costa hike. Hike on recently constructed trail, with scenic views of Carquinez shoreline and bay. Lunch at Port Costa, then hike back to Martinez. Bring lunch or buy one drink and get free buffet lunch at local cafe. Rain cancels. **Meet:** 10 am at Carquinez Strait Regional Shoreline Park, East Staging Area. **Ends:** 2-2:30 pm. **Leader:** Lidia Campos, (925)240-5795 or lidiacampos@sbcglobal.net. (Delta Regional Group)

Feb 13 • Sat

Marine Mammal Center 3C hike. Hike up the Morning Sun Trail and follow the ridgeline to the Vortec and Hill 88 for stunning views. Descend the Coastal Trail to the Marine Mammal Center for lunch. February through April is the high season for rescuing elephant seal, sea lion, and harbor seal pups that are abandoned on beaches. The elephant seals are the nosiest and you will see the pups nursed back to health on fish and whipping cream milkshakes. Moderate pace. Heavy rain cancels. **Meet:** 9 am sharp. From Highway 101 Exit Spencer Avenue and park in paved parking lot on the WEST side of the freeway. **Ends:** 4:30 pm. **Carpool:** Depart CVS Pharmacy, 2151 Meeker Ave., Richmond at 8:15 am sharp. Email leader if you need a ride. **Leader:** Katy Christie, (510)277-5386 or katyhike@gmail.com (preferred). (Hiking)

Continued on following page.

Fuller versions of many of these listings can be found at www.sierraclub.org/sfbay/activities.

Feb 13 • Sat

Rock City and Trail Through Time 2B hike. See Rock City, Balancing Rock, and Trail Through Time on this leisurely paced hike in Mount Diablo State Park. Some steep trails. Any rain cancels. **Cost:** \$10 car entry fee. **Bring:** Money for post-hike dinner. **Meet:** 11 am at Live Oak (Uplands) picnic area parking lot in Rock City area of Mount Diablo State Park. **Ends:** 4:30 pm. **Leader:** Guy Mayes, (510)522-1590. (Hiking)

Feb 13 • Sat

Emeryville Marina 1A hike. Walk for an hour along the boardwalk and through the marina in Emeryville. Enjoy the views of San Francisco and the Golden Gate Bridge. The walk is flat, easy, and wheelchair friendly. After the walk, there is an optional early dinner at the Emery Bay Market food court, where you can choose from many styles of ethnic cuisine. Rain cancels. **Meet:** 2:30 pm at the back of Chevy's Restaurant by picnic tables. **Leader:** Vera Lis, (510)234-8949. (Solo Sierrans)

Feb 19 • Fri

Mount Diablo Black Point 1B hike. After first heading up the lower reaches of Mitchell Canyon (including the lovely Globe Lily Trail), we'll turn up White Canyon. After leaving the fire road we'll snake our way up steep trail through thick chaparral to the summit of Black Point before returning to our trailhead. Expansive views abound along the higher reaches of our route. Steady relaxed pace with a snack break. Be prepared for mud and poison oak. Heavy rain cancels. **Cost:** Park entrance fee \$6 per vehicle. **Meet:** 10 am at Mount Diablo State Park, Mitchell Canyon trailhead in front of Visitor Center. **Leader:** Jake Van Akkeren, (925)933-3486 or jvanakkeren@comcast.net (preferred). (Mount Diablo Group & Save Mount Diablo)

Feb 20 • Sat

Mount Diablo Summit 3C hike. Moderately paced hike up to Mount Diablo. Most of it on Summit Trail and Juniper Trail. Elevation gain about 2,990 feet, distance is 12 miles. Rain or muddy trails cancel. **Meet:** 8:45 am at soccer field parking, Blackhawk Road, Blackhawk. **Leader:** Lutz Heinrich, (925)216-8672 or ltz_hnrch@yahoo.com. (Hiking)

Feb 20 • Sat

Eagle Peak and Mt Diablo Falls 2C hike. Climb Eagle Peak from the wild north side and return via Donner and Back canyons on a leisurely- to moderately-paced strenuous loop. If you wish to hike fast and get back early, this is not the hike for you. Mellow hikers welcomed. Any rain cancels. Park rules prohibit alcoholic beverages. There are no potable water sources on the route. **Cost:** \$6 parking fee. **Meet:** 10 am at Mitchell Canyon trailhead, Mount Diablo State Park. **Carpool:** Leader will be at Walnut Creek BART at 9 am. **Leader:** Steve Bakaley, (925)945-8205 or slbakaley@lbl.gov. (Mount Diablo Group and Sierra Singles)

Feb 21 • Sun

Mount Diablo Eagle Peak 2C hike. We'll climb past Mitchell Rock via Twin Peaks to Eagle Peak with its magnificent view of the Diablo summit, North Peak, and the canyons below. Sections of this trail are very steep with loose rock. Steady relaxed pace. Be prepared for mud and poison oak. Heavy rain cancels. **Cost:** Park entry fee \$6 per vehicle. **Meet:** 10 am at Mount Diablo State Park, Mitchell Canyon trailhead in front of Visitors Center. **Leader:** Jake Van Akkeren, (925)933-3486 or jvanakkeren@comcast.net (preferred). (Mount Diablo Group & Save Mount Diablo)

Feb 21 • Sun

Bayshore Walk at Point Isabel in El Cerro 1A hike. The walk takes about an hour, is flat and easy on paved trail, wheelchair friendly, and perfect for seniors. Younger people have also enjoyed the leisurely walk and the company of like-minded people. After the walk there is an optional Chinese dinner at the Pacific East Mall. Rain cancels. **Bring:** Binoculars for possible shorebird sightings, and also enjoy views of the Golden Gate Bridge, Mount Tamalpais, Alcatraz, and other bay islands. **Meet:** 2:30 pm at small parking lot at the end of Rydin Road. **Leader:** Vera Lis, (510)234-8949. (Solo Sierrans)

Feb 26 • Fri

Mount Diablo Moses Rock 2C hike. Savor a variety of vegetation zones and enjoy splendid views as we explore some of the wild western slope of the Mountain. We'll make our way to Moses Rock Ridge for lunch before descending past Moses Rock and then circling back via Long Ridge and Poker Table Flat. Part of our route is very steep. Steady relaxed pace with a 30-minute lunch and other rest breaks. Be prepared for mud and poison oak. Heavy rain cancels. **Cost:** Park entry fee \$10 per vehicle. **Meet:** 10 am at Mount Diablo State Park, Diablo Ranch trailhead on North Gate Rd. **Leader:** Jake Van Akkeren, (925)933-3486 or jvanakkeren@comcast.net (preferred). (Mount Diablo Group & Save Mount Diablo)

Feb 27 • Sat

Mount Tamalpais East Peak 3C hike. Climb the Dipsea Steps and head up the Sun Trail and the Temelpa Trail to lunch on the summit of East Peak at the fire tower. Return via West Point Inn and the Ridge Trail to the Dipsea. Enjoy spectacular views. Shorter option available. Heavy rain cancels, light showers OK. **Meet:** Depart 9 am sharp at at the intersection of Throckmorton and Cascade, Mill Valley. **Ends:** 4 pm. **Carpool:** Depart CVS Pharmacy, 2151 Meeker Ave., Richmond at 8:15 am sharp. Make sure to email leader or she will drive directly to the trailhead. **Leader:** Katy Christie, (510)277-5386 or kathyhike@gmail.com. (Hiking)

Feb 27 • Sat

Diablo Waterfalls 2B hike. Leisurely hike in Mount Diablo State Park to Donner Canyon waterfalls. Some steep trails. Any rain cancels. **Cost:** \$6 car entry fee. **Bring:** Money for post-hike dinner at restaurant in Concord. **Meet:** 10 am at Mitchell Canyon parking lot, Mount Diablo State Park. **Ends:** 4:30 pm. **Leader:** Guy Mayes, (510)522-1590. (Hiking)

Feb 27 • Sat

Stinson Beach to Mount Tamalpais 2C hike. Hike from Stinson Beach up Steep Ravine to Pantoll station. Return via Matt Davis Trail. We will go through a variety of terrain including dense woods along a creek. Weather permitting we will have magnificent views of the Pacific Ocean. Be prepared for a long, slow climb up the mountain. **Meet:** 10:30 am by the restrooms in the Stinson Beach parking lot, 10 Marine Way, Golden Gate National Recreation Area. **Leader:** Jeffrey Sanchez, (510)599-5238 or amagi@paccbell.net. (Sierra Singles)

Feb 28 • Sun

Mount Diablo's hidden waterfalls 2B hike. Join us on a nature trek to experience Mount Diablo's winter wonders. For the geologically inclined, we'll see exposures of serpentinite, pillow lava, and radiolarian chert. For folks with more pedestrian interests, our hike takes us past a rare oracle oak and Mount Diablo's secret redwood "grove". And if it rains, there will even be water in the falls. Trail is rugged and exposed in places. Any rain cancels. **Meet:** 9 am at Regency Gate, Mount Diablo State Park. **Ends:** 2 pm. **Leader:** Ken Lavin, (925)852-8778 or ken_lavin@hotmail.com. (Mount Diablo Group)

Feb 28 • Sun

Mount Diablo Frog Pond & Green Ranch 2C hike. We'll descend into riparian Curry Canyon, climb through meadows and oak/pine woodland to secluded Frog Pond for lunch. We'll then make a steep ascent through chaparral country to the Green Ranch site and Oak Knoll before returning steeply downhill. Early season wildflowers should be abundant. Steady relaxed pace with a 30-minute lunch and other rest breaks. Heavy rain cancels. **Cost:** Park entrance fee \$10 per vehicle. **Meet:** 9:30 am at Mount Diablo State Park, Curry Point trailhead. **Leader:** Jake Van Akkeren, (925)933-3486 or jvanakkeren@comcast.net (preferred). (Mount Diablo Group & Save Mount Diablo)

Mar 5 • Sat

Point Pinole Regional Park 1A hike. Meet for an hourlong walk on paved trail, wheelchair friendly, through eucalyptus groves, breathing the fresh breezes from San Pablo Bay. Optional early dinner after the walk in Old Pinole. Rain cancels. **Meet:** 2:30 pm in parking lot. **Leader:** Vera Lis, (510)234-8949. (Solo Sierrans)

Mar 6 • Sun

Mount Diablo Pine Canyon & Wall Ridge 2C hike. See Little Yosemite, Castle Rock, Wall Point, and fine views of the main peak as our route dips in and out of riparian Pine Canyon until finally looping back to the trailhead. Steady relaxed pace with a 30-minute lunch and other rest breaks. Seven-hour, nine-mile hike. Be prepared for mud and poison oak. Steady rain cancels. **Cost:** Park entry fee \$6 per vehicle. **Meet:** 9:30 am at Mount Diablo State Park, Macedo Ranch staging area in Alamo. **Leader:** Jake Van Akkeren, (925)933-3486 or jvanakkeren@comcast.net (preferred). (Mount Diablo Group & Save Mount Diablo)

Mar 6 • Sun

Butano State Park 3B hike. Explore one of the San Mateo County coastside's less-traveled parks. See both first- and second-growth redwoods as well as great views and maybe some calypso orchids. Moderate pace. Rain cancels. **Meet:** 10:15 am at Butano State Park, at entry kiosk off Cloverdale Road, Pescadero. **Ends:** 6 pm. **Leader:** Bob Solotar, (510)525-2110 or bob_solotar@hotmail.com. (Hiking)

Mar 11 • Fri

Round Valley 2B hike. We'll follow a lovely creek to emerald-green Round Valley. After rambling through this expansive bowl of verdant grasses, ancient oaks, and the occasional artifacts of early ranching and farming, return via a highland route with spectacular views before descending along High Creek where wildflowers should be abundant. Steady, relaxed pace with a 30-minute lunch and other rest breaks. Be prepared for mud and poison oak. Steady rain cancels. **Meet:** 9:30 am at Round Valley Regional Preserve trailhead on Marsh Creek Rd. **Leader:** Jake Van Akkeren, (925)933-3486 OR jvanakkeren@comcast.net (preferred). (Mount Diablo Group & Save Mount Diablo)

Mar 11 • Fri - Mar 13 • Sun

Marin Headlands 2AT hostel trip. We will start Friday evening with a local no-host dinner and then proceed to the hostel where we will stay through Sunday while doing day hikes in the Headlands. Co-ed dorms. The Club will provide Saturday dinner and Sunday breakfast. Trip fee covers two nights in the hostel plus two meals. Other meals, trail lunches, etc. are participant's responsibility. Advance sign-up and full payment are required and are arranged by contacting leader. Full trip details will be sent out to participants after sign-up. **Leaders:** Allison Murdach, (510)581-6794 or allisonandjo@hotmail.com; Ernest Castiaux, (510)909-3301 or ecastiaux@hotmail.com. (Backpacking)

Mar 13 • Sun

Mount Burdell 3C hike. We'll start near San Marin High School and head up to Mount Burdell to enjoy the splendid views. We then drop down to explore the area on our way back to the trailhead. Any rain cancels. **Meet:** 9 am at San Marin High School, Novato. **Leader:** Tom Post, (415)690-6572 or tpost123@hotmail.com. (Hiking)

Mar 18 • Fri

Black Diamond 2C hike. From Markley Canyon, we'll ramble up and over a verdant ridge before heading down into a lovely valley of grassland and oaks. Circuitous return route includes the Star Mine loop, Oil Canyon, the steep Corcoran Mine trail, and a maze of paths leading through chaparral and sandstone outcroppings. Wildflowers should be abundant. Steady, relaxed pace with 30-minute lunch and other rest breaks. Steady rain cancels. **Meet:** 9:30 am at trailhead parking lot at end of Somersville Rd. in Black Diamond Mines Regional Preserve. **Leader:** Jake Van Akkeren, (925)933-3486 or jvanakkeren@comcast.net (preferred). (Mount Diablo Group & Save Mount Diablo)

Fuller versions of many of these listings can be found at www.sierraclub.org/sfbay/activities.

Mar 19 • Sat

Las Trampas explore 3C hike. From Ringtail Cat Trail up to Las Trampas Peak. Along Las Trampas Ridge Trail, Sulphur Springs, and Virgil Williams trails back to Ringtail Cat. Rain or muddy trails will cancel. **Meet:** 9 am at Ringtail Cat Staging Area, 560 Hemme Avenue, Alamo. **Leader:** Lutz Heinrich, (925)216-8672 or ltz_hnrch@yahoo.com. (Hiking)

Mar 19 • Sat

Murrieta Falls & Ohlone Wilderness 4D hike. Explore less-visited areas in the Ohlone Wilderness when wildflowers are emerging. Moderate pace. You need to be in decent physical condition. Rain cancels; snow does not. **Meet:** 9:15 am at parking area at the intersection just after you cross the bridge over the reservoir. **Ends:** 7:30 pm. **Leader:** Bob Solotar, (510)525-2110 or bob_solotar@hotmail.com. (Mount Diablo Group)

Mar 19 • Sat

Castle Rock State Park 2B hike. Leisurely hike featuring waterfall and spectacular rock scenery. Post-hike dinner at restaurant in Saratoga. Any rain cancels. **Cost:** \$10 car entry fee into park. **Meet:** 10:15 am at parking lot in Castle Rock State Park off Highway 35 near Highway 9 in San Mateo County. **Ends:** 5:30 pm. **Leader:** Guy Mayes, (510)522-1590. (Hiking)

Mar 19 • Sat

Wildflower walk, Black Diamond Mines Regional Preserve, Antioch hike. Very leisurely walk to discover spring wildflowers and enjoy panoramic views in canyons and ridges of this historic coal- and sand-mining region. After hike, optional stop nearby for refreshments and sociability. **Cost:** \$5/car entrance fee. **Meet:** 2 pm in parking area at road's end at about three miles into Preserve. **Ends:** 5:30 pm. **Leader:** Lucy Henderson, (925)254-2898 or hndrsnlucy@gmail.com. (Delta Regional Group)

Mar 20 • Sun

Diablo falls & Donner Canyon 2B hike. Late March is a perfect time to see wildflowers and water on the rugged north side of Mount Diablo. Route takes us up Back Canyon, over Meridian Ridge, and then swing around the falls and cataracts at the base of North Peak. Return via lovely lower Donner Canyon. Parts of trail are very steep with loose rock. Steady, relaxed pace. **Cost:** Park entry fee \$6 per vehicle. **Meet:** 10 am at Mount Diablo State Park, Mitchell Canyon trailhead. **Leader:** Steve Bakaley, (925)945-8205 or slbakaley@lbl.gov (preferred). (Mount Diablo Group & Save Mount Diablo)

Mar 20 • Sun

San Francisco waterfront walk to Mission Bay 1A hike. Explore the San Francisco waterfront on this 5- to 6-mile walk along the Embarcadero from the Ferry Building to AT&T Park & Mission Bay. See how this area has changed from old railyards and hear about future plans for the area. Any rain cancels. **Bring:** A snack and a sense of adventure. **Meet:** 1:30 pm at Ferry Building, in front of main entrance. **Ends:** 5 pm. **Leaders:** Bob Solotar, (510)525-2110 or bob_solotar@hotmail.com; Caprice Solotar, (510)525-2110. (Mount Diablo Group)

Mar 25 • Fri

Mount Diablo Riggs Canyon & Highland Ridge 3C hike. This hike explores the hills framing Riggs Canyon in the southeastern reaches of Mount Diablo State Park. We'll make our way to Bob's Pond just below Windy Point for lunch and then descend the shady Tassajara Creek Trail into lower Riggs Canyon. We'll then ascend Highland Ridge for stunning views of the Diablo summit and North Peak. Wildflowers should be abundant. Steady, relaxed pace with a 30-minute lunch and other rest breaks. Be prepared for mud and poison oak. Steady rain cancels. **Meet:** 9 am at Mount Diablo State Park, trailhead parking lot on Morgan Territory Rd. **Leader:** Jake Van Akkeren, (925)933-3486 or jvanakkeren@comcast.net (prefer). (Mount Diablo Group & Save Mount Diablo)

Mar 26 • Sat

Black Diamond Mines Regional Preserve 3C hike. Explore beautiful green hills and canyons, see white shooting stars, check out an old mining tunnel, and visit a 19th-century graveyard on a strenuous, leisurely- to moderately-paced hike. Any rain cancels. **Meet:** 10 am at 5175 Somersville Road, Antioch. **Leader:** Steve Bakaley, (925)945-8205 or slbakaley@lbl.gov. (Mount Diablo Group and Sierra Singles)

Mar 26 • Sat

San Jose history 2A walk. An all-day educational walk in downtown San Jose, featuring local history and architecture. Any rain cancels. **Cost:** \$5 car parking in furthest Diridon Caltrain parking lot. **Bring:** Money for post-walk dinner at restaurant in San Jose. **Meet:** 10 am in front of Diridon Caltrain station on Cahill Street, downtown San Jose. **Ends:** 5:30 pm. **Leader:** Guy Mayes, (510)522-1590. (Hiking)

Mar 26 • Sat

Tilden Regional Park in Berkeley 1A hike. Meet for an hourlong walk through the eucalyptus groves. Trails will be muddy. After the hike, join us for an optional early dinner at Jerusalem Cafe on Solano Ave. in Berkeley. Rain cancels. **Meet:** 2:30 pm at Lone Oak parking lot. **Leader:** Vera Lis, (510)234-8949. (Solo Sierrans)

Apr 3 • Sun

Mount Diablo Back Canyon & Diablo Falls 2C hike. Early April is an ideal time to see wildflowers and water on the rugged north side of Mount Diablo State Park. Our route will first take us up Back Canyon to Murchio Gap. After keeping our elevation for a bit, we'll descend the lovely Middle Trail until we meet the Falls Trail which we'll take for some close-up viewing of the falls and cataracts of upper Donner Canyon nestled just below imposing North Peak. Steady rain cancels. Allow 7 hours for this 8.5-mile hike with a total elevation gain of about 2,100 feet. **Cost:** Park entry fee \$6 per vehicle. **Meet:** 9:30 am in front of Visitor Center at Mitchell Canyon trailhead at end of Mitchell Canyon Rd. in Clayton. **Leader:** Jake Van Akkeren, (925)933-3486 or jvanakkeren@comcast.net (preferred). (Mount Diablo Group & Save Mount Diablo)

Apr 8 • Fri

Mount Diablo Windy Point/Riggs Canyon/Black Hills 3D hike. Lunch at Bob's Pond, see an abandoned ranch house, and out via a series of ups and downs into and out of Sycamore Canyon. Wildflowers should be prolific. Steady relaxed pace. **Cost:** \$10 vehicle entry fee. **Meet:** 8:30 am at Mount Diablo State Park Curry Canyon trailhead on South Gate Rd. **Leader:** Jake Van Akkeren, (925)933-3486 or jvanakkeren@comcast.net (preferred). (Mount Diablo Group & Save Mount Diablo)

Apr 27 • Wed - May 9 • Mon

A Bavarian spring: from Rothenburg to the Danube 3BT supported trekking. 130-mile trek along one of Germany's renowned long-distance trails through the lovely countryside of northern Bavaria along the Altmühl River to the shores of the Danube. **Cost:** \$2,995 (11-14), \$3,495 (or fewer). **Leaders:** Thomas Meissner, (707)795-7980 or meissner.thomas@sbcglobal.net; Kath Giel, (415)720-4430 or sierrakath@gmail.com. (Sierra Club National Outings)

How long can you drive an electric vehicle (EV) using solar power before it pollutes as much as 1 year driving a gas car? **More than 10,000 years!** That's why Suntrail EV chargers use 100% renewable energy.



- California residents can invest directly in Sunspeed Enterprises, learn more at sunspeedenterprises.com/investors/direct-public-offering/
- Learn more about the Pacific Coast SunTrail Route, our Pt Reyes Station site, & more at www.sunspeedenterprises.com,
- email: info@sunspeedenterprises.com
- phone: 415-663-8766, twitter: @SunspeedE

William Keith and the Battle for Hetch Hetchy

October 4 through May 1



In 1907, William Keith accompanied John Muir to the Hetch Hetchy Valley for the last time. John Muir believed art, displaying the natural beauty of the valley, would help save it. Meanwhile, city politicians schemed to bring the pristine waters of the Tuolumne River to San Francisco. Follow this local history through William Keith's paintings and photographs provided by the Sierra Club, Restore Hetch Hetchy, and the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission.

Saint Mary's College Museum of Art
1928 Saint Mary's Road
P.O. Box 5110
Moraga, CA 94575-5110
www.stmarys-ca.edu/museum



Museum hours: Wednesday - Sunday
11AM to 4:30 PM
\$5 admission. Free for K-12, museum members, students, faculty and staff
Free parking



East Bay Dinners: Wildlife “Down Under” and at home

No-host cocktails/social hour at 6 pm, dinner at 7 pm, program at 8 pm. Berkeley Yacht Club on the Berkeley Marina, one block north of the west end of University Avenue (ample free parking is available in the Marina parking lots).

Cost of dinner and program is \$27, including tax and tip. For a reservation, please send your check, payable to “Sierra Club,” with your name, your telephone number, and the names of your guests, to:

Jane Barrett
170 Vicente Road
Berkeley, CA 94705
510 845-8055

Attendance is limited to the first 115 reservations received. Reserve early, as these programs do fill up. Reservation deadline is February 18 for the February program and March 17 for the March program. There is no admittance for program only.

Thu, Feb 25 — “Wildlife and culture Down Under” with Jeff Robinson

Nature has created many unique animals that live south of the equator in Australia, New Zealand, and Papua New Guinea. Well-known examples of these interesting creatures are albatross, birds of paradise, bower birds, dingos, flying foxes, kangaroos, kiwi, kookaburras, parrots, and penguins. Even more exotic are lesser known astrapias, cuscus, frogmouths, goanas, kakas, pademelons, and takahas. The people are also interesting. New Zealanders are great hosts and Aussies love to party. But for exotic, you cannot beat the tribes of Papua New Guinea.

Join us for Jeff Robinson’s beautiful multimedia presentation. We will travel to the southern hemisphere without security lines or jet lag and you do not have to remove your shoes or belts. This talk will feature some pictures, sounds, videos, and comments about the animals and people from across the Pacific Ocean.

In 2003, Jeff Robinson went to Africa with his wife Sarah, younger daughter Paula, and a camera. This trip changed his life. Within eight weeks he was back in Africa for more photography. Since then, he has visited over 40 countries and 20 states to photograph wildlife.



Ribbon-tailed astrapia; Photo by Jeff Robinson, February East Bay Dinner speaker.

When he is not traveling, Jeff does volunteer work at the California Condor Recovery Project, the Golden Gate Raptor Observatory, Lindsay Wildlife Experience, the Marine Mammal Center, and the San Francisco Bay Bird Observatory.

Thu, Mar 24 — “Imported Trees of the East Bay: Playing with Fire”

The East Bay hills were mostly open native grassland, with fringes of low-growing native trees and shrubs when the gold rush of 1849 introduced the first serious wave of outsiders to the San Francisco Bay Area. Newcomers soon missed their tall forests and felt the land was too barren.

Large-scale East Bay tree-planting projects began in 1895 when two wealthy landowner-developers began planting blue gums, pine, and cypress to provide 13,000 acres of newly forested home sites for sale in the Oakland/Berkeley hills. Residential areas in the hills would expand over the next 100 years to include 35,000 homes, 100,000 residents, and several hundred thousand mature planted trees surrounded by dense urban landscapes. People loved their forested mountain homes and parks, despite the fact that the hills and adjacent wildlands contained dense flammable homes and several thousand acres of flammable vegetation that would be classified by Cal Fire as one of the few “Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones” in the Bay Area.

Jerry Kent will provide a presentation documenting the history of large-scale tree planting projects, and comment on the consequences and public costs of dealing with the planted urban and park forests of today. He will also critique the FEMA controversy, and describe why wildfire has and will continue to be inevitable along the hills urban/wildland edge. Jerry recently retired after a 41-year career with the Regional Park District, and is currently a member of the Sierra Club East Bay Public Lands Committee.

San Francisco Dinners: From Madagascar to Morocco

Social hour 6 pm, dinner 7 pm, program 8 pm. New location: Grace Lutheran Church, 3201 Ulloa St. at 33rd Ave. Take Muni L to 32nd Ave., walk one block to 33rd, turn left on Ulloa for one block. Street parking available. From the East Bay, take BART to the Embarcadero station and transfer to Muni L Taraval.

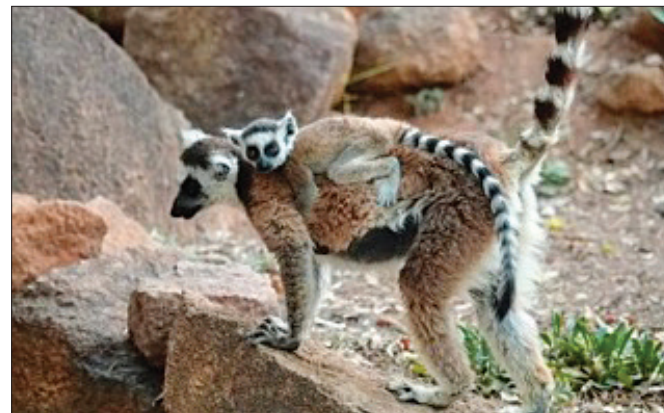
To reserve your seat, send a check for \$22 (note new price), made out to “Sierra Club, S.F. Bay Chapter,” to Gerry Souza at:
1801 California St., #405
San Francisco, CA 94109

Please indicate the program date, number of guests, and your phone number. Non-members are welcome. Bring your own wine or soft drinks. Glasses and ice are available. Let us know if you are a vegetarian. For questions, contact Gerry between 4 and 9 pm (no morning calls please) at (415)474-4440 or gsouzis@hotmail.com.

Thu, Feb 18 — “Exploring Madagascar” with Tom Vincze

In 2014, Tom Vincze visited Madagascar with the primary goal of seeing the many exotic succulent plants growing in their natural habitat. Along the way he also saw otherworldly landscapes and numerous species of animals. Join us for a visit to the amazing and diverse island of Madagascar.

A graphic designer by trade, Tom has had an appreciation for nature from an early age. In his spare time, he collects and grows many species of plants, including succulents and his own seed-grown hybrids.



A mother and baby ring-tailed lemur. Photo by Tom Vincze, February SF Dinner speaker.

His passion for these exotic plants has led him to distant lands to see them in their natural habitats. Tom is actively involved in rainforest conservation.

Checks must be received by Fri., Feb. 12.

Thu, Mar 17 — “Trekking in the Atlas Mountains” with Sigrid Selle

In 2007, Sigrid and her hiking companion set off to explore Morocco. They began with a visit to the western desert, while the main portion of their trip involved trekking in the Atlas Mountains and climbing Mount Toubkal, the highest peak. They were accompanied by a local guide and two muleteers, who tended to the cooking and transported their camping gear. They hiked along the Atlantic Coast, visiting the picturesque port town of Essaouira, an ancient trade link between Timbuktu and Europe, ending their trek in the former imperial city of Marrakech. Join us as world traveler, adventurer, and photographer Sigrid Selle takes us on an exciting hike across the high mountains, through seaside villages and into the edge of the Sahara Desert.

Checks must be received by Fri., March 11.

Green Friday: Hear from the “Energy Skeptic”

Green Friday meets the second Friday of the month in the Bay Chapter office, 2530 San Pablo Ave, Berkeley. Doors open at 7 pm; the program runs from 7:30 to 9:30 including questions and discussion. Refreshments are served. A \$3 donation is requested. Our programs present speakers and topics discussing the most important environmental issues of our time. All are welcome, Sierra Club members as well as nonmembers.

Note: the speaker for the March 11th Green Friday program was not confirmed at time of printing. Please visit our online activities calendar at sierraclub.org/sfbay/events for details.

Fri, Feb 12 — “The future of transportation”

Our February speaker will be Alice Friedemann, who has been writing about energy and other resources since 2000. Her writing can be found at energyskeptic.com. Virtually everything in our homes and in our stores got there on a truck. Prior to that, 90 percent of

those items were transported on a ship and/or a train. If trucks, trains, and ships stopped running, our global economy and way of life would stop too.

Oil fuels commercial transportation and makes the world go round. In her new book, *When Trucks Stop Running: Energy and the Future of Transportation*, Alice Friedemann looks ahead, exploring the range of options for the future, when oil is no longer abundant and affordable.

Renewable electricity — solar and wind — is ramping up, but in our optimism over the renewable revolution, we collectively forget that our trucks, ships, and freight trains don’t run on electricity. Alice will discuss the surprising challenges of electrifying trucks and locomotives from an electric grid increasingly powered by renewables. As her book makes clear, the time is now to take a realistic and critical look at the choices ahead, and how the future of transportation may unfold.



Groups

What is a group?

Because Sierra Club chapters cover so much territory, they form local sub-units called “groups” (or sometimes “regional groups”). The San Francisco Bay Chapter is divided into eight groups. Groups address environmental issues that fall within their boundaries. They may also sponsor outings and other activities. These events are open to everyone; you don’t need to be a group member to participate.

Delta Group — Thu, Feb 25: “Preserving our natural areas”

Thursday, February 25, 7:15 pm, Antioch Library, 501 West 18th Street, Antioch.

In 1989, in response to a proposed large subdivision, a group of concerned citizens established a land trust dedicated to the preservation of open space in Alhambra Valley near Martinez. Today, the John Muir Land Trust continues that mission and has permanently protected more than 2,000 acres, restored important habitat areas, and constructed miles of trails. It protects and cares for open space, ranches, farms, parkland, and shoreline in Contra Costa County. A recent purchase was a 44-acre parcel on Franklin Ridge, adjacent to Mount Wanda, a part of the John Muir National Historic Site.

Join the Trust’s executive director Linus Eukel to discuss the organization’s accomplishments and future plans. Their next major acquisition project is Carr Ranch in the upper San Leandro watershed: 604 acres of diverse wildlife habit in a ridgeline and valley landscape.

Before the program, we’ll socialize, munch

goodies, and briefly discuss current environmental issues and upcoming activities and events. Delta Group program meetings are usually held in February, May, and October unless otherwise noted.

A newsletter listing Delta Group programs, outings, and activities is available by \$5 subscription. To receive the newsletter, write \$5 check to “Sierra Club, Delta Group” and mail to:

Janess Hanson
431 Levee Rd.
Bay Point, CA 94565.

For information about Delta Group activities, call Janess Hanson at (925)458-0860. For information about Delta area environmental concerns, call Tim Donahue at (925)754-8801.

Upcoming Hikes and Activities:

Sun, Feb 7: Martinez to Port Costa, 2A loop hike

Sat, Mar 19, Black Diamond Mines Regional Preserve, Antioch, 1A wildflower hike

Learn Wilderness First Aid with the Sierra Club!

Next class: Saturday, April 23 to Sunday, April 24, 8:30 am to 5 pm, Chapter office, 2530 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley.

Come to an all-day class in Wilderness First Aid (WFA) sponsored by the Bay Chapter Activities Committee. The class satisfies first-aid requirements for most outing leaders (confirm requirements with your section/group officers). Students have two options:

- One-day class on Sat. and receive the Basic WFA certification of the American Safety & Health Institute—\$50 for members/\$60 for non-members; or
- Two-day class (Sat. and Sun.) for an additional \$30/\$40, and receive ASHI’s higher-level WFA certification.

If you already have the current WEC textbook (200 pages) and show it at the registration table, deduct \$15.

Basic Wilderness First Aid (one-day class) is a practical, eight-hour course that prepares you to recognize and avoid wilderness hazards, and do first aid outdoors with whatever equipment you have or can improvise. Wilderness First Aid (in eight more hours) adds more advanced skills and role-playing scenarios.

Registration

If you are a current Bay Chapter outing leader, register by the Tues. before the class; call (510)848-0800 or email wfa@sfbaysc.org.

Then mail a \$30 deposit check (payable to “Sierra Club SF Bay Chapter”) to:

Sierra Club
Attn: Wilderness First Aid
2530 San Pablo Ave., Suite I
Berkeley, CA 94702.

This check will be returned in class, but will be cashed if you don’t show up. Include your mailing address, email, phone number, and which section you lead for. Indicate if you are also attending the Sun. class; you will pay the \$30 fee for the second day in class. If you are a leader candidate or trainee, you must follow the non-leader procedure and cost for registering, as spelled out below.

If you are not a current Chapter outing leader, register with the instructor at:

Steve Donelan
donelan@speakeasy.net
P.O. Box 1227
Berkeley, CA 94701.

Indicate if you are attending the Sunday class. Include your membership number. Be prepared to pay the fee in class.

People who have taken Steve Donelan’s one-day class in the last year can sign up for the second day only, for \$30/\$40. Those who have taken Steve’s two-day class can repeat the second day for free. Pre-register with Steve at the email address listed above.

Mount Diablo Group — Wed, Mar 9: “Exploring the land of fire and ice”

7 pm, Ygnacio Valley Library, 2661 Oak Grove Road, Walnut Creek.

Join us at our next general meeting as Al and Marie Greening take us on an armchair tour of Iceland. Situated just below the Arctic Circle, Iceland is known as “the land of fire and ice.” The Greenings visited the county last August and found many mountains still covered with snow. They visited quaint fishing villages, a modern geothermal power plant, historical sites dating back to the 9th century, and took a couple of day cruises for bird and whale watching. Al’s great photographs will spotlight this beautiful region with its spectacular waterfalls,

glaciers, volcanoes, geysers, and hot springs.

Al and Marie Greening have traveled to over 50 countries and all seven continents. Al has made many photo presentations to Sierra Club groups and has an exhibit of panoramic photographs at Clair Tappaan Lodge. Al is also a docent at the Point Bonita Lighthouse in the Golden Gate National Recreation Area and currently has an exhibit of photographs in the Marin Headlands Visitor’s Center.

This program is open to all with no reservations necessary. If you have questions, contact Ken Lavin at ken_lavin@hotmail.com or (925) 852-8778.



Iceland’s Gullfoss waterfall; Photo by Al Greening, Mount Diablo Group March presenter.

Pope Francis and the population problem

The pope has come out against climate disruption and he is more articulate and compassionate than his recent predecessors. Certainly his encyclical on climate change is welcomed by Sierra Club members as well as others. Climate change or climate disruption is just one symptom of a planet overpopulated by its dominant animal, *Homo sapiens*.

The Pope is addressing poverty which is also a good thing. One of the best ways out of poverty is to provide contraception to poor women which enables them to have fewer children and thereby better their circumstances. The F. Scott Fitzgerald quote “the rich get richer and the poor get children” is still the state of the world. The Vatican has opposed provision of contraception to developing nations as far back as the 1950’s. Many Catholics in more developed nations have access to and use modern contraception. It is time for the Vatican to play catch up.

The Vatican remains out of step with all who understand the dire consequences of not addressing population growth and over consumption. Some consequences of the population explosion include, but are not limited to, refugees pouring into Europe, war, chaos, climate change, rising seas, myriad forms of pollution, depletion of resources: minerals, ores, oil, gas, soils, forests, and fisheries. We

need to get our priorities straight. The future for humans is calamitous without more efforts to humanely reduce our numbers using voluntary family planning.

Today, 225 million women have no access to contraception and over 50 percent of pregnancies here and abroad are unplanned. Population is growing by 80 million a year and is projected to explode from 7 billion to 9 or 10 billion by 2050, yet our efforts and funding are miniscule relative to other spending, e.g., military and weapons.

The lack of contraception leads to unsafe illegal abortions in much of the world with an estimated 68,000 women dying and 5.3 million suffering disabilities annually. Certainly these facts should trouble a concerned, compassionate Pope. He did say Catholics don’t have to “breed like rabbits”, on his way back from the overpopulated Philippines, but has yet to condone modern methods of birth prevention. The planet and the poor would both benefit greatly, if the Pope supported modern contraception and sex education for all.

The Bay Chapter’s Population, Health & Environment committee meets monthly and hosts occasional events. If you are interested in getting more involved, please contact committee co-chair Suzanne York at slyork27@gmail.com.



Travel & Resorts

HIMALAYAN HIGH TREKS

Scheduled & Custom *Treks & Tours* to:
The Himalaya (Bhutan, Nepal, India) and
Southeast Asia (Burma, Cambodia, Indonesia,
Laos, Thailand, Vietnam)

CST 2085690-40

1-415-551-1005 info@hightreks.com
WWW.HIGHTREKS.COM
241 Dolores Street, San Francisco, CA 94103-2211 U. S. A.

10

Sierra Club Yodeler February-March 2016

Owens Lake
BIRD FESTIVAL
LONE PINE, CA
April 22-24, 2016
Join us for a weekend of birding and discovery
at Owens Lake Important Bird Area.
Details and registration at
friendsoftheiyo.org/foiD7/owenslakefestival

Learn the basics of backcountry travel in our spring 2016 Beginners Backpack Course

Application deadline: Tuesday, March 1

Indoor seminar: Saturday, March 19

Weekend field trip dates: April 2-3, 9-10, 16-17, or May 7-8, 2016 (participants choose one)

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 or no experience in backpacking but who want to explore backcountry trails and get away from the crowds.

The course consists of:

- A full-day indoor session on Saturday, March 19, including a series of short lectures, discussions, slide and equipment shows. The event will be hosted from 9 am to 5 pm at the Naturebridge Conference Center (Golden Gate National Recreation Area).
- One overnight backpack trip on a weekend (Saturday and Sunday) in April or May in small groups lead by experienced instructors. There are four dates to choose from (see above).

The location of the backpack trips is in the greater San Francisco Bay Area. During the

backpack trip you will have the opportunity to try out your gear, learn how to set up a tent and operate a backpack stove, practice basic navigation skills, and, most importantly, experience what it feels to hike with a heavy pack on your back. Participation in the backpack trip requires attendance at the indoor session.

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

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

Cost is \$70 per adult; \$35 ages 12-22. Early registration is recommended, as space is limited. Applications received after March 1 will be considered only if space is still available.

How to sign up

Download the application form at sierraclub.org/sfbay/backpacking for more details and instructions on how to apply.

Direct any questions to Thomas Meissner at meissner.thomas@sbcglobal.net or (707)795-7980 (please call only if you do not have access to email).

GEOGRAPHIC EXPEDITIONS



SMALL GROUP
&
PRIVATE JOURNEYS

To The World's
Most Beguiling
Destinations

.....
Call for our
award-winning
catalog ~

1.800.777.8183
GeoEx.com

High Sierra Camp & Natural
History Workshops at the 10,100 ft
Golden Trout Camp; So. of Mt. Whitney,
3-mile hike-in, wilderness camp,
full-week, meals included: \$550
6/26 & 7/3; 805-688-8344
www.GoldenTroutWorkshops.org

Gold Lake Lodge

At the crest of the Sierra Nevadas

Hiking - Fishing
Horseback Riding
Swimming - Boating
Photography

Meals and Lodging Since 1912

530-836-2350
goldlakelodge.com



Enjoying the view on a 2012 Bay Chapter backpacking trip to Sequoia National Park. Photo by Thomas Meissner.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★
★ where the stars
put on a grand performance ★
★ every night ★
★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Sorensen's Resort

in beautiful Hope Valley, California
1-800-423-9949 www.sorensensresort.com

Cruise the Channel Islands with the Sierra Club

*April 3-5, May 8-10, June 12-14, July 17-19,
Aug. 21-23, Sept. 25-27, and Oct. 23-25*

Please join us for a three-day, three-island, live-aboard cruise to the Channel Islands. Hike wild, windswept trails bordered with blazing wildflowers. Kayak rugged coastlines. Snorkel in pristine waters teeming with fish. Swim with frolicking seals and sea lions. Look for unusual sea and land birds. Watch for the endangered island fox. Or just relax at sea!

All cruises depart from Santa Barbara. The

cost, \$650, includes an assigned bunk, all meals, snacks, and beverages plus the services of a naturalist-docent assigned by the national park to help lead hikes, point out items of interest, and give evening programs. For more information, contact leader Joan Jones Holtz at (626)443-0706 or jholtzhl@aol.com. To make a reservation, send a \$100 check, made out to the Sierra Club, to the leader at:

11826 The Wye St.
El Monte, CA 91732.

Contra Costa County's transportation plan — the long and winding road

Because they serve as the building blocks for the regional plan, county transportation plans are critical to setting the priorities and direction of the Bay Area's transportation system. Will our future include yet more car driving and greenhouse gas emissions? Or will we give the climate a break and work toward strengthening transit and encouraging walking and biking? The last issue of the Yodeler included an analysis of the San Francisco and Alameda County transportation plans (read it at theyodeler.org/?p=10877). The following is the first of two articles on Contra Costa County's flawed plan and convoluted planning process.

In July 2014, the Contra Costa Transportation Authority (CCTA) approved the release of a draft 2014 Countywide Transportation Plan (CTP). The CTP is to run until 2040, to match up with the next Regional Transportation Plan (Plan Bay Area 2040), which is scheduled to be adopted by the Metropolitan Transportation Commission and the Association of Bay Area Governments in 2017. CCTA's schedule called for approval of the

Plan and its Environmental Impact Report (EIR) in December 2014 — the first of several missed deadlines.

In August 2014, the Bay Chapter's Transportation and Compact Growth Committee received a presentation by CCTA staff on the draft CTP. Members raised concerns about whether the CTP would cut greenhouse gas emissions after learning about \$12 billion was to go to roads and freeways. (The total costs of the capital projects in the draft CTP totaled over \$11 billion, and the operating programs added up to over another \$14 billion.) Members also commented on the limited support planned for Priority Development Areas (or PDAs, areas targeted for high-density infill development alongside public transit) in the County. Also troublesome was that the Plan had a funding shortfall of several billion dollars, which went against common transportation planning principles that call for balanced budgets.

The Sierra Club's comment letter on the draft 2014 CTP noted that, if adopted, vehicle miles traveled (VMT) would increase by 35%, while the County's population is projected to

increase 28% by 2040, working out to an increase in VMT per capita. One of the targets of the current Regional Transportation Plan is to "decrease automobile vehicle miles traveled per capita by 10 percent." CCTA's draft plan was going in the wrong direction and was not supportive of the region's requirements or of State Bill 375, which requires regional transportation plans to include strategies that, if implemented, would reduce driving and allow the region to meet its GHG emission reduction targets.

Another target of the Regional Transportation Plan is to "reduce per-capita CO2 emissions from cars and light-duty trucks by 15 percent (Statutory requirement is for year 2035, per SB 375)." The draft CTP did not state if this target would be met. There was a chart in the draft CTP entitled "Reaching Statewide AB 32 GHG Reduction Targets" but there wasn't any information about whether the draft CTP would help put the County onto the trajectory to reach required reductions. An important consideration is that if any county fails to satisfy the GHG requirements, it places a bigger burden on the

other eight counties in the region.

Despite the increase in VMT per capita and no disclosure of GHG emissions, the draft CTP erroneously stated, "the goals and strategies of the CTP are consistent with the goals and strategies of Plan Bay Area."

The Sierra Club's November 2014 comments on the draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Report (SEIR) of the 2014 CTP were similarly negative. Our letter noted that the draft SEIR was not in compliance with CEQA requirements for "supplemental" EIRs, that it contained erroneous information, and did not support regional transportation targets and strategies.

CCTA ultimately did not adopt the draft 2014 CTP or the draft SEIR by the December 2014 deadline. In February 2015, the CCTA made improvements to its "visions, goals and strategies" for the draft CTP based, in part, on comments made by the Sierra Club, Caltrans, and the East Bay Leadership Council. One of the changes was to produce revised cost and revenue projections. The new projections found that the funding shortfall was now larger than before, now \$8.4 billion. A plan such as the CTP must be financially balanced, so the shortfall is a huge issue. Still, adoption was scheduled to take place the following month, in March 2015.

Between the February and March Board meetings, the CCTA Planning Committee voted to recommend the Board certify the Final SEIR, despite the Committee's not being provided with a copy to review. Staff noted the environmental document would be provided to the CCTA board before its meeting later in March.

March's Board agenda took up the CTP in a surprising way, in stating that "consideration of the Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Report and the 2014 Countywide Comprehensive Transportation Plan (CTP) has been deferred to a later date."

At the same March Board meeting, the CCTA began discussing development of a new transportation sales tax to help close a growing funding gap—now \$11 billion. This created a potentially serious problem for CCTA, which was noted by staff during the March meeting: "...the CTP process was designed to lead into the development of a (sales tax expenditure plan)." Now the CCTA was embarking on a process to identify a list of projects and programs to be funded with a tax expenditure plan without the benefit of a guiding, comprehensive CTP. That is, CCTA risked going in the wrong direction in terms of transportation planning—deciding on solutions without identifying what the problems are that Contra Costa County faces.

That ends Part 1 of 2. Next time, March 2015 to the present on the CCTA's efforts to adopt a long-range plan (to the year 2040) and a sales tax plan likely to go to the voters this November.

Matt Williams, chair,
Transportation and Compact Growth Committee

Help shut down a polluting gun club on public parkland

Park District board to decide Chabot's Gun Club's fate at March 1 meeting

The Chabot Gun has operated since 1964 in Anthony Chabot Regional Park, a wilderness area in the hills above Oakland and Castro Valley. The gun club's lease expires on March 31, 2016, and we need your help to make sure it is not renewed.

Decades' worth of discarded lead ammunition (still in use today) has polluted our public land and water. Lead leaches into the soil, runs into streams, and flows downhill to Lake Chabot, an emergency water supply also stocked with fish. The amount of lead in these streams has been measured as high as 20 times the E.P.A. limit for industrial facilities. In addition to the lead pollution, there has been an increasing problem with the sound of loud gunfire reverberating for miles in the Oakland hills, disturbing park users and wildlife.

A recent Park District report estimates the costs to of keeping the gun range open at \$2.1 million to \$4.3 million (\$100,000 to 200,000 for CEQA compliance, \$125,000 for noise mitigation, \$500,000 to \$1.5 million for facility maintenance, and \$1.3 to \$2.5 million for stormwater compliance). In addition, they estimated the cost of cleaning up the area once the gun range closes at \$2.5 to \$20 million dollars. The gun club brings a net income of \$40,000 per year to the District.

The costs of lead mitigation and clean-up mandated by the State Water Quality Control Board should be paid by the gun club and not passed on to the taxpayers—as happened recently at a gun club that closed last year at Lake Merced in the hills above San Francisco.

WhatYouCanDo

The East Bay Regional Park District Board of Directors will decide whether to renew the gun club's lease at its meeting on Tuesday, March 1. To join us at that meeting, email Norman La Force at n.laforce@comcast.net. Or, write to the Park District board. Tell them:

- NOT to renew the gun club lease;
- The gun club must be held responsible for 100% of the clean-up costs for the lead pollution it has caused;
- No taxpayer dollars should go to pay for any clean-up of the site; and
- If the gun club continues to operate, it must be 100% responsible for costs of environmental compliance.

Send a message to the board member who represents your area, or email them all!

- Whitney Dotson (Ward 1: Richmond/Berkeley), wdotson@ebparks.org
- John Sutter (Ward 2: Oakland/Lamorinda), jsutter@ebparks.org
- Dennis Waespi (Ward 3: Castro Valley), dwaespi@ebparks.org
- Doug Siden (Ward 4: Alameda), dsiden@ebparks.org
- Ayn Wieskamp (Ward 5: Livermore), awieskamp@ebparks.org
- Beverly Lane (Ward 6: Danville), blane@ebparks.org
- Diane Burgis (Ward 7: Oakley), dburgis@ebparks.org

Norman La Force, chair, East Bay Public Lands Committee



Range at Chabot Gun Club. Look closely and you'll see the ground is littered with bullets and casings. Photo by Richard Bangert.



Pittsburg defeats WesPac: biggest California crude oil project stopped in its tracks

In early December, after years of a hard-fought community-led campaign, we learned that the oil services company WesPac withdrew its permit applications to build the biggest oil terminal on the West Coast in Pittsburg, California. That means 242,000 barrels a day of toxic and explosive extreme crude oil from the tar sands and the Bakken will stay in the ground and off the tankers, oil trains, and pipelines WesPac would have built to bring this dangerous crude to Bay Area refineries.

This is an extraordinary victory, and one that demonstrates that grassroots organizing can overcome the power of big oil. I remember two years ago hearing that “no one can organize in this town,” because for so long Pittsburg had been dominated by heavy industry after heavy industry, from petrochemical plants and waste dumps to power stations and oil facilities.

The campaign started out small, led by two courageous neighbors, Kalli Graham and Lyana Monterrey, who started knocking on doors and enrolling more and more community members to the fight. I remember my first day canvassing outside the Pittsburg seafood festival in August 2013, thinking to myself, how the hell are we ever going to win this thing?

But these brilliant and resilient grassroots leaders kept organizing, and it started working. Within months our volunteer base jumped from a handful to dozens, and then to hundreds. Petition signatures jumped from dozens to hundreds to thousands. At nearly every door I knocked on I met another community member sick of Pittsburg’s reputation as an industrial wasteland, tired of industry control.

I don’t think I’ve ever been anywhere where opposition to industry was so strong. When WesPac brought a company man to town to host a three-hour informational meeting, community members showed up en masse and drove him out of town. Hundreds of citizens showed up at city council meetings, week-in and week-out. We hosted “toxic tours”, dozens



The Pittsburg Defense Council has a limited supply of victory yard signs (the design depicted above and one other). Visit pittsburgdc.org to view and order.

of community meetings, and the biggest march Pittsburg has seen in many, many years. We turned the WesPac campaign into a regional and statewide issue, leveraging the power built in Pittsburg to inspire and support other campaigns fighting extreme oil infrastructure in the Bay Area and beyond.



2014 community march and rally against WesPac. Photo courtesy Steve Nadel.

In January 2014, WesPac agreed to take oil trains off the table. That was a big victory, but WesPac still wanted to build a crude oil tank farm, tanker berth, and pipelines, and we stood ready to continue the fight. But WesPac was not, and officially pulled its applications before a city council meeting on December 14.

Hats off to everyone who contributed to this extraordinary effort: especially the community leaders at the Pittsburg Defense Council and Pittsburg Ethics Council, and also Communities for a Better Environment, Sunflower Alliance, the Sierra Club San Francisco Bay

Chapter, Natural Resources Defense Council, and 350 Bay Area, among others. This victory belongs to our movement, but most of all to the tireless, resilient, creative, and courageous people of Pittsburg.

Let WesPac’s demise serve as a warning to Valero, Phillips 66, and other oil giants that are trying to build oil train terminals in California right now: our movement will not stop until all oil trains projects are halted in their tracks, and extreme oil stays in the ground where it belongs.

Ethan Buckner, extreme oil campaigner, ForestEthics

It’s still “wait and see” for Bay Area refinery emission caps New rules will reduce refinery emissions 14%, but don’t go far enough to protect public health, environment

Right before the holidays, the Bay Area Air Quality Management District unanimously adopted three new rules designed to limit air pollution from the Bay Area’s five oil refineries. This action was the first tangible progress toward fulfilling the Air District’s October 2014 resolution to reduce refinery emissions 20% by 2020. Together, the three new rules are supposed to reduce emissions by 14%.

The new rules, which go into effect in 2017, will require finding and fixing equipment leaks and clean-up of refinery equipment (cooling towers and catalytic crackers). These rules are the low-hanging fruit for emissions controls; indeed, similar controls on catalytic crackers have been in place in Southern California for years. Focusing on “source-by-source” regulations of individual equipment ignores the overall picture of what’s spewing into nearby communities and the atmosphere.

These rules also fail to protect our communities and planet from increased refinery

emissions from dirtier crude oil like tar sands. Club members and supporters, environmentalists, professionals, nurses, doctors, teachers, families, and more flooded the Air District’s December meeting to protest the “staff’s proposal” and demand numeric caps in the first quarter of 2016. The Air District staff proposal included exemptions for greenhouse gases and loopholes for the industry. Fortunately, it was rescinded thanks to thousands of online comments and over 100 in-person public comments. Air District Board member and Contra Costa County Supervisor John Gioia firmly requested that the staff study and write the refinery caps rule we have been asking for by a May 2016 deadline. We are pushing for the Air District to fulfill its public mandate and go after toxic air contaminants — like Ultrafine Particulate Matter and the 20+ other pollutants co-released in the combustion of greenhouse gases — that contribute

to the air quality disparities in Contra Costa County and the Bay Area.

So long as there are no caps in place, Air District staff can approve refinery expansion permits that will allow refineries to bring in and refine more highly polluting grades of extreme crude oil. This dire situation is highlighted by the current crude-by-rail projects being pursued by Valero Benicia and the two-part Phillips 66 San Francisco Refinery. These projects would bring explosive, fracked Bakken crude and toxic tar sands, respectively (see page 13 for updates on both). That’s why we’re on calling on Air District board members to freeze permitting for new refinery projects until numeric, refinery-wide emissions caps are in place.

Refineries are pushing to trade public health and the environment for profits. Stay tuned for opportunities in the new year to push back.

Ratha Lai, conservation organizer

Buying or Selling a Home?
Support the Chapter
at Zero Cost!

My Broker Donates
connects you with the
best-in-market agents
who donate to the
Sierra Club Bay Chapter.



MyBrokerDonates.com
415.300.0432
888.488.7188

Two chances to block explosive oil trains — Public hearings on Phillips 66 and Valero Benicia crude-by-rail projects

We're nearing decisive moments on two campaigns to stop dirty and dangerous extreme oil from coming through our communities by rail. Look to the "WhatYouCanDo" sections below to find out how you can help block these local crude-by-rail projects.

Many people remember the horrific 2013 crude-by-rail accident in Lac-Mégantic, Quebec, in which 47 people were killed when a train hauling crude from North Dakota's Bakken shale formation derailed and exploded. Unfortunately, Lac-Mégantic wasn't an anomaly. With a 40-fold increase in the amount of oil being shipped by rail since 2008, derailments and spills have been on a steep rise. A *Columbus Dispatch* analysis of U.S. Department of Transportation data found that from 1995 to 2010, oil spilled from trains a total of 27 times; from 2011 to July 2015, oil spilled from trains 423 times. And a *Bloomberg* analysis of federal data found that 2015 was the costliest year for crude-oil-train derailments, with \$29.7 million in damages — up from \$7.5 million in 2014.

According to an investigation by the *Wall Street Journal*, Bakken shale oil is the most volatile and combustible oil compared to crudes from 86 other locations worldwide. Tar sands oil, meanwhile, is diluted with highly flammable solvents for transport. Our rail system was designed to connect population centers, not move hazardous crude oil. Emergency responders are not prepared for these heavy, dangerous trains and current safety standards will not protect the public.

If an oil train derailed and its contents spill or explode, our lives and our natural resources are at risk. Over five million Californians live in the blast zone of an oil train. And the proposed rail routes for the Phillips 66 and Valero crude-by-rail projects would bring oil trains through the San Francisco Bay-Delta watershed and along California's treasured central coast. Each oil train carries more than three million gallons of toxic crude oil. A train derailment near a river, stream, reservoir, or above a groundwater aquifer could contaminate drinking water for millions of Californians. For the sake of the climate, the environment, and public health and safety, we need to make sure that these extreme oils are left in the ground.

Stop the Phillips 66 tar sands expansion

Energy giant Phillips 66 is fighting to up-

grade its two-part San Francisco Refinery so that it can join the growing list of Bay Area refineries that receive and process highly toxic Canadian tar sands oil. If the Phillips 66 rail terminal project is approved, millions of gallons of tar sands oil would pass over the delta, through Bay Area communities, and south along the coast to the Santa Maria refinery. After being partially refined there, tar sands products would be sent back north to Contra Costa County's Rodeo refinery through a 200-mile pipeline.

Even Phillips 66 admits that the project will create "significant and unavoidable" levels of air pollution — including toxic sulfur dioxide and cancer-causing chemicals — for families living along the rail line and near the refinery. Volatile toxic chemicals leak out of tank cars into the air along rail routes. The problem is compounded for refinery-fenceline communities; the nonprofit environmental group ForestEthics reports that refineries that process tar sands spew more sulfur dioxide pollution per barrel produced than refineries that do not use tar sands. According to the

Environmental Protection Agency, "short-term exposure to elevated sulfur dioxide levels is associated with reduced lung function, chest tightness, wheezing, shortness of breath, respiratory illness, deterioration of the lung's defense systems, and the aggravation of cardiovascular systems."

On top of refinery emissions, the diesel locomotives emit large amounts of exhaust and particulate matter that is very dangerous to public health, especially the young and elderly. Each oil train emits the equivalent particulate matter of 4,500 diesel automobiles, meaning the Phillips 66 project would add the pollution of two million cars on the road per year.

By getting tar sands to market, the impacts of the Phillips 66 project would be felt around the world. At every stage of the mining, transportation, and refining process, Canadian tar sands are more carbon intensive than other sources of oil. Refining one barrel of oil from tar sands produces two to three times more

climate-warming greenhouse gas emissions than refining a barrel of conventional oil.

WhatYouCanDo

Tens of thousands of citizens, 26 cities and counties, and 16 school boards from along the rail route have written letters urging San Luis Obispo County to reject the project. Now we need to make sure the decision-makers in San Luis Obispo truly hear us.

The San Luis Obispo Planning Commission will hold public hearings on February 4th and 5th to inform their decision on the project. This is our chance to show County decision-makers that the whole state is watching and demand they stop these oil trains from putting Californian's health and safety at risk.

What: San Luis Obispo Planning Commission Public Hearing on Phillips 66 Oil Train Project

When: February 4, hearing starts at 9 am

Where: San Luis Obispo County Building, 1055 Monterey St, San Luis Obispo

RSVP at stopoiltrains.nationbuilder.com/sloplanningcomrspv

There will be carpools from the Bay Area. Please contact Ratha Lai at ratha.lai@sierraclub.org or 510-848-0800 for more information.

Keep explosive fracked oil off our tracks and out of Benicia

In early January, the City of Benicia released the Final Environmental Impact Report (FEIR) for the proposed Valero Benicia crude-by-rail project. The Valero refinery seeks to build a rail terminal that would allow it to receive two daily train deliveries of up to 70,000 barrels of fracked Bakken crude oil. The good news is the FEIR has identified the "No Project Alternative" as the most environmentally sound alternative. But if we want to stop a project that

would put dangerously explosive oil trains on tracks that run through hundreds of communities, we need lots of public input at the February 8th public hearing.

This threat to Benicia — and to the vulnerable communities and natural resources all along the rail route — has been met by a strong opposition. Local residents formed Benicians for a Safe and Healthy Commu-

nity (BSHC) to fight the project. The group organized a series of community forums and mobilized residents and allies up and down the rail lines; they collected over 1,500 signatures at the weekly Benicia farmers market; and they distributed more than 500 yard signs around town.

Meanwhile, Forest Ethics, the Center for Biological Diversity, and CREDO created online petitions, and the Sierra Club, Com-



47 people were killed in the 2013 crude-by-rail accident in Lac-Mégantic, Quebec.

munities for a Better Environment, and the Sunflower Alliance helped mobilize people to attend hearings and comment against the project. This coalition pushed for and achieved a full CEQA review process for the project. We also generated thousand of comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Report and the Revised Environmental Impact Report, and helped secure comments opposing the project from entities as diverse as the Sacramento Area Council of Governments, the Yolo County Board of Supervisors, the City of Davis, and California Attorney General Kamala Harris.

BSHC steering committee member Andrés Soto says, "Benicia needs to have as many people from the community, the region, and around the state to stand together with us to oppose this dangerous and unnecessary project. Global climate, regional air quality, and the safety of the local community are at stake." Will you help?

WhatYouCanDo

The Benicia Planning Commission Public Hearing has been set for Monday, February 8, with a possible continuation on the 9th and 10th if necessary to receive all comments.

What: Testify against Valero Benicia crude-by-rail project

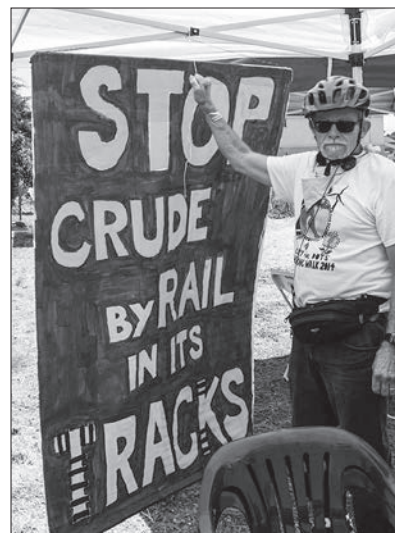
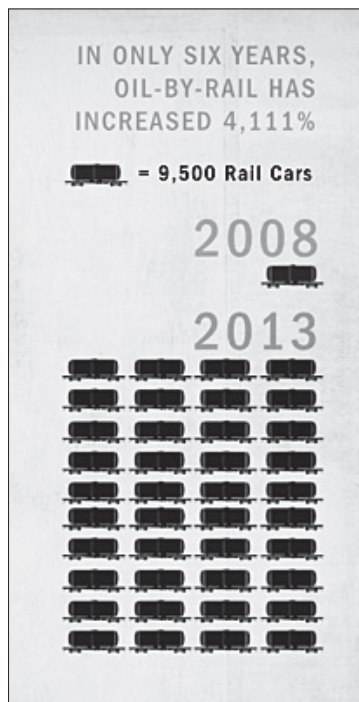
When: Monday, February 8, 6:30 pm

Where: City Council Chambers, Benicia City Hall, 250 East L Street, Benicia

RSVP to info@safebenicia.org

Join us!

Correction: The article "Club and community partners keep pressure on Oakland Council to block coal exports" in the last issue of the Yodeler mistakenly described the location of the Oakland Army Base as adjacent to the Golden Gate Bridge. It is adjacent to the eastern touchdown of the Bay Bridge. Learn more about this ongoing campaign at sierraclub.org/sfbay/coalfreeoakland.



Sierra Club member Bill Pinkham at the 2015 Our Power Festival in Richmond.

Future of rooftop solar in California looking bright — for now

In the October-November 2015 issue of the Yodeler (“California’s utilities take aim at rooftop solar,” online at <http://theyodeler.org/?p=10724>) we outlined the efforts of the state’s investor-owned utilities to disincentivize new rooftop solar for their customers. The California Public Utilities Commission



Photo courtesy Green MPs via Flickr Creative Commons.

(CPUC) is currently engaged in a process to create a successor to the present “net energy metering” system, which credits solar-energy-system owners for the electricity they add to the grid. The utilities have proposed measures including reducing the credit customers would receive for energy they export to the grid and imposing a demand charge.

There’s good news: in its December 15th Proposed Decision, the CPUC rejected the punitive fees proposed by the utilities and instead retains the current net metering structure (including a full credit for exports at the retail rate), with a transition to time-of-use rates in 2018. The Proposed Decision also pro-

vides for additional bill credit for low-income customers in multi-family dwellings under recently enacted State Assembly Bill 693.

Evan Gillespie, director of the Sierra Club’s My Generation campaign, responded to the proposed decision in this statement:

“A strong rooftop-solar policy is essential to California’s efforts to address climate change and create an increasingly resilient and distributed grid. The decision’s move toward time-of-use electricity rates is an important element of a clean energy future here in California, and is critical to unlocking the value of new clean-energy tools like storage plus solar or other smart-grid technologies. By charging more for electricity when demand is highest and less when demand is low, time-of-use rates create an economic incentive to reduce peak electricity use, invest in storage, and better align solar generation with grid needs. A thoughtful, gradual transition to time-of-use rates for solar customers will enable the market to continue growing rapidly, while incentivizing Californians to use their home-generated power in a way that provides maximum value to our increasingly renewables-dominated grid.”

Not surprisingly, the utilities are pushing back against the Proposed Decision. In private meetings with commissioners and their staff, executives have argued that the Proposed Decision saddles non-participating customers with costs that should be borne by those using

net metering. They want the Commission to allow reduced credit for exports. They ignore the benefits created by customer exports to the grid, such as:

- Reducing the amount of power which the utility must buy or produce for customers,
- Reducing load and power loss on the transmission system and related maintenance costs, and
- Benefits to society including cleaner air and reduction in global warming.

We expect the Commission to vote on the Proposed Decision at their January 28th meeting. An Alternate Decision incorporating the utilities’ asks may be presented at the same time.

WhatYouCanDo

Write letters to the CPUC at public.advisor@cpuc.ca.gov or:

CPUC Public Advisor
505 Van Ness Avenue, Room 2103
San Francisco, CA 94102.

Tell the CPUC to stand by its proposed decision to protect solar rights for Californians.

You can also join us and make oral comments at the Commission’s January 28th meeting in San Francisco (address above). For more information, email Dave McCoard at dmccoard@hotmail.com.

David McCoard, chair, Energy and Climate Committee

Growing chorus for Delta freshwater flows

In our fourth year of extreme drought, when there wasn’t enough water to go around, two East Bay entities took a stand for freshwater flows for Bay and Delta fish and wildlife, thanks to the efforts of the Bay Chapter Water Committee and partners. In 2015 the East Bay Municipal Utility District (EBMUD) and the City of Berkeley both passed resolutions calling for improvements to the management of fresh water that flows from the Estuary’s watersheds, through the Delta, and into the Bay.

In July, the EBMUD Board demonstrated its commitment to robust stewardship of the San Francisco Bay-Delta Estuary by passing a resolution on the importance of improved freshwater flows and flow patterns, water quality, and habitat to the well-being of the Estuary and the quality of life of EBMUD’s customers. Sierra Club members supported the groundwork laid by Friends of the San Francisco Estuary, a non-profit organization dedicated to the protection, restoration, and enhancement of the Bay-Delta Estuary, to press EBMUD for action on this issue. The resolution joins a growing chorus around the Bay Area of cities, counties, and agencies urging that the freshwater needs of the San Francisco Bay be considered a priority in Delta planning processes such as the California WaterFix or twin tunnels. Other entities that have passed resolutions include the City of Emeryville, the City and County of San Francisco, Marin and

Contra Costa Counties, and the Association of Bay Area Governments.

In December, the City of Berkeley followed suit, unanimously passing a similar resolution. Vice-Mayor Linda Maio, who introduced the resolution along with Councilmember Darryl Moore, said, “This resolution continues Berkeley’s strong tradition of environmental stewardship of our Bay and its fish and wildlife. The time has come for us to speak up for the Bay in regional and state water planning processes.” San Francisco Bay Chapter members worked with Vice-Mayor Maio to get the resolution in front of the City Council.

Recent science and reports by The Bay Institute conclude that freshwater diversions from the Estuary have caused, in effect, a chronic freshwater drought, contributing to the decline of endangered species, food webs, and the ecosystems of the Bay and Delta. Current planning efforts underway, including the California Water Fix (Twin Tunnels proposal) and the State Water Resource Control Board’s updates to the Bay-Delta Water Quality Control Plan, will play a significant role in the amount of fresh water that reaches the parched San Francisco Estuary. These resolutions send a clear message that the Bay Area’s ecology and economy depend on a healthy Estuary. For more information, visit www.friendsofsestuary.org.

Darcie Luce, Friends of the San Francisco Estuary

U.S. Postal Service Statement of Ownership, Management, and Circulation

1. Publication Title: The Yodeler. 2. Publication Number: 988-480. 3. Filing Date: 9/25/2015. 4. Issue Frequency: Bimonthly. 5. Number of Issues Published Annually: 6. 6. Annual Subscription Price: \$8. 8. Complete Mailing Address of Headquarters or General Business Office of Publisher (Not printer): 2530 San Pablo Ave., Suite I, Berkeley, CA 94702-200. 9. Full Names and Complete Mailing Addresses of Publisher, Editor, and Managing Editor: same as above. Managing Editor: Virginia Reinhart, 2530 San Pablo Ave., Suite I, Berkeley, CA 94702-200. 10. Owner: Sierra Club SF Bay Chapter, 2530 San Pablo Ave., Suite I, Berkeley, CA 94702-200. 11. Known Bondholders, Mortgagees, and Other Security Holders Owning or Holding 1 Percent or More of Total Amount of Bonds, Mortgages, or Other Securities: None. 12. Tax Status: Has not changed during preceding 12 months. 13. Publication Title: The Yodeler. 14. Issue Date for Circulation Data Below: Oct/Nov 2015. 15. Extent and Nature of Circulation. Average No. Copies Each Issue During Preceding 12 Months/No. Copies of Single Issue Published Nearest to filing Date. a. Total Number of Copies: 25,000/25,700. b. Legitimate Paid and/or Requested Distribution (By Mail and Outside the Mail). (1) Mailed Outside-County Paid Subscriptions Stated on PS Form 3541: 5/2.

(2) Mailed In-County Paid Subscriptions Stated on PS Form 3541: 25,000/25,700. (3) Paid Distribution Outside the Mails Including Sales Through Dealers and Carriers, Street Vendors, Counter Sales, and Other Paid Distribution Outside USPS®: 0/0. (4) Paid Distribution by Other Classes of Mail Through the USPS (e.g., First-Class Mail®): 0/0. c. Total Paid Distribution: 25,005/25,702. d. Free or Nominal Rate Distribution (By Mail and Outside the Mail). (1) Free or Nominal Rate Outside-County Copies included on PS Form 3541: 0/0. (2) Free or Nominal Rate In-County Copies Included on PS Form 3541: 0/0. (3) Free or Nominal Rate Copies Mailed at Other Classes Through the USPS (e.g., First-Class Mail): 0/0. (4) Free or Nominal Rate Distribution Outside the Mail (Carriers or other means): 1,300/1,300. e. Total Free or Nominal Rate Distribution: 1,300/1,300. f. Total Distribution: 26,300/27,000. g. Copies not Distributed: 20/20. h. Total: 26,320/27,000. i. Percent Paid and/or Requested Circulation: 95.03%/95.19%. 16. Total circulation does not include electronic copies. 17. Publication of Statement of Ownership will be printed in the February-March 2016 issue of this publication. 18. Signature and Title of Editor, Publisher, Business Manager, or Owner: Virginia Reinhart, Communications Manager. Date: 9/25,2015.



With power supply contracts signed, nothing stands between SF and clean, local energy

On January 12th, following the Commissioners' unanimous approval, San Francisco Public Utilities Commission general manager Harlan Kelly signed the first power-purchase contract to officially launch CleanPowerSF. The city's new default energy provider will have a cleaner energy mix and lower rates than those of Pacific Gas & Electric (PG&E) and begins service to customers on May 1st.

Both commercial and residential customers anywhere in San Francisco can now pre-enroll in CleanPowerSF at cleanpowersf.org. The

SFPUC will automatically begin enrolling customers in phases, starting in the city's Southeast, but there's no need to wait for them to come to you — pre-enroll today to jump to the front of the line and start getting cleaner power as soon as the program launches!

If you enroll in CleanPowerSF's basic "Green" program, 33-50% of your power will come from clean and renewable sources. If you want to do even more for the environment, for just a few dollars more each month, CleanPowerSF will lower your carbon footprint to

ZERO when you choose "SuperGreen": the 100% renewable energy option.

Not only is SuperGreen some of the cleanest electricity available in California, but since CleanPowerSF is not-for-profit, your ratepayer funds will be reinvested locally in energy efficiency programs and new, renewable-energy infrastructure. This is how we create jobs and

build a sustainable community.

Already enrolled early for CleanPowerSF? Double-down on your commitment to clean energy by encouraging your friends and neighbors around the City to join, too. The faster we grow participation in CleanPowerSF, the sooner our community can move toward energy independence and curb our impact on climate change.



Applauding the signing of the first power supply agreement contracts at the SFPUC.

Contra Costa cities push forward with Community Choice energy

Right now, Contra Costa County is officially exploring whether to adopt Community Choice, the innovative energy model that is sweeping through the Bay Area. Community Choice empowers California's municipalities to take control of their energy futures by creating local power agencies. By ditching the dirty power of the for-profit utility monopoly, we can choose clean, renewable (and affordable!) energy — drastically reducing our communities' carbon footprint.

On top of the environmental benefits, Community Choice creates family-sustaining clean-energy jobs, spurs local economic development, and reinvests revenues back into the community. What's not to love?

Today, Contra Costa County is dominated by oil refineries that pollute the air, endanger public health, and threaten global climate. Community Choice

will set Contra Costa on a different and better course: its numerous industrial brownfields will take on new life as sites of solar and wind generation; thousands of county residents will find new work in energy efficiency, construction, and other green job fields; and consumers will be freed from unstable and steadily-increasing costs of electricity generated from fossil fuels.

In January, a number of city councils in Contra Costa County are taking important votes on whether to participate in the County's study on Community Choice energy. As of the date of printing, 14 cities have agreed to join the study; no city has declined. When cities agree to participate, they authorize the release of their PG&E load data — the key to calculating the amount of energy that would need to be purchased and what rates would need to be

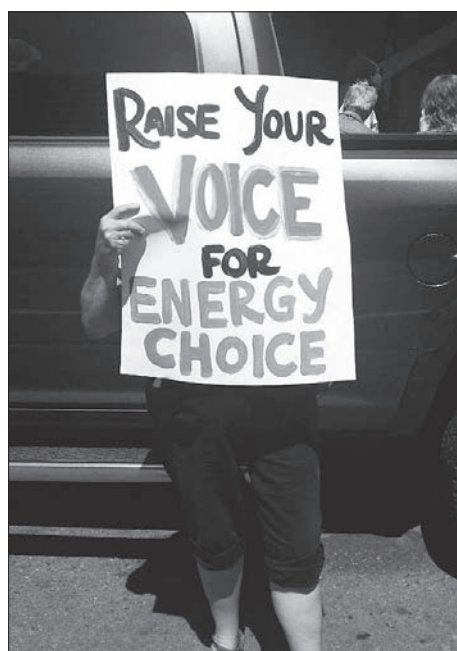
set to make the Community Choice program profitable. City support adds to the momentum behind this game-changing energy model.

Marin, Sonoma, Alameda, San Francisco, San Mateo, and Santa Clara Counties, as well as unincorporated Napa County and the cities of Benicia, El Cerrito, Richmond, and San Pablo are all served by Community Choice energy programs or are actively moving toward that goal. Let's make sure Contra Costa isn't left behind!

WhatYouCanDo

This is a critical moment to speak out if you want to help Contra Costa take control of its energy future; if you live in Contra Costa (except anyone in Benicia, El Cerrito, Richmond, or San Pablo, which are in Marin Clean Energy's service area) write to your city council members today and help Contra Costa join the rest of the Bay Area in reaping the benefits of Community Choice. Go to our online message system at tinyurl.com/CCAforContraCosta to send your message.

On Monday, February 29th, the completed Technical "Feasibility" Study will be presented to the open meeting of the Board of Supervisors' Internal Operations Committee. Save the date and stay tuned for more information on our turn-out efforts for that meeting.



A Community Choice energy supporter at a 2014 rally outside PG&E's offices.

Create an Environmental Legacy.



Bequests have played a key role in Sierra Club's environmental successes over the years.

Planning now may make your gift more meaningful and reduce taxes on your estate. We have many gift options available. We can even help you plan a gift for your local Chapter.

For more info and confidential assistance, contact:
Sierra Club
Gift Planning Program
85 Second Street, Second Floor
San Francisco, CA 94105
gift.planning@sierraclub.org • (800) 932-4270

Notes from Paris: a Sierra Club member reports back from the climate conference

Kathy Dervin, a Berkeley resident and active member of Sierra Club SF Bay Chapter and 350 Bay Area, spent ten days in Paris for COP21, also known as the 2015 Paris Climate Conference. She also attended COP20 in Lima in 2014. Here are Dervin's thoughts on the Sierra Club's participation in COP21:

The Sierra Club had a delegation of about 80 people there: staff, national board members (including new President Aaron Meir), volunteers, their negotiation team, Sierra Student Coalition, and Director Michael Brune. I was extremely impressed by how the Sierra Club functioned there, they got a LOT press coverage, were all over the place, especially Beyond Coal and at the local mayor's events, inside and outside the COP. They did 3-4 briefings for any Sierra Club members who wanted to hear what was going on inside the negotiations. They put out a daily list of events which was really valuable since there were SO many different things happening all over Paris. My respect for the Sierra Club has grown through this experience seeing that they take their local members seriously. They are, after all, a membership organization.

Dervin reflects further on key points, opportunities, and challenges within and beyond the UN Paris Agreement on Climate Change:

Well, COP 21 has now ended with every country present supporting the text (Nicaragua abstained, but Venezuela supported it in the end). So what does it all mean?

- The goal is to keep temperature increase "well below 2C with efforts to be undertaken to get to 1.5C." The call for 1.5C goes back to COP16 (in Cancun in 2010), but was barely taken seriously last year in Lima, so this was a big shift. But how realistic is it and what will it take to get there? (Some scientists say it is not attainable without peaking world emissions by 2030 and then having negative emissions.)

- All but 8 countries submitted Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (aka INDCs, which outline post-2020 climate actions they intend to take to reduce greenhouse gas emissions), which makes the agreement almost universal. The combined commitments of the INDCs is still leading to between 2.7-4 degrees Celsius, so those are just words so far.



Kathy Dervin and daughter Jess Dervin-Ackerman in front of "Ice Watch," an art installation of temporary "icebergs" by Olafur Eliasson and Minik Rosing at the Place du Panthéon

- The whole world made a COMMITMENT (of sorts) to tackle climate change together. Ratcheting up those commitments frequently (every 5 years was agreed) is necessary to meet long-term goals (decarbonization by 2050?).

- The Agreement's preamble contains important "principles" language, but then those issues disappear in most of the text. For example, indigenous rights was removed from the text after the preamble.

- Developed countries said they would help pay, but only so much, and with no substantial new money offered for the Green Climate Fund. Loss and Damage is in there but not well supported. Highly vulnerable countries and island nations are still very vulnerable, but some of them have formed a new group, Coalition of Vulnerable 20 (V-20), with the Philippines as the head, to fight for their rights and help one another.

- Developing countries will be required to do more, but say they need more finance, technical assistance, access to clean energy, and help with adaptation. Where will that help come from? And what strings will be attached?

- Cities, regions, states/provinces, and business were recognized more than ever before, and put on a lot of events to show what they are actually doing to bring their commitments into reality. Lots of energy there! (Literally,

like Marin Clean Energy and LEAN Energy; Marin Carbon Reserve also did several events on waste/compost and soil.)

- Civil society and political/rights organizers including indigenous people (IEN), many faith groups, CAN-International, transit, women, youth, LGBTQ, health, environmental, climate justice and climate action groups, labor, foundations, and regional groups put on hundreds of side events, teach-ins, organizing sessions, forums, concerts, to meet, exchange strategies, and build the movements across the many cross-issues that climate change touches. This makes us stronger in many ways.

- The calls for keeping fossil fuels in the ground, divesting, ending fossil fuel subsidies, ending fossil fuel hegemony — especially around COAL, but also oil and natural gas — were loud and frequent.

- We all got more prepared for the road after Paris. Despite severe restrictions imposed by French authorities, people DID meet, gather, march, and protest, but in much reduced numbers than had been planned for.

- We were reminded that "free trade" deals from the WTO, NAFTA to TPP and TTIP seriously undermine our efforts to protect workers rights, health, non-GMOs, promote clean energy, and to take action on climate change. WTO is being used by corporate interests even to stop local clean energy initiatives and the UN climate agreement could be challenged

under these trade agreements. Fighting the adoption of TPP/TTIP is still very important.

- The battle over climate change action in the US is at home for us. Just look at what the House and Senate are trying to do, let alone the erstwhile Republican presidential candidates. It's scary. We are not alone. Look at how much Canada has changed in one short month with the election of Justin Trudeau!

- What happens in California on climate matters — a lot of people look to the state as an example of what can be done. Senator Kevin de León spoke at a number of events, and so did others from the state delegation. We need to keep pushing to transition our state's own extensive fossil fuel infrastructure, work with and protect frontline communities from harm they are experiencing NOW, fight to protect local access to rooftop solar and local clean energy alliances (Community Choice Energy/Aggregation), and a just transition for communities, workers, and future generations.

- Where and how does system change intersect with climate change prevention (same root causes for pollution, injustice/inequity, and climate change) and how can the broader connections be made when the US seems more polarized than ever?

- 2016 will be a very busy year, so stay tuned and find a way to get involved that works for you. We need you!

Kathy Dervin

Free community screening and discussion of "This Changes Everything"

When: February 14, 2016, 6:30-9:30 PM (Valentine's Day- a perfect chance to show some love for the planet!)

Where: Congregation Netivot Shalom, 1316 University Ave, Berkeley, CA

Join us for a showing of "This Changes Everything", an inspiring new movie about the climate change crisis and what we can do about it. The movie will be followed by a discussion, with representatives from community groups and the Sierra Club to share information about local initiatives.

Directed by Avi Lewis, and inspired by Naomi Klein's international non-fiction bestseller, the film presents seven powerful portraits of communities on the front lines, from Montana's Powder River Basin to the Alberta Tar Sands, from the coast of South India to Beijing and beyond. Interwoven with these stories of struggle is Klein's narration, connecting the carbon in the air with the economic system that put it there. Throughout the film, Klein builds to her most controversial and exciting idea: that we can seize the existential crisis of climate change to transform our failed economic system into something radically bet-

ter. Unlike many works about the climate crisis, this is not a film that tries to scare the audience into action: it aims to empower.

Will this film change everything? No. But you could, by answering its call to action. Join us!



Dervin at the 2015 United Nations Climate Conference in Paris.