

A group of hikers is walking away from the camera on a dirt trail through a forest. The trees are large and covered in vibrant green moss. The hikers are wearing various outdoor gear, including hats and backpacks. The scene is bright and lush.

# 2019 Annual Summary



**Enjoy, Explore, Protect Santa Clara,  
San Mateo and San Benito Counties.  
Discover our Local Impact in 2019.**

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# Your Support Means Positive Change

Dear Friends,

In her acceptance speech at the 2019 Guardians of Nature Benefit, honoree Emily Renzel encouraged us to be vigilant while warning us about not taking for granted our environmental successes. Current developments show us that success can be temporary and one failure can lose forever what is dear.

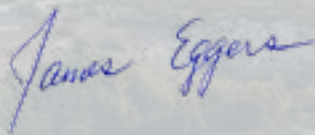
In the Loma Prieta Chapter, we embrace the multistage ultra-marathon of environmental advocacy. We are able to continue fighting because of our volunteer leaders and the generosity of people like you who have lent us unwavering support.

Only a sliver of the membership dues which you pay to the Sierra Club National is returned to our local Chapter, so your gift to the Loma Prieta Chapter is critical in enabling us to continue our mission of protecting our part of the planet.

I'm proud to present to you our 2019 Chapter Summary. Here you will find a snapshot of the work which you allow us to do on your behalf and the testimonials of our leaders who accomplish this work.

Together we work hard and smart to defend our local ecosystems, and I eagerly anticipate what we will accomplish in 2020.

Thank you for standing strong with us,



James Eggers, Director  
Loma Prieta Chapter



# 2019 by the Numbers

Member and  
Supporter  
Households  
78,588



Individual  
eNewsletter  
Subscribers  
37,254



Individual  
Members  
14,252



Volunteer  
hours  
> 9,000



Hike  
Participants  
> 6000



Hikes  
> 600



Comment Letters  
and Public  
Comments  
>250



Environmental  
Stewardship  
Program  
Participants  
35



Development proposals  
improved by Chapter  
recommendations  
13



Legal  
Settlements  
1





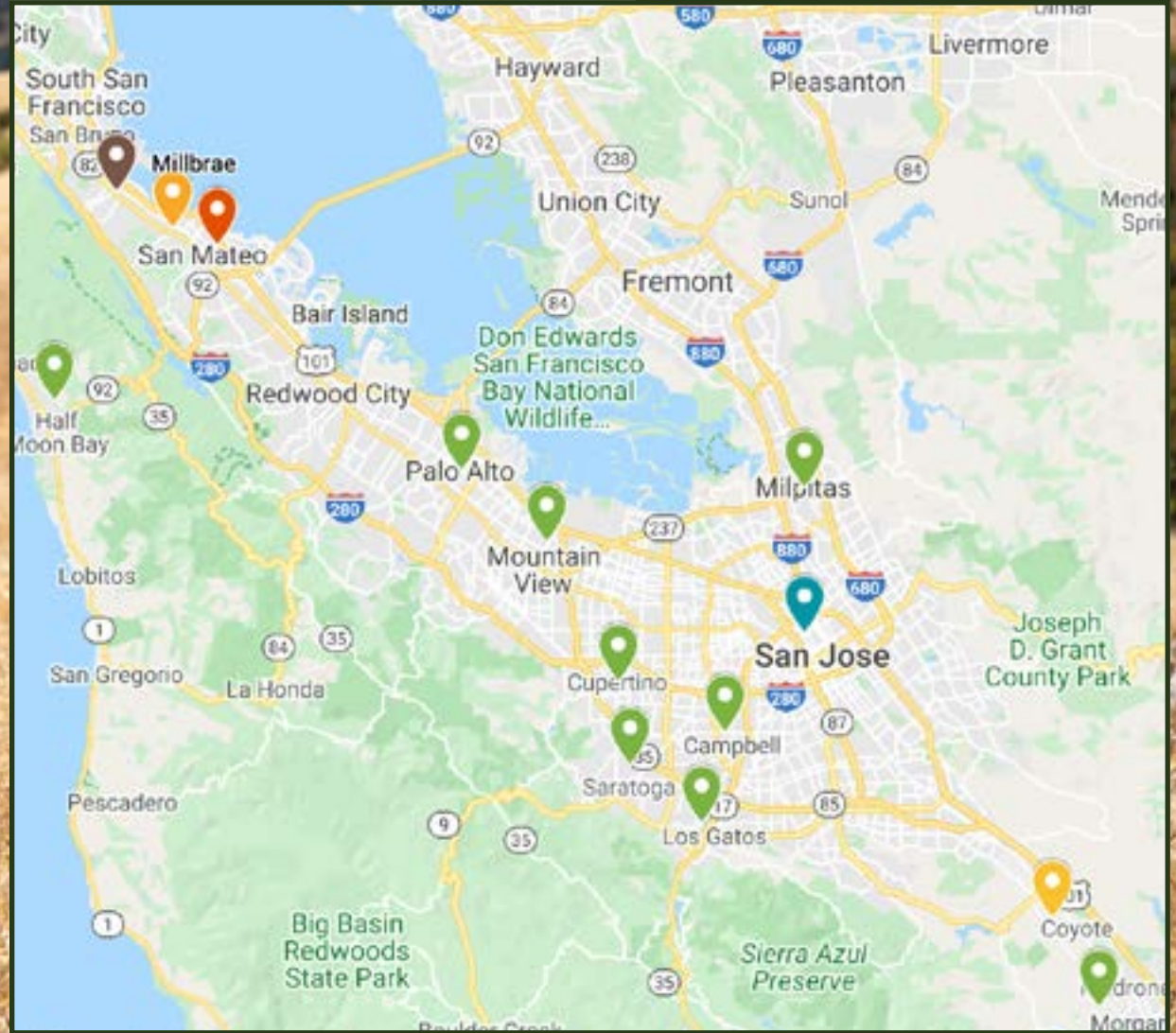
Chapter Endorsed  
Candidates Who Won  
Elections  
2 of 2\*



\*In 2019 there were no municipal elections in Santa Clara and San Benito Counties and only three city elections in San Mateo County, one of which was uncontested.

This map shows just a few of our major conservation impacts in 2019. You'll find the more extensive list on page 6.

-  Coyote Valley: helped permanently protect of 937 acres of Coyote Valley, following our more than 20 years of advocacy
-  Burlingame: successfully advocated for a creation of a public park at the Burlingame shoreline
-  San Mateo County: successfully advocated for climate emergency declaration
-  Santa Clara County: successfully advocated for climate emergency declaration
-  San Jose: incorporated green corridors at Google Diridon Station Campus
-  Campbell, Cupertino, Los Altos Hills, Los Gatos, Menlo Park, Milpitas, Morgan Hill, Mountain View, Pacifica, Palo Alto, San Jose, San Mateo, Saratoga: successfully advocated for ordinances that prohibit the use of fracked methane gas in new buildings
-  Millbrae: successfully advocated for Mixed-Use Station Area plan



## 2019 Accomplishments:

- \* Won permanent protection of 937 acres of Coyote Valley, a critical floodplain and wildlife habitat that has for decades been under threat of being destroyed and paved.
- \* Won a settlement case against the US Fish and Wildlife Service for not complying with a mandated 5 Year Review of the San Francisco garter snake.
- \* Successfully advocated for resolutions in support of Buy Clean California in San Jose and Santa Clara County. This act ensures that many construction materials are purchased from low carbon sources.
- \* Successfully advocated for climate emergency declarations by San Jose, Santa Clara County, and San Mateo County.
- \* Hosted a Wildfire Summit at the College of San Mateo, including expert speakers such as local firefighters, meteorologists, and tree management specialists.
- \* Updated and published the Transportation Oriented Development Guidelines, which outline and score the best practices for equitable and environmentally friendly development.
- \* Brought public attention to a secret negotiation of the Santa Clara Valley Water District (SCVWD) to purchase 5,272 acres in Merced County. After our chapter published this, the SCVWD backed off the purchase.
- \* Fought to protect the vulnerable confluence of the Guadalupe River and Los Gatos Creek from the negative riparian impacts of a proposed light tower development. A light tower is no longer proposed for the site, and the Sierra Club remains vigilant watching future development on the confluence.
- \* Successfully advocated for local ordinances in more than a dozen cities, that prohibit the construction of gas pipelines in new buildings. Before 2019, such ordinances did not exist in the United States.
- \* Successfully advocate for a vibrant mixed-use station area plan with two major high-rise mixed-use developments bracketing Millbrae Caltrain Station.
- \* Successfully advised Google on creating green corridors for walking and biking and wildlife at their Campus at Diridon Station in San Jose.



## A Historic Win

Dave Poeschel  
Open Space  
Committee Chair



After the 2017 Coyote Creek flooding and Measure T passed, we expected that the San Jose City Council would decide to participate in the purchase of 937 acres of Coyote Valley for conservation. Yet we were still astonished.

Since the 60's our Chapter activists, in joint effort with members of many environmental groups, have made countless 2-minute public comments at Council meetings, participated in phone calls and served on committees advocating to permanently protect Coyote Valley for water resources, wildlife habitat, climate resiliency, and recreation for generations to come. Now our focus turns to locking this new vision of conservation into San Jose's General Plan and maintaining the rural character in the less secured lands.

# Leading the Nation in Creative Solutions



Gladwyn d'Souza  
Loma Prieta Climate  
Action Leadership  
Team (CALT)  
Reach Codes

It was an exciting year in our fight against the use of fracked gas in buildings, which is one of the largest contributing greenhouse gas in our region. Our volunteers fought successfully alongside other environmental groups and community members in over a dozen cities to pass local ordinances that restrict the construction of fracked gas pipelines in new buildings. Some cities, such as Morgan Hill, Cupertino, and Mountain View, required buildings to be all-electric. San Jose, the 3rd largest city in California and the 10th largest in the nation, required all-electric new low-rise residential buildings and municipal buildings and is looking to expand their requirements in 2020. These ordinances are groundbreaking and did not exist in the United States before this year. Now, over 23 municipalities in California have passed these laws (sometimes called “Reach Codes”). Although we have had amazing success with these laws, there is still much more to do. To survive the climate crisis we will need to transition our society entirely off of fossil fuels. Our Chapter will continue organizing locally to pass strong climate legislation and encourage our communities to lead the way forward in the fight against climate change.



## *Fighting for Wise Development*

Emily Beach  
Burlingame Mayor



I'm grateful for Sierra Club Loma Prieta Members who rallied to preserve nine acres of open space on Burlingame's Bayfront. Your hard work helped convince the California State Lands Commission to endorse Burlingame Shoreline Park instead of a commercial development on valuable public land. Club member and Burlingame High School senior Verona Teo spent countless hours securing petition signatures, the legendary Emily Renzel wrote a powerful letter to the editor, and your Executive team enlisted Sierra Club California to advocate effectively in Sacramento. It was an honor to join you in standing up for open space in an increasingly dense region. Future generations owe you a debt of gratitude!

# Enjoying Nature to Protect Nature



Mayra Catalan-Orozco  
Membership Chair of  
the 20s - 30s Outing  
Section of the Loma  
Prieta Chapter.

I joined the 20's & 30's Outing Section in 2017 because I was new to the area and I was looking for ways to get involved in my community. I am glad I did because it exposed to me other Chapter activities such as the Backpacking Course and the Environmental Stewardship Program. The 20's & 30's section gives me an excuse to get outdoors, as well as meet and befriend other like-minded people. I have been able to discover the wonders of our local open space and share my love for it with others through hikes, trips, and activism. My experience with the section made me a more capable environmental steward.



# *Educating the Next Generation of Environmental Advocates*

Kristel Wickham  
Regional group - ESP



I keep returning to the Environmental Stewardship Program (ESP) because I keep learning. I thought I was well informed about the issues, but each month there is a different speaker or documentary that brings new insights. There is discouraging news about climate change in the headlines, but learning about the underlying causes and viable solutions is empowering and opens possibilities for action. I like that each month we do something – like participate in an event, or write letters to elected officials. The most meaningful way ESP has helped me become a better advocate has been through the connections made with other people (leaders, attendees, speakers). During my first year of ESP, Sue Chow connected me to an environmental advocate in my city who has mentored me as I applied for and have served on the Sustainability Commission. I now help select topics and speakers for ESP, my city's Speaker Series, and the Chapter's Climate Action Leadership Forum. I've also gotten involved with advocating for all-electric new construction reach codes in multiple cities to leverage the ever-cleaner electric grid.

# Protecting Wildlife Habitat in Court



Mike Ferreira  
Coastal Issues  
Committee Chair

The federally endangered San Francisco garter snake (pictured here) is considered by many to be the most beautiful snake in the United States, and even one of the most beautiful snakes in the world. However there are estimated to be only 1000 - 2000 adults remaining, whose habitat is restricted to San Mateo County and northern Santa Cruz County, and is shrinking and desperately in need of stronger protection.

Last year our Chapter decided to file a lawsuit against US Fish and Wildlife Service for not complying with a legally required 5 Year Review of the Endangered Species status of the San Francisco garter snake. The last review was made in 2006.

We retained the services of Attorney Brian Gaffney and with the helpful oversight of the Sierra Club's Environmental Law Program (ELP) a series of legal steps were taken that resulted in notification to the Court by the US Fish and Wildlife Service that the 5 Year Review of the San Francisco garter snake status was initiated by the US Fish and Wildlife Service on July 26, 2019. The Loma Prieta Chapter appreciates the combined expertise of Attorney Gaffney and the Club's Environmental Law Program. We also appreciate the responsiveness of the US Fish and Wildlife Service to our action.



# 2019 Guardians of Nature Benefit

Nearly 250 guests joined us for our 2019 Guardians Nature Benefit to honor Enid Pearson and Emily Renzel, long-time members of the Loma Prieta Chapter of the Sierra Club. The event was filled with powerful speeches and moving moments delivered by our honorees and guest

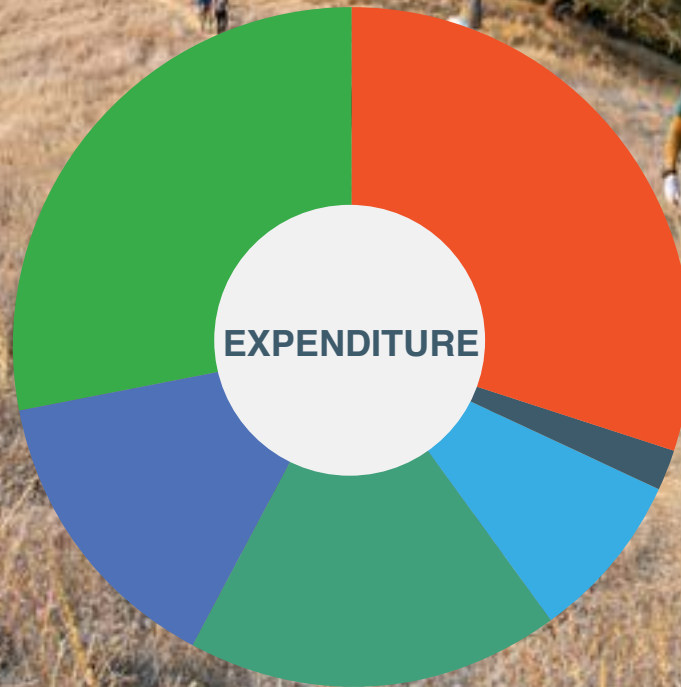
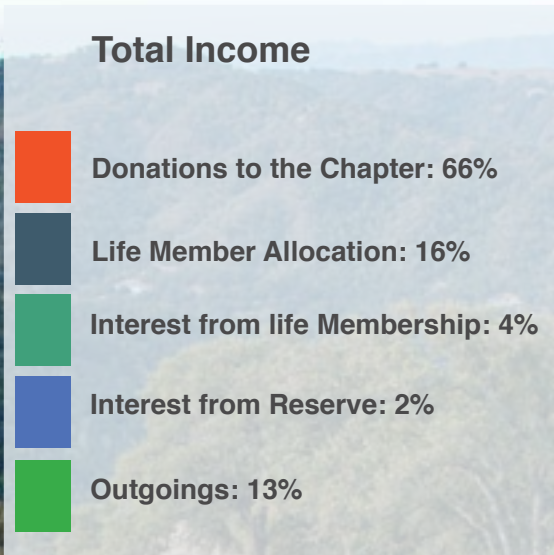
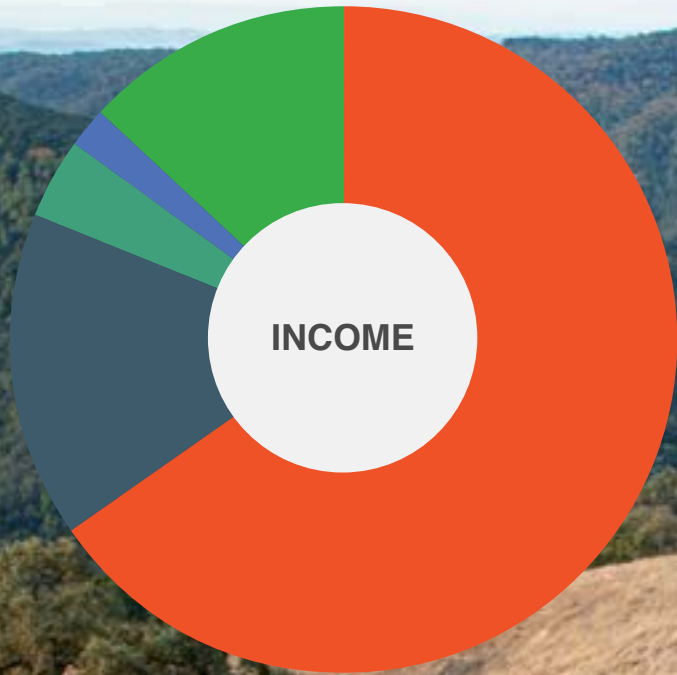


speaker, former Congressman, co-author of the Endangered Species Act and co-chair of the first Earth Day, Pete McCloskey. Mr. McCloskey praised the tenacity of our honorees who never yielded in their efforts to protect the Palo Alto Baylands, the Arastradero Preserve and other public open spaces.

At the event, we also recognized two Loma Prieta Chapter remarkable volunteers: sixteen year old Tina Zeng was given our 2019 Youth Award in Environmental Journalism for her eNewsletter articles, and Dara Hazeghi, Vice-chair of our Chapter's 20s - 30s outing section, received the 2019 Outings Leader Award.

Thanks to the generous support of our sponsors and donors, we raised more than \$80,000. Only a sliver of your membership dues paid to Sierra Club National is returned to our chapter, so local donations are critical to providing the necessary resources to realize locally our mission "to enjoy, explore and protect the planet."

# ***Expenditure and Income***



# Sierra Club Loma Prieta Chapter Leadership

## 2019 Executive Committee

Bruce Rienzo, Chair and Treasurer  
Darren Ponce, Vice Chair  
Mary Buxton, Secretary  
Marilyn Brewer  
Nathan Chan  
Sue Chow  
John Cordes  
Susan DesJardin  
Gladwyn d'Souza  
Mike Ferreira  
Shani Kleinhaus  
Gary Latshaw  
Charles Schafer

## Regional Groups

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

## Political Committee

Mike Ferreira, Chair

## Staff

Barbara Kelsey, Chapter Coordinator  
Justyna Guterman, Development Coordinator  
Jame Eggers, Director  
Dashiell Leads, Conservation Assistant

## Conservation Committee

Gladwyn d'Souza and Katja Irvin, Co-Chairs

## Sub-Committee Chairs

Sue Chow, Climate Action  
Gita Dev, Sustainable Land Use  
Gladwyn d'Souza, Food, Sustainable Land Use and  
Transportation  
Mike Ferreira, Coastal Issues  
Janet Hoffman, Pesticides  
Katia Irvin, Water  
Mike Kerhin, Fracking  
Gary Latshaw, Air Quality  
Karen Maki, Forest Protection  
Larry Marvet, Baylands Conservation  
David Poeschel, Open Space  
Martha Schauss, Wildlife Committee  
Anne Stauffer, Soils

## Outings

Lisa Barboza, Outings Chair

## Outings Sections Chairs

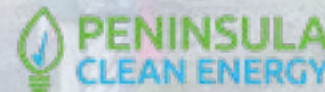
Nathan Chan, 20's-30's  
Gloria Chen, Inspiring Connections Outdoors  
Sharon Chuang, Black Mountain Hiking  
John Cordes, Ski Touring  
Jeff Hunter, Peak Climbing  
Ron Karpel, Day Hiking  
Celeste McInerney, Gay & Lesbian  
Judy Ogle, Singleaires  
Jane Paulson, San Mateo Hiking Section  
Greg Simmons, Loma Prieta Paddlers  
Steve Stearns, Backpacking Section  
Sigal Wilnai-Tzoore, Family Explorers  
Sandra Winkler, Sierra Singles

# What Will be Your Environmental Legacy?

Name your local Loma Prieta Chapter as a beneficiary in your will, living trust or other estate plans and 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](mailto:Justyna.guterman@sierraclub.org)

# A Special Thank You to Our 2019 Guardians of Nature Benefit Business Sponsors



Special thank you to Vilson Farias, Ron Karpel and Kee Yip for providing pictures.

Graphic design generously donated by Jayne Pearce.