



SIERRA CLUB
LOMA PRIETA CHAPTER

2021 Chapter Summary

Discover our local impact in 2021

Explore, Enjoy, and Protect
Santa Clara, San Mateo, and San Benito Counties

Dear Loma Prieta Chapter Friends,

Welcome to our 2021 Annual Summary. 2021 was a tough year due to all of the events swirling around us, yet we've kept our focus and are continuing to make progress.

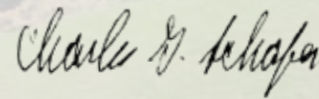
As a volunteer involved with Chapter Management, my emphasis has been on the Chapter's long-term financial stability, capacity, and health, and I am pleased to report that the Chapter is in the best position I've seen. For example, we educated more volunteers and activists last year than ever before, and those activists are engaged in more issues with a number of very important successes.

Our successes are also a function of increased staffing. With more dependable funding, staff have been able to supplement our volunteers' efforts, creating a synergistic impact that goes beyond our individual efforts.

Speaking of successes, I do want to mention a few. Our campaign to save San Francisco Bay ('Bay Alive'), has grown tremendously. Our Reach Code campaign, which helps cities reduce fossil fuel usage, is serving as a model across the country. Our efforts to preserve Coyote Valley have helped protect valuable open space that provides access for wild species to move between critical habitats. You'll see more on these issues, and other achievements, as you read further.

You are at the heart of every success. Nothing in this Summary could have been possible without you generously sharing your money, time, and expertise. We are grateful for your support; it empowers and inspires us to continue the fight for a healthy and just world where we all can thrive.

Onward.



Charles Schafer
Chapter Chair



James Eggers
Chapter Director

San Francisco Bay

We successfully challenged an open-ended transportation application for future on-demand ferry service from any location throughout the Bay without any environmental review (CEQA).

San Carlos, Daly City, and South San Francisco

We advanced electrification reach codes.

Sunnyvale

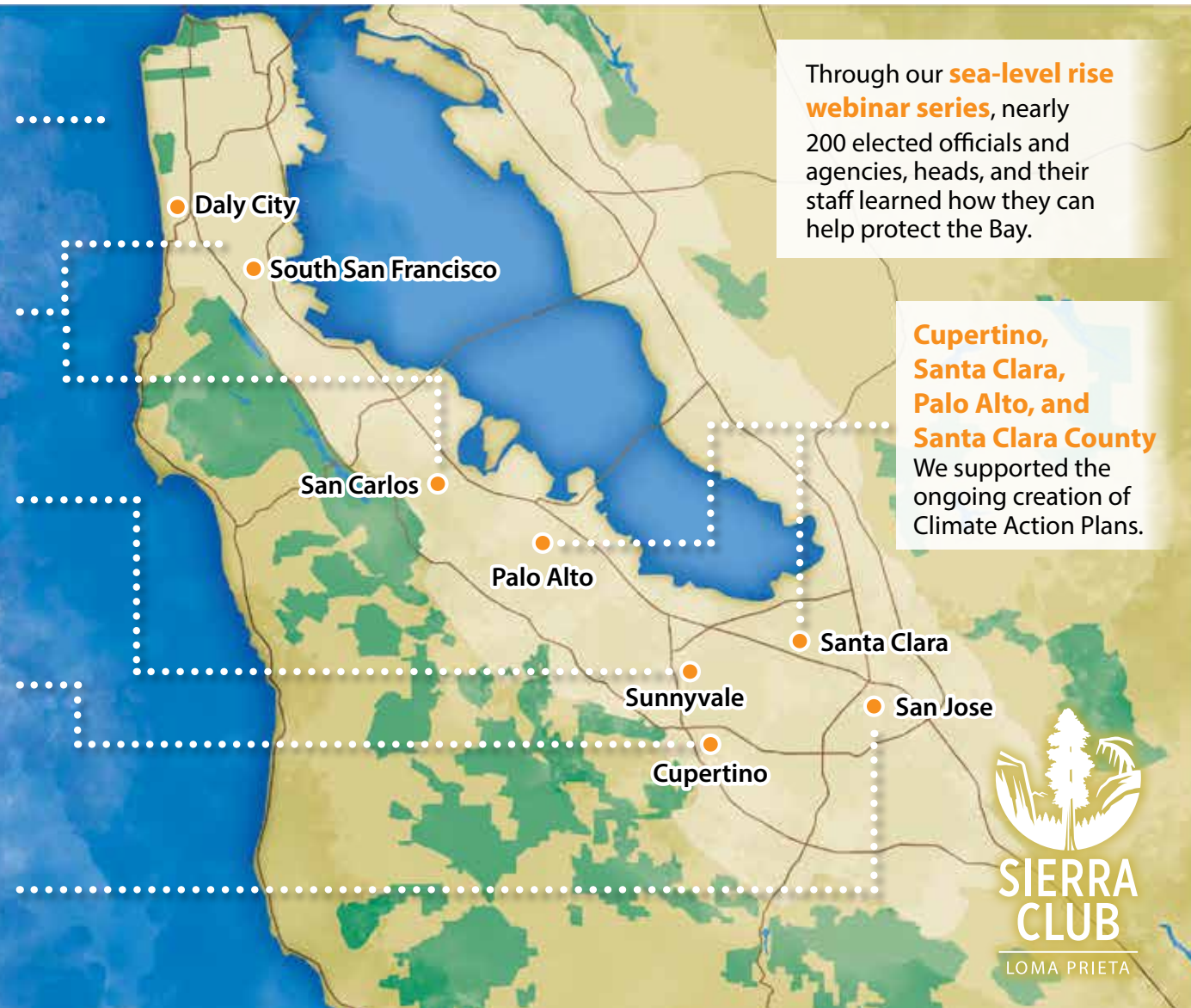
We successfully championed open space, biodiversity, and climate resilience as key priorities in the redevelopment of the Moffett Park area.

Cupertino

We successfully advocated for the adoption of the Bird-Safe Design and Dark Sky ordinance.

San Jose

We successfully opposed the harmful electronic billboard proposal in San Jose and supported Google's mixed-use Transportation Oriented Development in the Downtown.



Through our **sea-level rise webinar series**, nearly 200 elected officials and agencies, heads, and their staff learned how they can help protect the Bay.

Cupertino, Santa Clara, Palo Alto, and Santa Clara County

We supported the ongoing creation of Climate Action Plans.

2021 Impact

- In East Palo Alto we turned out record resident participation and successfully advocated for additional housing and the reduction of proposed mega-office developments along the bayfront.
- In Redwood City we helped stop yet another misguided development in Bay wetlands.
- In Moffett Park, Sunnyvale, we brought nature and nature based adaptation into the Specific Plan.
- In Mountain View we successfully advocated for livability and biodiversity to be included as annual priorities for the City Council.
- In North Bayshore in Mountain View we successfully collaborated with Google and the City Council to establish a large ecology and habitat area known as the Eco-Gem.
- In Palo Alto we convinced the City of Palo Alto not to rezone highly flood vulnerable areas east of Hwy 101 for new housing and helped make sea level rise vulnerability and adaptation a priority for the Council's Sustainability and Climate Action Plan committee.
- For mountain lions, we successfully advocated with Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District to stop culling of mountain lions from land leased for ranching and to remove takings by ranchers, which is the second largest cause of mortality after car crashes.
- For Coyote Valley we successfully advocated for grant funding to determine the best location for wildlife over-crossings.
- For Highway 17 we successfully advocated for a wildlife under-crossing.





- In Cupertino we successfully promoted the Dark Skies ordinance to reduce light pollution.
- In Half Moon Bay we convinced the Bay Harbor District to agree to enforce light dimming from squid trawlers coming into Pillar Point harbor in order to eliminate impacts on wildlife.
- To protect all the San Francisco Bay and its tributaries, we blocked a plan to create an on-demand ferry service that was proposed without any environmental review.
- In Sunnyvale we successfully appealed the lighting aspect of a bayside project that would have an unintended but nevertheless detrimental impact on nearby habitat.
- In Daly City we advocated alongside Indigenous groups for preserving a sacred community garden.
- In San Jose we successfully collaborated with community and environmental groups to oppose the Charcot off-ramp extension which would have dramatically increased vehicle pollution at an adjacent elementary school and separated the community from pedestrian access to services.
- In Campbell we successfully advocated alongside community members for the City to prioritize the creation of a climate action plan.
- For all the Bay, we convinced the Bay Conservation and Development Commission to include much stronger language in its Bay Adapt Joint Platform of strategies, in order to endorse the preservation of biodiversity and ecology of the Bay so that people and the natural and built environment can be better protected from sea level rise.

Still Leading the Nation in Creative Solutions

Loma Prieta Climate Action Leadership Team (CALT)

Reach Codes

Dashiell Leeds, Conservation Assistant

Gas pipelines leak. They emit fossil fuels constantly with leakage rates measured at 8%, making fossil gas worse for climate change than coal. The scale and regularity of these emissions make gas use in buildings a key area of focus for municipalities looking to fight climate change. Fortunately, we don't need gas! All-electric new construction is cheaper to build and healthier to live in.

Our Loma Prieta Chapter volunteers and staff are helping to shape policies in Bay Area cities and counties that are leading the way in climate policy. In 2021, in five cities we successfully advocated for 5 reach codes, which are ordinances that require new buildings to use electricity instead of gas.

Municipalities will need to plan to combat the climate crisis, which is why we've also been active with Climate Action Plans. We successfully convinced the City of Morgan Hill to create a Climate Action Plan (CAP), which has now been adopted. We also supported the City of San Jose in passing a Carbon Neutrality by 2030 resolution. We are involved in multiple ongoing climate planning efforts, such as the Cupertino CAP, Campbell CAP, and Santa Clara County Climate Collaborative.

Educating the public is key to any successful climate strategy. We successfully promoted in the Santa Clara County Office of Education a resolution calling for the creation of new environmental education programs. Our Climate Action Leadership Team has also educated more than one hundred activists on our Climate 101 calls.

We've come a long way, but there is much more to be done by local governments to confront climate change, and we intend on doing all we can to make sure they take the action that is needed.

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Creating Healthier Communities

Loma Prieta Sustainable Land Use Committee ***Gita Dev, Sustainable Land Use Chair***



Our capable and enthusiastic team at the Sustainable Land Use Committee has had its hands full this year with the sustained increase in office development and, therefore, jobs on the Peninsula, even through COVID, causing very severe jobs-to-housing imbalance.

Our emphasis this year has been on working with as many cities as possible to help deal with this issue through their septennial Housing Element which ensures that their General Plans and Specific Plans include space for new housing at all income levels.

We have been successful at creating positive changes for protecting nature, increasing biodiversity, urban canopy, and green streets for pedestrians and micro-mobility while also focusing on affordable housing in Sunnyvale's Moffett Park vision for a new Eco-innovation district, San Carlos' Innovation District near Freeway 101, East Palo Alto's Ravenswood Business District and in proposed developments in San Mateo, Redwood City, South San Francisco, Mountain View.

Going forward, as Biotechnology spreads outwards from South San Francisco to the entire peninsula, and as sea levels rise, impacting old landfills and vital infrastructure, we are stepping up education and advocacy about Bio-safety issues for the community and the Bay ecology.

Protecting the San Francisco Bay

Bay Alive Campaign

Jennifer Hetterly, Bay Alive Coordinator



Sea level rise (SLR) is a dire and worsening threat to the Bay Area. The Bay Alive Campaign (formerly Bay2030) is bringing a new focus to protect and expand San Francisco Bay's living shorelines. Living shorelines are a critical foundation for climate resilience and longevity - for Bay ecosystems and Bay Area communities. I've been inspired and invigorated, and learned a LOT, from working alongside skilled and impassioned advocates from around the Bay, scientists, public officials, community-based organizations, and resident activists who recognize the many ways that we all depend on a healthy Bay.

Propelled by that broad expertise and a "we're in this together" attitude, Bay Alive produced a highly attended webinar series featuring 18 leading experts to help decision-makers, Bay Area-wide, understand the whys and hows of nature-based SLR adaptation strategies. We built advocacy strength through an expanded Bay Advocate Training Program where participants focused on case studies in East Palo Alto, Richmond, and Vallejo. Our 3-Chapter Sea Level Rise Committee built internal consensus around a series of policy positions to guide our collective work to keep the Bay alive.

Locally, our chapter took on land use plans impacting the Bay in seven cities. Those campaigns elevated biodiversity, open space, and SLR resilience among city priorities led developers to invest in natural and green infrastructure, and scaled back plans that would threaten wetlands or worsen community vulnerability to sea level and groundwater rise.

In Sunnyvale, for example, our advocacy has helped build City Council support for establishing an ecological overlay zone to protect 87 acres of wetlands and for creating substantial new habitat-rich open space to support



Creating Healthier Communities

biodiversity in the Moffett Park Specific Plan. In the frontline community of East Palo Alto, we've been collaborating with community-based organizations and centering community voices in our advocacy - building trust, and laying vital groundwork for continuing collaboration toward equitable outcomes. Together, our advocacy helped get the City Council to significantly scale back planning for massive new development along the community's treasured wetlands.

I'm excited to build on these successes and hope you'll join us in 2022 to keep San Francisco Bay alive!



This invaluable program has been transcendent on myriad levels – whether through advancing knowledge that numerous environmental scientists and inspiring leaders masterfully delivered or through its engaging interactive connections and docent-led field trips – all have since deepened our appreciation of our vital bay ecosystem and further impassioned our pledge to protect it, with enduring gratitude to the Sierra Club Loma Prieta Chapter!

Steve and Nina Goodale

The Bay Alive campaign has played an important role in encouraging East Palo Alto residents to participate in city planning. They've supported CRC and other community partners' efforts to bring resident voices to the table to express their concerns and priorities.

**Violet Saena, Executive Director
Climate Resilient Communities**



Cultivating a Great Local Resource

Dave Pine
San Mateo County
Supervisor



The climate crisis is the paramount issue of our times. Fortunately, in San Mateo County we have many forward-thinking leaders and organizations that are addressing this challenge head-on. We have created Peninsula Clean Energy which now offers 100% carbon-free electricity to every customer in San Mateo County and is leading decarbonization efforts by investing in a variety of programs focused on the transportation and building sectors. We also have formed OneShoreline, our local flood and sea-level rise resiliency district, which is coordinating efforts among local jurisdictions to ensure that we adapt to and prepare for flooding and rising seas.

The Loma Prieta Chapter of the Sierra Club has been a reliable and effective partner and advocate in advancing these and many other efforts to reduce our carbon footprint in San Mateo County and to adapt to the climate changes already underway.



Exploring and Enjoying, to Protect

Lisa Barboza
Loma Prieta Chapter Outings Chair



Each year our two hundred incredible outings leaders, from fifteen sections, lead hundreds of hikes for thousands of local residents. Back in the year 2019, we helped more than 6000 participants discover and fall in love with our amazing local open space. Unfortunately, in March 2020, our Outings program was suspended because of safety concerns over exposure to COVID-19.

Our outings sections range from day hikes to backpacking, peak climbing, backcountry skiing, and kayaking. Our leaders know our local trails like no other. A conservation theme is vital to our outings.

We have several leaders who are in training to be Docents, and who are familiar with wildlife, flora, and fauna, as well as geology. Hiking with these folks adds a layer of richness to the Outing experience and provides an appreciation of the conservation value of the land.

Our outings develop lifelong friendships, a sense of community, and even marriages. For many, outings are their principal form of exercise and socialization.

We re-started our outings in July of 2021. Unfortunately, there are many new forms that are required for backcountry hikes, which are defined as hikes where an injured person is more than 60 minutes from medical care. As a result, we have lost leaders, as well as participants who do not want to share their private medical information for a simple hike.

We are trying to get back to our previous level of hikes but this will take time, and hopefully, some changes in the outings requirements that came from the SC National office.

I hope you'll join us on the trail in 2022!

Happy Trails, Lisa Barboza; serving you as your Loma Prieta Outings Chair

Sierra Club Loma Prieta Chapter Leadership

2021 Executive Committee

Bruce Rienzo, Chair and Treasurer
Susan DesJardin, Vice-Chair
Mary Buxton, Secretary
Nabeel al-Shamma
Nathan Chan
Sue Chow
Gladwyn d'Souza
Michael Eldridge
Mike Ferreira
Gary Latshaw
Shani Kleinhaus
Charles Schafer

Regional Groups

Gary Latshaw, Guadalupe Regional Group Chair
Gita Dev and Sue Chow, Peninsula Regional Group Co-Chairs
Gladwyn d'Souza, San Carlos/ Belmont Regional Group Chair

Political Action Committee

Mike Ferreira, Chair

Conservation Committee

Gladwyn d'Souza and Katja Irvin, Conservation Committee Co-Chairs

Conservation Sub-committees Chairs

Sue Chow, Climate Action
Gita Dev, Sustainable Land Use
Gladwyn d'Souza, Food, Sustainable Land Use and Transportation
Mike Ferreira, Coastal Issues
Gary Latshaw, Air Quality
Janet Hoffman, Pesticides

Katja Irvin, Water
Mike Kerhin, Fracking
Karen Maki, Forest protection
David Poeschel, Open Space
Martha Schauss, Wildlife Committee

Outings

Lisa Barboza, Outings Chair

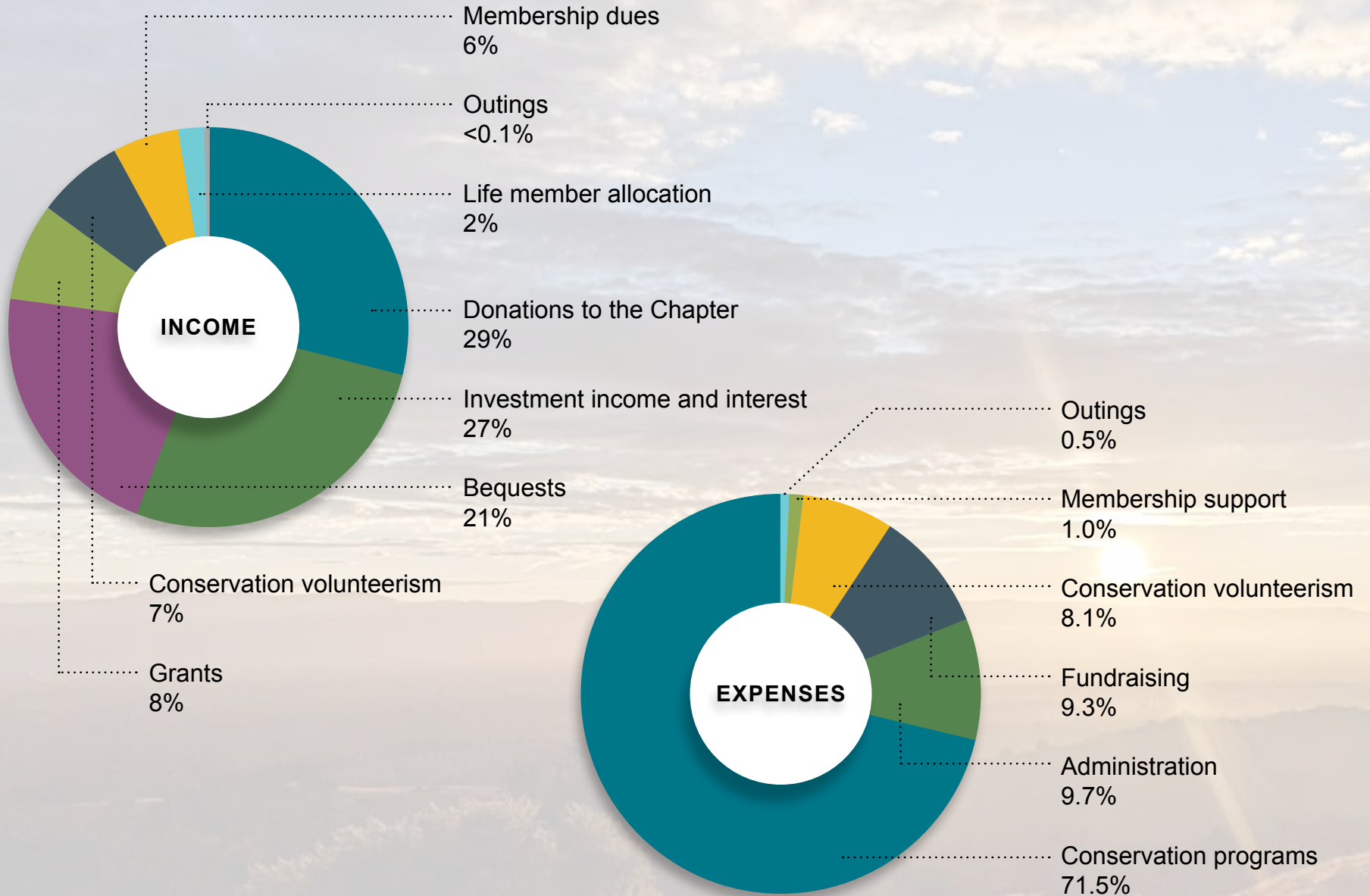
Outings Sections Chairs

Lisa Barboza, Peak Climbing
Nathan Chan, 20s-30s
Gloria Chen, San Jose ICO
Sharon Chuang, Black Mtn Hiking
John Cordes, Ski Touring
Larry Dewell, Paddlers
Ron Karpel, Day Hiking
Barbara Kelsey, Hiker's Hut
Celeste McInerny, Gay & Lesbian
Judith Ogle, Singleaires
Stephen Stearns, Backpacking
Brian Swing, San Mateo Hiking
Sigal Wilnai, Family Outings
Sandra Winkler, Sierra Singles

Staff

James Eggers, Director
Justyna Guterman, Development Coordinator
Jenniffer Hetterly, Bay Alive Coordinator
Barbara Kelsey, Chapter Coordinator
Dashiell Leeds, Conservation Assistant
Lydia Wilson, Communications Specialist

Expenditure and Income January - December 2021



2021 by the Numbers



80,959

Individual Supporters



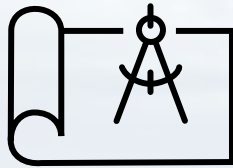
28,575

Individual eNewsletter
Subscribers



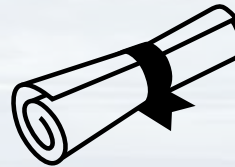
>92 letters

Comment Letters and
Public Comments



7

Developments
improved by Chapter
recommendations



35

2021 Bay Advocate
Program Graduates



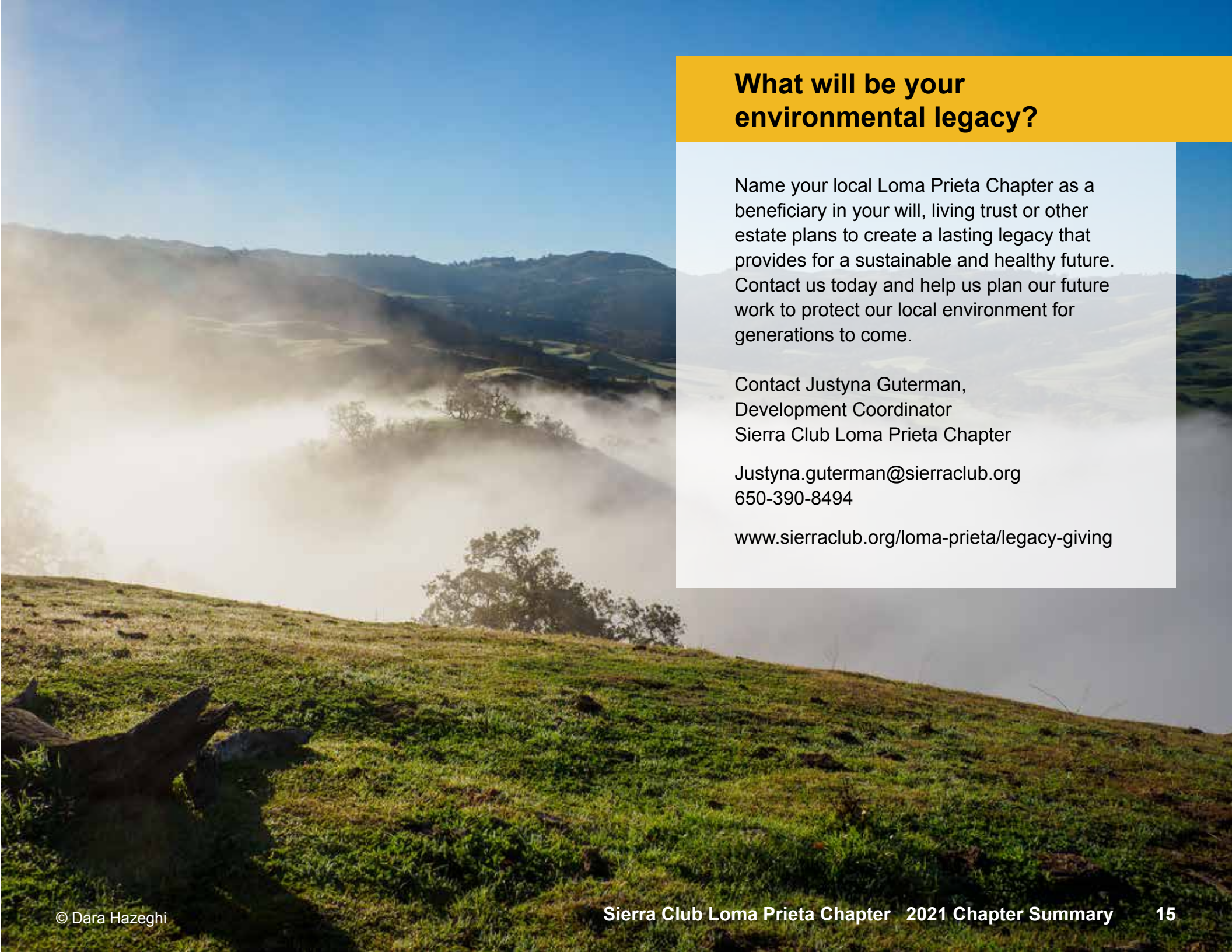
45

Hikes



> 350

Hike Participants



What will be your environmental legacy?

Name your local Loma Prieta Chapter as a beneficiary in your will, living trust or other estate plans to create a lasting legacy that provides for a sustainable and healthy future. Contact us today and help us plan our future work to protect our local environment for generations to come.

Contact Justyna Guterman,
Development Coordinator
Sierra Club Loma Prieta Chapter

Justyna.guterman@sierraclub.org
650-390-8494

www.sierraclub.org/loma-prieta/legacy-giving

Special thanks go to our 2021
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