



SIERRA CLUB

SAN GORGONIO



A PUBLICATION OF THE SAN GORGONIO CHAPTER OF THE SIERRA CLUB
SERVING RIVERSIDE AND SAN BERNARDINO COUNTIES

Volume 53 Number 3

PROTECT AMERICA'S ENVIRONMENT FOR OUR FAMILIES... FOR OUR FUTURE

MAY 2023

A Message From Your Chair

Being a mother living with the daily impacts of greenhouse gas emissions in an environmental justice (EJ) community, working a full time job, as well as participating in my children's education, I make time to volunteer with the Sierra Club for one simple reason:

I truly believe in our organization and am grateful for everyone fighting for clean air and sustainable solutions to the climate crisis.

I have been on the Chapter Executive Committee since 2017, and I have seen how each of our group leaders and members have played a role in holding our elected officials accountable, educating the public, and continuing the foundational spirit of exploring and protecting our earth. Some of you have been active members longer than some of us have been alive.

And while we aren't stopping every harmful project or wrong policy decisions, we are still here, together, to fight another day, and I'm so grateful to all of those who have entrusted our incredible chapter to my leadership as your new Chair.

As we move forward, we want to continue the work that Mary Ann Ruiz, Kim Floyd and Jono Hildner began so many years ago, to ensure the Sierra Club is the most inclusive and impactful organization it can be and to create a community where everyone feels valued and heard.

Fortunately for all of us, Mary Ann will continue on in leadership as Vice-Chair of our Chapter, while she also continues to serve as Chair of Sierra Club California. It is her leadership that has given the San Gorgonio Chapter a powerful voice for breaking down inequities, building up justice, and learning from the experiences of others at the local, state and national levels. I hope that our good work will grow exponentially as our region faces some of our toughest battles to protect people and the planet.

I look forward to marching next to you in the streets, delivering thousands of messages to decision makers, and celebrating our wins towards a more just, sustainable, and equitable future.

Yours in the struggle,

Bobbi Jo Chavarria, Chapter Chair
Sierra Club, San Gorgonio Chapter



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Event Highlight: A Green Plan For Fontana

Date and Time: Thu, May 18, 2023; 7:00 PM (Local Time)

Organized By: San Gorgonio Chapter

Location: Southridge Middle School, 14500 Live Oak Ave, Fontana, CA 92337, USA

Join us to work for clean air, safe water, land protection, a vibrant natural world and solutions to the climate crisis. Together, we can create shared, place-based climate action on a block-by-block, neighborhood-by-neighborhood level. Together we can move Fontana closer to a sustainable future for everyone.

Connect with local organizations.

Invite friends.

Keep taking action.

Event Organizers:

Bobbi Jo Chavarria

chuzpeace@sbcglobal.net

Ana Gonzalez

anagonzalez4rialto@gmail.com

Elizabeth Sena

mrssena12@gmail.com

Outings Leader Training

Sat, June 3rd

Outings are back! After a COVID hiatus, outings resumed late last year. Now's the time to step up and become a San Gorgonio Chapter Outings Leader. Request an application now for the June 3 training class. Our Leadership Training course is designed to cover all the leadership skills required by the Sierra Club to lead outings. It will include some online training, the June 3 class covering medical considerations, map and compass as well as the Psychology of Leadership. There is an additional field exercise tentatively scheduled for June 10. Early enrollment is encouraged to allow time to complete the online section and review the materials which will be mailed to you. For an application please email Ralph Salisbury, LTC Chair at ralphsalisbury99@gmail.com.

May 2023 Trail Talk: Wildflower Super Blooms

Wed, May 17th, 2023 7:00 PM



Karla Kellems enjoys this year's super bloom at Carrizo Plain National Monument.

Social media has taken its toll on the more popular places in California to see wildflowers. These locations have been popularized by media influencers and have been damaged by those wanting that perfect selfie. Irresponsible flower seekers trample, pick, ride cycles through, and land helicopters on top of the delicate complex wildflower ecosystem known as a Super-bloom. In consequence, many popular flower viewing locations have had to be closed to the public. In this presentation, Karla Kellems will educate us on super-bloom etiquette and explore some of the more unknown areas to appreciate wildflowers responsibly.

Karla Kellems is a San Gorgonio Chapter Outings Leader and is the Outings Chair for the Mountains Group. Karla also serves as a member of the Trail Talk Committee.

Register on the [Sierra Club San Gorgonio Outings Page](#)

Chapter Elections 2023: Leaders Wanted!

According to our bylaws: An Annual Election shall be held in the fourth quarter of each year to choose ExCom members. The ExCom shall provide written notice of this schedule and of the opportunity to nominate candidates by petition to all Chapter members. Group elections are conducted in the same manner. Here is the schedule for nominations, deadline for petition candidates for the Chapter and Groups.

Here is a short description of the Chapter Executive Committee functions:

The day-to-day governance of San Geronio Chapter is provided by 9 elected at-large members plus one representative from each group. The board, called the executive committee or ExCom, is responsible for managing our finances, ensuring that the organization is financially sound, including by raising funds for the organization, setting priorities and plans, supporting our groups,

committees and staff, and organizing our efforts towards environmental justice and conservation.

The complete election schedule can be downloaded [here](#).

Last Date for Nominations:

Chapter & Los Serranos, Mojave, Tahquitz, Santa Margarita and Mountains Groups: July 15

Big Bear Group: June 15

Moreno Valley Group: August 25

Deadline for Petition Candidates:

Chapter & Los Serranos, Mojave, Tahquitz, Santa Margarita and Mountains Groups: Oct. 2


Big Bear Group: Sept. 18


Moreno Valley Group: Aug. 31

Minimum Signatures for Petitions:

15 for all, except Mountains group which is 5



GET MOVING *Fontana Fast Forward: A Plan for a Green Community* 

Thursday, May 18, 2023
7:00 - 8:30pm
Southridge Middle School
RSVP at 

Join us to work
for clean air, safe water, land protection, a vibrant natural world and solutions to the climate crisis.

Fontana Days Parade!

"Happy to see some Fontana neighbors wave and applaud my Kia E.V. Niro! (maybe they were cheering at my 49er license plate frame). Find out more at our next event on May 18th at Southridge Middle School. RSVP [here](#)."
Bobbi Jo Chavarria, Chapter Chair



June Trail Talk
Coming Soon:
June 21st @ 7pm

AB 1000 Good Neighbor Policy Defeated in favor of the lesser bill AB 1748.

On April 26, AB 1000, authored by Assemblymember Reyes (D-Colton) was defeated. The bill needed five “aye” votes to advance out of California State Assembly Local Government Committee but received only two “aye” votes, one “nay” vote, and five members abstained. This means AB 1000 will not advance this year. The Committee Chair granted reconsideration, making AB 1000 a two-year bill, so it’s likely to resurface while it has been defeated for now.

This is a tremendous victory for business interests who have demonstrated little regard for the climate crisis, dangerous emissions, and for workers. Many jobs created in the mega-warehouses are low-wage and in danger of being lost to automation.

“The development of industrial facilities should not come at the detriment of the health, wellness and quality of life of the community,” said Reyes. “AB 1000 proposes a fair approach that will not only protect communities, but also offer a chance for a project to show its commitment to being a good neighbor. The status quo is not working for many of our most vulnerable residents and we must find a better way to manage these large projects in order to move California forward.”

In contrast, AB 1748, authored by Assemblymember Ramos (D-San Bernardino), passed through the Local Government Committee unanimously. This bill would establish a 300-foot setback requirement on warehouse developments or expansions with more than 400,000 sq. ft. of building space adjacent to sensitive receptors unless the local agency adopts alternative policies relating to industrial land use. AB 1748 only applies to Riverside and San Bernardino counties.

Cal State San Bernardino hosts community event

On April 12, two professors at CSUSB helped to host a community event, titled “Warehouses in the Inland Empire - Struggle for our Communities”

From the press release on the university website:

Warehouses in the Inland Empire
Struggle for our communities

Do you or someone you know have experience working in or living near a warehouse?
Are you or someone you know suffering from health problems because of air pollution?
Many local politicians and business leaders say that all these warehouses are worth the traffic congestion, the dirty air, and the low pay.
What do you think?

What can be done?
Find out from the **workers and organizers** fighting to make warehouses good for our communities.

When? Wednesday, April 12 @ noon.
Where? SB 128
Who? Warehouse Workers United

For more information contact:
Mike Kohout (mkohout@csusb.edu) or Jeremy Murray (jmurray@csusb.edu)
This event will be in person and virtually by zoom.
<https://csusb.zoom.us/j/388207496>

“Many members of the CSUSB community are directly impacted by the presence of warehouses in the inland region, from working in them or having family members who work in them, to having our region’s landscape and the daily commutes changed by them. In recent years, these changes have accelerated as major warehouses have expanded within the region.”

The nonprofit news organization, CalMatters, reported that in “1980, the Inland Empire was home to 234 warehouses. There are now more than 4,000, providing significant economic benefits for the region. But this growth also has consequences: more unhealthy air days in predominantly Latino communities.”

CSUSB professors Mike Kohout (geography) and Jeremy Murray (history), who are the event hosts, said the forum will help draw connections between the intellectual life of campus and the interests and concerns of warehouse workers and others impacted by these major businesses in our community.

continued from page3. . .

The event will host some representatives of the Warehouse Worker Resource Center, who, according to their website, are “a nonprofit organization founded in 2011 dedicated to improving working conditions in the warehouse industry in Southern California” through education, advocacy and action.

‘My students and I have been learning about the impact of the warehouses on our communities for a long time,’ said Kohout. “But the current massive expansion of the industry with its dramatic impacts on our communities is unprecedented. Those of us living and working in our region have to decide how we will co-exist with the warehouses today and in the future. How do we make the industry work for us and not against our desire for good jobs, clean air, and a say about the quality of life in our cities.’

Some of CSUSB’s students and other campus personnel have worked in warehouses, and some are currently working in them.

Murray said of the planned event, “It’s an integral part of the university’s mission to build community connections and to reflect the issues of our host region in the classroom, in community service, and in our intellectual priorities.”

The organizers said they hope to raise awareness about resources and ongoing work to support warehouse workers. They consider this a way to combine issues that are both deeply local and also global in their reach, including supply chains, labor and environmental issues, and civic engagement and leadership. Visit [here](#) for the event recording. The password is [k2\$#5p%n] for the recording

Call For Volunteers: Chapter Awards



CHAPTER AWARDS

2023



2023 AWARDS COMMITTEE VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Each year, our chapter volunteers nominate folks for awards recognizing their service and activism. These awards are meant to celebrate our volunteers who have made significant contributions in areas that affect our environment and communities.

The Awards Committee is in charge of publicizing the call for nominations, collecting them, and deciding on the winners! The Committee also publishes the winners, orders the trophies or whatever type of award the committee chooses, and this year, will organize and host an awards zoom event.

Join the Awards Committee today!

Introduction call June 5th, 7 pm

RSVP: bit.ly/2023SanGAwardsCom

Contact: Bobbi Jo @ 909.262.2880

AWARDS

Ralph Salisbury Award

Alice Krueper Service Award

Joe Momyer Conservation Award

Marjorie & Clark Jones Service Award

Environmental Justice Award



Palm and Pine

Earth Day Recap with Pictures!



CCA EJ Executive Director (and Sierra Club member) Ana Gonzalez helped table the Earth Day event at the West Valley Water District in Rialto. Christian Shaunessy (not pictured) also helped table and wrap up at the close of the event!

Earth Day Story Slam in Fontana

Using heart-filled messages, words and art, folks shared their reasons for being involved in the environmental movement and Sierra Club's mission to enjoy, explore, and protect.



Poppies, surrounded by warehouse buildings.



Redlands Tabling

Thank you, to Jody Isenberg for helping chapter chair Bobbi Jo Chavarria represent Sierra Club!



Recognition plaque from Assm. Eloise Reyes

Palm and Pine

Moreno Valley Group News

By Christina Torres, Outings Chair and George Hague, Conservation Chair

From the Outings Chair: Due to personal reasons, there are currently no hikes scheduled from the Moreno Valley Group, however, we expect to start some again by September at the latest.

Due to plentiful winter rains, our local Moreno Valley hills have been showing off some pretty wildflower displays. Hopefully, you have been able to get out and enjoy our local wildflower show and perhaps have traveled to some southern California wildflower hotspots. Take time to enjoy the views!

The American Lung Association has put out its 2023 “State of the Air” Report. By using [this link](#) you can look up information by county, city. It will show Ozone, Particle Pollution, Populations At Risk. Riverside County has a Failing grade as does most of southern California. The information reiterates why it is so important for residents to be aware of sources of air pollution and work to minimize the causes of pollution where it is possible. This is why we challenge several Moreno Valley warehouses.

A Big Win for Moreno Valley Residents—Moreno Valley Trade Center Warehouse (MVTC)--Denied:

On April 18 the city of Moreno Valley rejected plans for a 1.26 million square foot warehouse in eastern Moreno Valley at Redlands Boulevard and Eucalyptus Avenue by a 4-1 vote. Councilmember Cheylinda Bernard, Councilmember David Marquez, Mayor Ulises Cabrera and Mayor Pro Tem Ed Delgado voted no while Councilmember Elena Baca-Santa Cruz voted yes. The project would have put the warehouse and logistic center on land zoned for residences and adjacent to existing neighborhoods. Moreno Valley residents raised concerns about air quality issues, diesel truck traffic, and health concerns for children and the elderly.

Another Win—Villages of Lakeview--Denied: The California Fourth District Court of Appeal rejected the environmental impact report for the project in their ruling at the end of March. The Villages of Lakeview project would have put 8,700 homes on the southern boundary of the San Jacinto Wildlife Area, a state-owned facility managed by the California Department of Fish and



Mystic Lake, San Jacinto Wildlife Area by George Hague

Wildlife. The wildlife area is a premier area for migrating waterfowl and birds of prey who over winter there and also use it a stopover on their migration. It is also home to threatened and endangered plants and a wide variety of wildlife. The Center for Biological Diversity, the Sierra Club and San Bernardino Valley Audubon Society filed the lawsuit.

Cottonwood & Edgemont Warehouses (CEW): On Thursday March 9, 2023 the Moreno Valley Planning Commission voted to approve the Cottonwood & Edgemont warehouse which is only 17 feet from one family home and 19 feet from another. There are other homes within 30 to 50 feet. Thanks to your donations we were able to afford the required \$750 to appeal this warehouse project near family homes. When you read this the city council will have already voted on our appeal and we will provide you the results in the next Palm and Pine. The city’s failure to cover the massive warehouse roofs with solar, to require zero emission equipment, install many operational Level 1 and Level 2 Electric Vehicle (EV) chargers among many other things continues and is so sad. We are still waiting for an appeal date.

Please consider making a donation to our local Sierra Club (P.O. Box 1325, Moreno Valley, CA 92556-1325) to challenge these unhealthy warehouse projects being built near people’s homes. Thank you to all of you who have already donated to help us make them less harmful to Moreno Valley residents, especially children.

Palm and Pine

Moreno Valley Business Park Warehouse (MVBW):

The Moreno Valley Business Park warehouse is proposed at the southeast corner of Ironwood Avenue and Heacock Street, in the same shopping center as the new Sprouts. The warehouse's diesel trucks will significantly impact not only family homes as they travel on adjacent roads, but also the SR-60/Heacock Street interchange as well as the entrance to the shopping center. After the administrative record was complete and we were ready for our hearing the developer said he found more information to put into the record which caused another delay—if the judge accepts them.

Moreno Valley Business Center (MVBC) Warehouse:

This poorly located warehouse would be located at the SE corner of Alessandro Boulevard and Day Street. On the east side of the project, homes are **adjacent** to the site; north are a few homes across a narrow two-lane road; and to the west a few homes are across a narrow two-lane road. The census tract containing this project site shows its residents are in about the **worst 1% of areas in all of California for air pollution and other socioeconomic impacts**. The project site is owned by the city. Both the Sierra Club and CCAEJ filed appeals on July 25, 2022. We were not given extra time as normal to present our appeal during the Dec 6th council meeting, but instead our out-going mayor Gutierrez allowed us only two minutes each and would not accept our request for a continuance. **Council members Edward Delgado, Elena Baca-Santa Cruz and Mayor Gutierrez (elected our new Supervisor in November 2022) voted in favor while council members David Marquez and Ulises Cabrera (our new mayor in November 2022) voted against it. On Thursday January 5, 2023 our Sierra Club attorney submitted a case for filing a lawsuit on this poorly placed warehouse. Your Moreno Valley Sierra Club volunteers are currently in settlement talks with the developer and their attorney. Thanks to your donations we hope to make this project have less impact on the environment and nearby families.**

MoVal 2040—Moreno Valley General Plan Update (GPU) & Climate Action Plan (CAP): On July 15, 2021 our Sierra Club filed a lawsuit against the city of Moreno Valley on their approval of the GPU and CAP. The big part of the litigation is pointing out the need to reduce air pollution and greenhouse gas (GHG) impacts on the health of people—especially children and the elderly—as

well as the environment. Hopefully litigation will correct and/or improve the environment for Moreno Valley residents.

In June 2022 the California state attorney general, Rob Bonta, joined our litigation. He issued a press release in which he stated, “We’re intervening today so that those communities do not continue to bear the brunt of poor land use decisions that site warehouses outside their doors.” Your Moreno Valley Sierra Club volunteers and our attorney, the city, as well as the attorney general’s office are as of March 2023 currently in settlement talks. As you read this, we have a new mayor and councilmember which could change the direction of our settlement talks — perhaps for the better.

Compass Danbe Centerpointe Warehouse: The Sierra Club filed our lawsuit on this project on February 17. The 389,603 square foot project site is located south of Alessandro Boulevard between Frederick Street and Graham Street. The warehouse is across the street from a charter school, apartments and homes. The project’s Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) indicates that trucks accessing or exiting the project site may also use the city-designated truck routes along Frederick Street, Heacock Street and Alessandro Boulevard to travel to and from State Route 60. **Nine schools are located within 1/4 mile of City-Designated truck routes that could/would be used by the proposed project.** When settlement talks broke down our attorney filed their brief for the case in March.

Have you thought about volunteering with our Moreno Valley Group? If you have a few hours or more to contribute to our efforts please contact us at: movalleygroup@yahoo.com Some examples of tasks would be managing our group web page. Training would be provided; updating our information would be the main requirement.

Lake Perris State Recreation Area (LPSRA) has a Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/Lakeperris/>) where they post information on events they sponsor whether they are bird walks, hikes, events for children. Information on entry fees and annual passes can be found [here](#).

Please take time to check out our [Moreno Valley Group Facebook page](#) for more information about our group and the variety of issues we are following here in Moreno Valley. [Our Moreno Valley Group web page can be found here](#). Future outings and hikes are listed in the “Upcoming Events” column.

Palm and Pine

Big Bear Group News

By Ellen Kesler, Group Chair

We're starting this year's General Meetings with a wonderful speaker leading the way – Jessica Whiton who is our new zoo curator. For our April meeting, she shared her experiences working with animals and plans for our Alpine Zoo. Our Big Bear Alpine Zoo provides homes for animals who can't make it on their own in the world with a permanent, caring environment.

Our Earth Day tabling event found us at the Bear Valley Electric Service's annual Earth Day Expo. We exhibited Xeriscape/Fire-wise landscaping ideas and offered the opportunity to create a pinecone birdfeeder. It's always a joy to participate in a community event!

Our scheduled programs for May and June will find Ed Wallace sharing his magnificent photos of a backpack trip on the John Muir trail in May and in June, learning planting challenges in our Bear Valley. We have nine different growing environments here.

July 29th will be the return of our Xeriscape Tour where participants will be actually visiting the scheduled Xeriscape homes. It will be a one-day event and free. Stay tuned for more information in the next issue of our Chapter's newsletter.

Our Executive Committee (ExCom) election results found everyone remaining on our board. Here are the official positions for 2023:



Big Bear Group at Earth Day Event

Chair – Ellen Kesler
Vice Chair/Conservation Chair – Ed Wallace
Secretary – unfilled at this time
Treasurer/Education Chair – Marv Cira
Outings Chair – Judy Atkinson
Xeriscape Chair – Linda Garcia
Members-at-Large – Randy Carroll-Bradd
Peter Michelsen

Our General Meetings are held every third Thursday of the month, April – October, in the Bridges Presbyterian Church at 6:30pm. Our email address is Bbsierrascholar22@gmail.com.

Come join us!

Contact us: San Gorgonio Chapter Website: <https://sangorgonio2.sierraclub.org>

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Not a member? Join online through our website : <https://sangorgonio2.sierraclub.org> or call our office and we'll mail you a membership form.

For all other inquiries, check our website or email chair@sangorgonio.sierraclub.org.

Santa Margarita Group Update

By Pam Nelson, Group Chair

With Springtime here, we've become even busier than usual. We participated in the City of Menifee's Wildlife Appreciation Day in March where we were the featured non-profit. The community participation was great and the event was very entertaining with food trucks, music and lots of live animals and educational booths.



We set up our library display for the month of April at the Temecula Ron Roberts Public Library. My granddaughter helped set it up and people stopped to see our wildlife crossing section as soon as we were done. They enjoyed our hiking/outdoor families section, as well.

We'll be participating in two Earth Day events, along with members splitting their time at other ones.

Our main focus is the Murrieta Public library. Our Trails chair, Gary Oddi, is bringing the Bicycle Temecula Valley Coalition, he founded, to participate, as well. They will offer a bicycle valet service for those that come by bike. Another member, Kathy Bundy, who is the local Volkswalking leader, will lead a walk and encourage trash pickup along the way.

On May 19th our hiking leader, Gary Marsalone, is leading a great hike to Eagle Rock (N. San Diego Co.) that sits on the Pacific Crest Trail. The hike starts on the south end near Barrel Springs and heads north making a 10 mile round-trip. Contact Gary at: hikesie@gmail.com

Our May 6th and June 3rd Group Ex-Com meetings (anyone can come) will feature two native plant tours. We will be meeting at 10:30am on both dates at two different member houses. We'll tour, have a short meeting lunch. Contact me if you'd like to join us.

Go to our [website](#) for more info!

Pam Nelson

pamela05n@yahoo.com

Call For Volunteers: Chapter Fundraising Committee

SIERRA CLUB
SAN GERONIMO

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

We are looking for volunteers to join our chapter fundraising committee

HOW YOU CAN HELP!

- **Donor Appreciation** (thank you notes & calls)
- **Build our community** of like-minded people
- **Hosting low-maintenance events** like cookouts or parties at home or office
- **Taking photos** of events or programmatic work
- **Writing up** grant proposals
- **Data entry**
- **More!**

CALL NOW
951-684-6203