



**SIERRA
CLUB**

SAN GORGONIO

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Palm and Pine

A publication of the San Gorgonio Chapter of the Sierra Club

Serving Riverside and San Bernardino Counties

Protect America's Environment For our Families . . . For our Future

Volume 56 Number 4 Nov/Dec 2026

From Community Leadership to Statewide Impact

Franco Pacheco appointed to Environmental Justice Advisory Committee

We are proud to share that our chapter Executive Committee leader, Franco Pacheco, has been appointed to the 2026–2029 Environmental Justice Advisory Committee of the California Air Resources Board (CARB).

The Environmental Justice Advisory Committee brings together individuals from across California who represent a broad range of expertise and lived experience in environmental justice, community advocacy, tribal affairs, public health, and public policy. The Committee plays an important role in advising CARB on the development of the Scoping Plan and other matters related to the implementation of Assembly Bill (AB) 32, California's landmark climate change legislation.

Franco's appointment is a meaningful recognition of his commitment to environmental justice and community engagement. Through his leadership and advocacy, he brings valuable community perspectives to discussions that can shape California's environmental and climate policies. Serving on the Committee from 2026 through 2029 will provide Franco with an important opportunity to help ensure that the voices and concerns of communities are considered as California advances its climate goals.

We congratulate Franco on this significant appointment and commend his continued dedication to serving our community. We look forward to seeing the positive impact of his leadership and advocacy as he contributes to the Environmental Justice Advisory Committee and the ongoing work of CARB.

Franco Pacheco



Franco Pacheco is a lifelong resident of Riverside County with more than a decade of experience working as a heavy-duty mechanic in public transit. His work has given him firsthand insight into how transportation policies influence air quality and the experiences of workers who keep transit systems running.

Franco is also an environmental advocate focused on the impacts of logistics expansion in the Inland Empire. Living in an environmental justice community, he brings a dual perspective as both transit labor and a community organizer. Franco applied to the Committee to elevate the voices of neighborhoods that bear some of the nation's worst pollution burdens. He is committed to advancing strategies that reduce greenhouse gas emissions, improve air quality, and inspire positive, community-driven change.



Sierra Club endorses candidates who share our views and will fight for climate policy, conservation and environmental justice. Our Chapter volunteers work through a rigorous process of questionnaires, interviews, research and local approvals to make these endorsements.

Final approvals for Federal endorsements are then managed by our National Political Action Team. State and local candidate endorsements are approved locally and reviewed by Sierra Club California.

FEDERAL:

House, District 28: [Judy Chu](#)

House, District 33: [Pete Aguilar](#)

House, District 39: [Mark Takano](#)

House, District 48: [Marni von Wilpert](#)

CALIFORNIA STATE LEGISLATURE:

Assembly District 36: Ida Obeso-Martinez

Assembly District 39: Juan Carillo

Assembly District 41: John Harabedian

Assembly District 50: Robert Garcia

Assembly District 58: Clarissa Cervantes

UNSURE OF YOUR CONGRESSIONAL OR STATE DISTRICTS?

- CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICTS:
 - <https://www.house.gov/representatives/find-your-representative>
- CA STATE LEGISLATURE:
 - <http://findyourrep.legislature.ca.gov>

State-Wide Candidates Endorsed by Sierra Club California :

Attorney General: [Rob Bonta](#)

State Controller: [Malia Cohen](#)

Secretary of State: [Shirley Weber](#)

Insurance Commissioner: [Ben Allen](#)

State Treasurer: [Eleni Kounalakis](#)

Superintendent of Public Instruction: [Richard Barrera](#)



Local endorsements on the Next Page

Local Candidate Endorsements

A big shoutout to our Political Committee Volunteers who spent countless hours to bring you these endorsed candidates for local offices. Thank you Political Committee Co-Chairs Mike McCarthy and Enrique Flores, and our entire Political Team. Now, let's get out there and help our candidates - volunteer and VOTE!

City of Coachella : Mayor: Denise Delgado

Moreno Valley City Council:
District 2: David Zeitz
District 4: Cheylynda Barnard

Palm Springs City Council
District 1: Grace Garner
District 2: Jeffrey Bernstein

Riverside City Council
Ward 2: Aram Ayra
Ward 4: Rich Vandenberg

Banning City Council
District 4: Marco Santana
District 5: Chris Castorena

Moreno Valley Unified School District
Area 3: Justin Jackson
Area 4: Brandy Clark

Perris City Council:
District 2: JC Franco
District 3: Jose Osuna-Tisnado

Eastern Municipal Water District
District 5: Nathan Urena



***Confused by State propositions?
Our Sierra Club California Volunteers
have done the research for you.***

Here are their recommendations for choosing our environment and communities over monied interests.

Prop 1: Authorizes Bonds for Housing Affordability Programs: **YES**

Prop. 4: Repeals Prohibition Against Public Funding of Election Campaigns: **YES**

Prop. 5: Changes Recall Election Process for Statewide Officers: **YES**

Prop 39: Prohibits Citizens from Voting Unless They Present Government-Issued Identification: **NO**

Prop 43: Limits Voters' Ability to Raise Revenues for Local Government Services: **NO**

Prop 45: Modifies Environmental Review for Certain Projects: **NO**

Upcoming Outings!

November & December

Joshua Tree- North & Rocky View Trails

Saturday November 14th

Starting near the West Entrance at the Maze trailhead, this hike combines the North Side and North Canyon trails with the lesser-known Rocky View Loop. Two loops with a one-mile connector in between.



Joshua Tree- Cliff and Canyon View Trails

Saturday November 28th

On our hikes to destinations in Joshua Tree's Blackrock area, we cross but don't usually hike a number of shorter trails. On this outing, we will fix that and hike a 6-mile loop that includes the less-hiked Cliff and Canyon View trails, plus portions of the Short Loop and the California Riding & Hiking Trail.

Palm Desert- Hopalong Cassidy Trail

December 11th

Starting from a lesser-known trailhead, we will hike one-way on the middle portion of the Hopalong Cassidy trail, including going to and past the Cross, at times with a very remote feel, and at times near homes and a golf course. We will have good views of the mountains on the east (Living Desert Area) and west sides of the Hwy 74 corridor in southern Palm Desert.



NYE- Joshua Tree- Warren Peak

The 7-mile loop combines walking in pretty Black Rock Canyon; an occasionally steep trail through Panorama Loop; a walk-up ascent of Warren Peak; followed by descent on a use trail off the north side of the peak.

Stay up to Date!

Register on the San Gorgonio Outings Page



WILDERNESS ADVENTURE COURSE

January 12, 2027 - February 23, 2027

\$225 - Sierra Club Members

\$250 - Non-Members

Held in
Redlands, CA!



More Info & Registration Here

www.sierraclub.org/san-gorgonio

The Wilderness Adventure Course is a seven-week program designed to help you build confidence and skills for exploring the outdoors.

Our team of experienced volunteers will lead you throughout the course!

Registration includes seven classroom sessions and three guided outings where you'll put your skills into practice. Perfect for beginners and outdoor enthusiasts looking to deepen their knowledge!



SIERRA CLUB
SAN GORGONIO

IS HAPPY TO INVITE YOU TO OUR

Friendsgiving Fundraiser

GOOD FOOD. GREAT FRIENDS & A GREENER FUTURE.

Join us in celebrating community, gratitude, and our shared commitment to protecting the planet.

November 10th, 2026 at 7pm

Bring a dish to share and join us in supporting a greener future!

suggested donation of
\$20 to help us continue the work
to protect, explore, & enjoy nature



2024 Orange Tree Lane,
Redlands, CA 92374

San Gorgonio Chapter Elections



How To Vote

Vote by Mail: Cut out the ballot for ExComm and for your group, and choose no more than the number listed on each ballot. Joint members each have a ballot. Mail your ballot to :Sierra Club San Gorgonio Chapter, c/o Steve Farrell, PO Box 2287 Crestline, CA 92325

Vote online:** visit myaccount.sierraclub.org and follow the instructions for voting. Have your member number ready - you can find it on your Palm and Pine address label, your Sierra Magazine address label, or your membership card. If you can't find your member number or have any difficulty with setting up your vote, email Jocelyn.sida@sierraclub.org and we'll help you get your vote in!

Who Is On ExCom?

The San Gorgonio Chapter Executive Committee (ExCom) Leaders are elected by members. The ExCom includes 9 at-large members, who serve 2-year terms. This year we have 3 open seats for at-large members. Groups also elect their ExComs and a representative appointed by the group as a voting member.

These seats make up a 16-member board, led by the Chapter Chair.

What is Excom Responsible For?

The Executive Committee sets the Chapter's priorities, goals, and strategies, which directly impact our region. ExCom members are voted on by Sierra Club San Gorgonio Chapter members. Executive Committee members help set the strategic direction for the Chapter, oversee the finances, and ensure that the Chapter follows governance requirements.

Group ExComs have similar responsibilities in their local area.

Become a Monthly Donor!
Check "**make my gift monthly**" with your next donation. Consider \$5, \$10, \$20 or more a month - it all helps !



It's hard to know what to do with an old vehicle. We've got a solution for you: [Donate it to Sierra Club Foundation!](#) You'll help support our work and the best part? Our partners at CARS make it easy to get rid of an old vehicle by coming to you and picking it up -- absolutely free.

San Geronio Chapter Executive Committee 2026-2027

Vote for 4 or fewer

- ☐ Mary Ann Ruiz
☐ Ladd Seekins
☐ Enrique (Henry) Flores
☐ Summer Davidson
☐ Franco Pacheco
(first ballot)

- ☐ Mary Ann Ruiz
☐ Ladd Seekins
☐ Enrique (Henry) Flores
☐ Summer Davidson
☐ Franco Pacheco
(second ballot - joint member)

Mail your ballot to Sierra Club San Geronio Chapter, c/o Steve Farrell, PO Box 2287 Crestline, CA 92325

Join Our Movement Volunteer Today !

Chapter Treasurer Trainee

Are you a numbers person? Do you have an accounting or bookkeeping background? Here's an opportunity to hone your skills, gain non-profit C3/C4 budget and accounting experience, and learn from our expert treasurer.

Our accounting system uses Quickbooks, but will be transitioning to Netsuite over the next few years.

Is this a fit for you?

Send us an Email today!

chair@sangorgonio.sierraclub.org

More Opportunities:

- Political team member
- Fundraising Committee
- Outings Leaders
- Chapter and Group Leaders
- Conservation Advocate
- Newsletter Editor

Find your Passion
Scan here!



Palm and Pine

Box Springs Group 2027-2028

Vote for 4 or fewer

- ☐ Mike McCarthy
- ☐ Molly Brooke Becker
- ☐ George Hague
- ☐ Linda Reimann

(first ballot)

- ☐ Mike McCarthy
- ☐ Molly Brooke Becker
- ☐ George Hague
- ☐ Linda Reimann

(second ballot - joint member)

Mail your ballot to Box Springs Group Elections PO Box 1325 Moreno Valley, CA 92556

Los Serranos Group Executive Committee 2027-2028

Vote for 3 or fewer

- ☐ John St Clair
- ☐ Alexis Lopez
- ☐ Mary Ann Ruiz

(first ballot)

- ☐ John St Clair
- ☐ Alexis Lopez
- ☐ Mary Ann Ruiz

(second ballot - joint member)

Mail your ballot to Sierra Club San Gorgonio Chapter, c/o Steve Farrell, PO Box 2287 Crestline, CA 92325

Big Bear Group Executive Committee 2027-2028

Vote for 2 or fewer

- ☐ Allyson (AJ) Gaarder
- ☐ Steven Sauter

(first ballot)

- ☐ Allyson (AJ) Gaarder
- ☐ Steven Sauter

(second ballot - joint member)

Mail your ballot to Sierra Club San Gorgonio Chapter, c/o Steve Farrell, PO Box 2287 Crestline, CA 92325

Palm and Pine

San Bernardino Mountains Group Executive Committee 2027-2028

Vote for 4 or fewer

- ☐ Karla Kellems
- ☐ Steve Farrell
- ☐ Marianne Gomes
- ☐ Robert (Bob) Sherman

(first ballot)

- ☐ Karla Kellems
- ☐ Steve Farrell
- ☐ Marianne Gomes
- ☐ Robert (Bob) Sherman

(second ballot - joint member)

Mail your ballot to Sierra Club San Gorgonio Chapter, c/o Steve Farrell, PO Box 2287 Crestline, CA 92325

Santa Margarita Group 2027-2028

Vote for 3 or fewer

- ☐ Thamar Draper
- ☐ Cathy Peterson
- ☐ Gordon Pratt

(first ballot)

- ☐ Thamar Draper
- ☐ Cathy Peterson
- ☐ Gordon Pratt

(second ballot - joint member)

Mail your ballot to Sierra Club San Gorgonio Chapter, c/o Steve Farrell, PO Box 2287 Crestline, CA 92325

Mojave Group 2027-2028

Vote for 2 or fewer

- ☐ Bryan Baker
- ☐ Norman Bossom

(first ballot)

- ☐ Bryan Baker
- ☐ Norman Bossom

(second ballot - joint member)

Mail your ballot to Sierra Club San Gorgonio Chapter, c/o Steve Farrell, PO Box 2287 Crestline, CA 92325

Palm and Pine

Tahquitz Group Executive Committee 2027-2028

Vote for 3 or fewer

- ☐ Gary Gray
☐ Geary Hund
☐ Joan Taylor

(first ballot)

- ☐ Gary Gray
☐ Geary Hund
☐ Joan Taylor

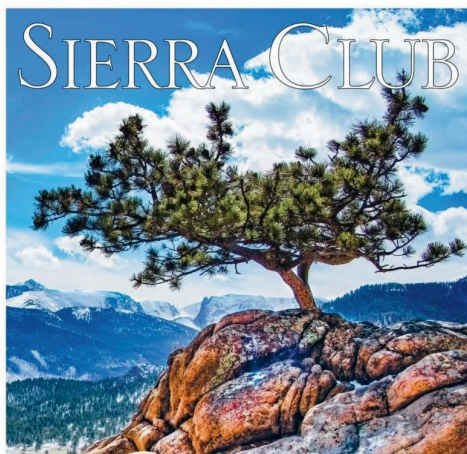
(second ballot - joint member)

Mail your ballot to Sierra Club San Gorgonio Chapter, c/o Steve Farrell, PO Box 2287 Crestline, CA 92325

CHECK IT OUT

2027 Sierra Club Calendars

Order By October 26 From Your San Gorgonio Chapter



WILDERNESS CALENDAR 2027



ENGAGEMENT CALENDAR 2027

The desk calendar has a photo for each week of 2027, including wilderness, wildlife, and miniature photography.

Order Form

Mix titles for quantity pricing.

Title	1-4 Price Each	5-9 Price Each	10+ Price Each	Quantity	Price	Total
Wilderness Wall Calendar	\$17	\$16	\$15			
Engagement Desk Calendar	\$18	\$17	\$16			

Shipping (per shipment) 1 to 3: \$8, 4 to 6: \$9, 7 to 9: \$10, 10 to 12 \$11, 13+ call for rate.

Shipping: _____

Make checks payable to "Sierra Club" and mail this form to:

Sierra Club Calendars, c/o Ladd Seekins, 22418 De Soto St., Grand Terrace, CA 92313

You may email or text orders to ladd.g.seekins@gmail.com, 909-800-3911, and pay later.

[The prices include all applicable sales taxes computed to the nearest mil.]

Total: _____

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Address: _____

E-Mail: _____

Orders must be received by October 26. Thanks.

You may order by email or text and pay later.

Local Group News

Box Springs Group

serving Riverside and Moreno Valley



For Our Fall Membership Meeting!!

When: Sunday November 8, 2027

Where: RCRCD

Riverside Corona Resource Conservation
District

4500 Glenwood Dr. Riv. CA

Truck Route To Be Approved

After almost one year Moreno Valley will approve its Diesel Truck Route plan to avoid sensitive receptors. Thanks again to our local Sierra Club volunteers, the city has included almost everything we have been requesting to better protect the residents of Moreno Valley from the harmful impacts of diesel trucks. Scan the QR code below to see which roads have been removed (red) as diesel truck routes:



Please consider making a donation to your local Box Springs Group to challenge warehouse projects and protect critical habitat. Send your check to: Sierra Club Box Springs Group, PO Box 1325, Moreno Valley, CA 92556 or you can make a tax deductible contribution by scanning the QR code below with the photo app on your phone. (Please note - checks mailed directly to the group are not tax deductible) Thank you to all of you who have donated to help support our efforts - you make a difference!



Conservation News:

By George Hague and Ann McKibben

Thanks to your support and donations we were able to litigate the original version of the warehouse now called Moreno Valley Business Park Building 5 located in the Sprouts Shopping center and win in court. This version corrected many of the problems in the first and the Moreno Valley City Council approved it. But we litigated again, and this time we decided to settle to better protect nearby residents. It is always more difficult to win in court a second time. The settlement includes improvements to protect the environment and provides good HVAC/Air-Filtration systems for a number of residents who live close to the project.

Thanks to volunteers who attended the Moreno Valley Planning Commission and city council meetings we successfully made significant changes in a proposed Ordinance that should limit Future Logistic/Warehouse Applications. Warehouses projects applying after October 2, 2026 will have to be at least 1000 feet away from the property line of sensitive receptors — like homes, schools, parks and hospitals.



Local Group News

Santa Margarita Group

By Pam Nelson

The Santa Margarita group members have been working on a wide-range and diverse projects.

Thamar and Cathy had a fun networking experience at the annual Butterfly Expo (Temecula Valley Native Plant Network event), see photo. More great news; Rod Kelley has joined me as a co-chair for our group (thank you, thank you, Rod!).

Here's a brief description of the various projects our members are working on:

--Caren Hanson (with the help of Gordon Pratt) has developed a handy brochure about creating landscape for birds, found on our website.

--Drs. Gordon Pratt and Kate Kramer gave a presentation at our Meeting about the pollinating behaviors of local sphinx moths and their possible connection to the unique Lemmon lilies in our area. They created a research project that many of our members have been helping with. Member, Prof Shauni Calhoun (Mt. San Jacinto Comm. College) has been assisting, as well.

--Gordon Pratt and I have signed up for an insect monitoring project with the California Institute for Biodiversity and erected malaise traps to be used for several months on our private properties.

--Steve Lusky arranged a meeting with the City of Wildomar to discuss the 20-acre future Passive Nature Park to ensure the use of native plants. Several of our members attended and have sent comments with their concerns.

--Jen Puel is campaigning the local cities, beginning with Temecula, to create ordinances that require native plants in all landscaping. She's following the lead of the City of Encinitas and getting good response.



Thamar and Cathy at the Butterfly Expo
Photo credit: Pam Nelson

--I've been in contact with several groups up north about the concerning activity of Elsinore Valley Municipal Water District's meddling in water management in the Potter Valley area, specifically about the future of two dams on the Eel River. Pacific Gas and Electric wants demolish the failing dams and have applied to FERC for approval. Instead, EVMWD wants to restore the dams which is in conflict with the years of work that non-profits, tribes and locals have done to restore the river and migration routes for salmon and trout. I've attended meetings asking EVMWD to put the topic on the agenda so that the rate-payers know they may be funding this risky project. Members, Janie Chapman, Michele Fackelman and Amy Gonzalez have attended meetings.

--Temecula Valley Native Plant Network has volunteered to steward the native plant garden we created with the City of Temecula at Winchester Creek Park.

--Another Lake Elsinore worry is a proposal for a data center. New member, Melissa Kurz, is looking into the details of this proposal.

Local Group News

Santa Margarita Group cont.

--San Diego Gas and Electric's proposed Golden Pacific Powerlink has many of us worried. I'm in contact with Save Temecula and represented our group at their first leaders meeting to offer support. A big concern is about the routes going through Anza Borrego State Park. Go to their website to find out how you can take action.

-You can't help but notice the huge scar that the Altair housing development has made on the west side of Temecula's hills. We have frequent meetings with the developer, Fish and Wildlife, the County and non-profits about the habitat and wildlife crossings on the south end of the project.

--Member Jan Tucker (as a resident and fire safe council representative) and our Group sent comments to the County about the proposed expansion of the equestrian center in South Temecula, Galway Downs. We agreed that the center is a valuable asset to community, but the expansion must be of a scale that doesn't impact the rural character, existing traffic problems, safe evacuation needs and noise levels appropriate for this district in the wine country plan.

Our next general meeting will be in early December. Tamar Draper will tell us about marine conservation reserves and sharing her amazing underwater photographs.

Los Valles Task Force

By Franco Pacheco

Earlier this year, we launched an initiative to start a new group in Perris, Mead Valley, Menifee and the surrounding areas. Through the Grassroots Network Initiative grant we received from the national foundation, we were able to sign up 11 volunteers and officially launch this task force with the goal of inspiring and mentoring new leaders to get involved with the club and Environmental Justice.

They are hitting the ground running, mobilizing for local conservation efforts such as canvassing against the "Mead Valley Warehouse Boundary Overlay" to help protect residents and the Motte Rimrock conservation reserve from further expansion of over 1600 acres of industrial zoning. Other actions include brainstorming for future workshops and community outings.

As a pilot task force, we hope these new volunteers will stay engaged, fundraise, and take on more responsibility to become a self-sustaining group within the chapter. They have already shown they are ready to learn more on how to mobilize, explore and protect nature.



Local Group News

Tahquitz Group

ExCom Candidate Statements

Gary Gray Statement

As a current member of the Tahquitz Group ExCom I would greatly appreciate your vote so I can continue the environmental and land conservation work in Southern California and the Coachella Valley.

Conservation Involvement:

- I have been working for land conservation with the Sierra Club since 1984
- Past Conservation Chair and current Vice Chair of the Tahquitz group
- Chapter lead on successful campaign to defeat a new city proposed next to Joshua Tree National Park Wilderness
- Past Environmental Justice Co Chair for Tahquitz Group, working on Salton Sea, potable water and other east Coachella Valley issues
- Member of the Tahquitz Group Political Committee
- Founder and Chair of Friends of the Indian Canyons
- Former State Senate representative on the board of The Coachella Mountains Conservancy
- Former Riverside County Parks and Open Space Commissioner

Avocations:

- Taught both Nature Photography and Nature Observation and Tracking at the Living Desert
- Worked as an Environmental Consultant in Riverside County
- Created and taught an Environmental Studies Classes to high school students



Photo: Gary Gray

Geary Hund Statement

I am a current member of the Tahquitz Group Executive Committee. I've been working in conservation for over 45 years including with California State Parks, the Coachella Valley Mountains Conservancy, the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (Palm Springs Office) and two non-profits. My goal has been to acquire, protect and manage land for the benefit of biological diversity, and the human spirit. I've worked in multiple disciplines including environmental review and regulatory compliance, land acquisition, restoration, and as an advocate for state and federal legislation, including the Riverside County Wilderness Bill, the second California Desert Protection Act, and the Chuckwalla National Monument.

Local Group News

Taquitiz Group cont.

ExCom Candidate Statements cont.

Geary Hund candidate statement cont.

I recently authored a successful grant to complete the planning for two wildlife crossings over State Route 62 and I'm serving as project manager. It's an honor to be nominated to the Executive Committee. I ask for your vote so I can help continue its good work.



Photo Geary Hund

Joan Taylor Statement

Current Sierra Club involvement:

I'm currently Chair of the Tahquitiz Group Executive Committee. Some other current activities include; Calif/Nevada Desert Committee Chair and San Gorgonio Chapter Legal Chair. I'm also a member of the multi-state Regional Colorado River Sub-Team, the Salton Sea Task Force, the state Energy Climate Committee, the state Water Committee, the Transportation/ Sustainable Communities Committee and Chapter Executive Committee.

Past Sierra Club involvement:

Over the years, I've spearheaded several successful Wilderness and National Monument campaigns for the Club, designated by both legislation and by presidential proclamation, and now on the team defending those designations. Additionally, I've been a seated stakeholder in various large regional federal land planning efforts—most recently the 22-million-acre California Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan.

Litigation experience:

Litigation liaison to national Sierra Club on dozens of lawsuits involving land and water conservation, logistics, renewable energy, air quality and social justice issues.

Leisure activities:

Hiking, backpacking, spending time with children and grandchildren.

I ask for your vote to allow me to continue with helping the Tahquitiz Executive Committee in its environmental efforts. Thank you.



Photo: Joan Taylor



HELP US BUILD ON NEARLY A CENTURY OF PROGRES HERE IN
RIVERSIDE AND SAN BERNARDINO COUNTIES!



YOUR SUPPORT FUELS OUR SUCCESS - THANK YOU FOR ALL YOU DO

Contact us: San Gorgonio Chapter Website: <https://sierraclub.org/san-gorgonio>



Chapter Vice-Chair
Karla Kellems
chair@sangorgonio.sierraclub.org

Chapter Director
Joz (Jocelyn) Sida
jocelyn.sida@sierraclub.org

The outings and event calendar is at our website:
<https://sierraclub.org/san-gorgonio>

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July/August, September/October, and
November/December. All articles should be submitted to
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the issue. Submissions must be sent through email;
please note that the Editor reserves the right to edit all
submissions for space, clarity, or libel.

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or call our office at 951-684-6203

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