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SAN GORGONIO

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

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San Gorgonio Chapter Welcomes New Executive Director, Ben Jealous

from blogpost by Sierra Club President Ramon Cruz

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It is with great excitement that I write to you, as President of the Sierra Club, to share the news that the Board of Directors just voted unanimously in support of Ben Jealous, an experienced civil rights leader, community organizer, and coalition builder to be our new Executive Director.

We're thrilled to welcome Ben to our organization. Ben's passion for the outdoors and commitment to fighting for the environment, and his work leading People for the American Way and the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) – two of the nation's most influential groups pursuing equity and justice and protecting democracy – makes him uniquely qualified to lead the Sierra Club at these intersections as our journey continues to create a healthy and sustainable planet for all.

From early in Ben's life, he's spent his time in nature and communities devoted to activism, from growing up in a neighborhood of oceanographers in California to summers spent with his grandparents during the civil rights movement in West Baltimore. The first protest Ben organized at school was against timber clear cutting. He worked as a journalist exposing "cancer clusters" in rural parts of Mississippi and was the youngest person to serve as president and CEO of the NAACP, which launched its climate justice program under his leadership.

In Ben's own words about fighting for our future and the collective action it will take:



Photo by Christopher Jason Studios

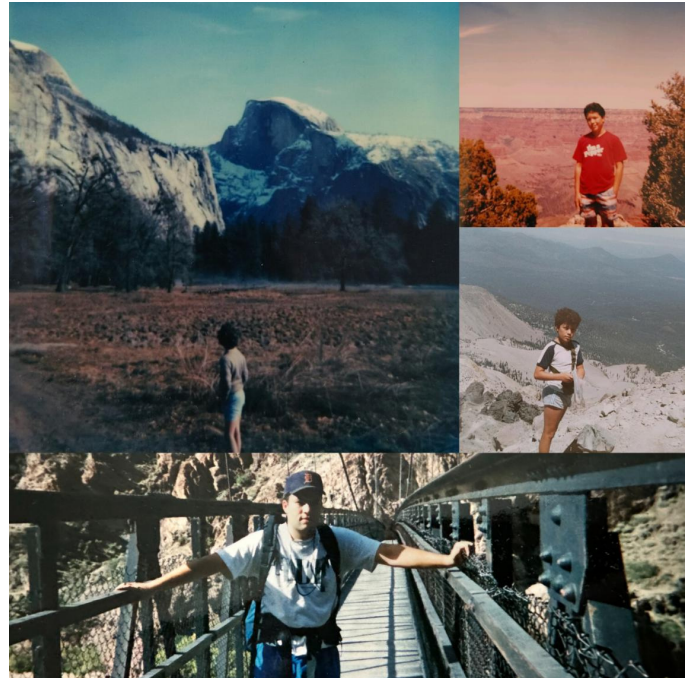
"My parents raised me to understand that the American experiment is both ongoing and fragile. Every generation must work to make our nation more just, and every generation must be vigilant in protecting our democracy. I've dedicated my life to doing both. In this existential moment in history, when planetary preservation is a human rights issue, we all need to consider pivots in our lives. Too many leaders still think that we can only create a growing economy if we sacrifice people, the wild, and even the planet itself. This flawed 'either/or' mindset--with its roots deep in our nation's history of colonialism--has led our planet to the brink. We now know better. We can both create more good jobs for communities that have suffered for too long and build a healthier, more sustainable future for everyone."

Ben is now joining the most influential grassroots environmental organization at a critical juncture.

Ben's history and the Sierra Club's role in the movement are coming together at a time that calls for bold, leadership to make sure there are never environmental sacrifice zones or disposable people living in them. He will be the first person of color to lead the Sierra Club in its 130-year-old existence. This speaks to the meaningful moment we are in now, that more than ever, we must work with more and more communities who have been historically marginalized if we are to truly deliver on our mission to protect the planet for everyone.

There is so much to learn about Ben – who folks call a unifier, peacemaker, collaborator, and coalition builder – exactly what the Board of Directors decided the Sierra Club community needs right now. You can read about Ben on our website and follow him on Twitter, Instagram, and Facebook until he officially joins the Sierra Club on January 23, 2023. He will be starting at another turning point in history to enact the once-in-a-lifetime climate, jobs, and justice investments of the Inflation Reduction Act. Exciting and critical work is immediately ahead of us with Ben by our side.

Please join me in welcoming Ben to the Sierra Club, and thank you for being part of this next chapter and the change we will make together.



Photos courtesy of Ben Jealous

December Trail Talk

Trail Talk: The History of Human Impact on the San Bernardino Mountains December 21, 2022 | 7:00 PM

Walter Roth will do a presentation on the human history of the San Bernardino Mountains. Ever wonder how Barton Flats, Jenks Lake, Vivian Creek got their names? Or the names of indigenous people and places here before Spanish colonization? Do you know why an essential qualification for our first rangers was to be a good shot? How did our wilderness escape the developers? Walt will give a slide presentation that answers these questions and describes the history of how sheep herders, resort owners, cattle rustlers, lumbermen, hikers, skiers, gold miners, the federal government and many others competed for the resources found in our local mountains.

Walter Roth is a retired elementary school teacher. He has been a Sierra Club member since 1970 and a San Geronimo Wilderness Association volunteer ranger for 23 years where he has done trail maintenance, trail patrols and evening ranger talks at Greyback Amphitheater in Barton Flats.

Trail Talk presentations are held virtually via Zoom on the third Wednesday of the month. RSVP [HERE](#) and a zoom link will be sent to you.

Mixed Results For Our Endorsed Candidates

by Mary Ann Ruiz & Timothy Scott

Chapter volunteers spent many hours working to endorse and support local candidates. We shared those in our Special Election Issue that was printed and mailed to members. While we had some major disappointments, overall our endorsed candidates did well. Some races were very close in new districts that will be watched closely in the next election - we hope you will join our political work!



Timothy Scott

Thanks to our volunteer Tim Scott, we have this current status of wins and losses. Tim has been keeping this updated with each new vote count; these are as of 11/16.

Congressional District 41 was a close one, with challenger Will Rollins close to unseating Ken Calvert, who has held that district since 1993 and has not been a supporter of Sierra Club values. In the end Calvert won; however, we will be back to work on this one next election.

Fontana was another disappointment, with Mayor Warren winning the election in spite of more people voting for two opponents. Our endorsed candidate Jesse Sandoval came in at 29.2% of the vote; splitting the vote against Warren with the other candidate at 23%. This left the incumbent mayor with 47.8%, but a clear message that a 52.2% majority of residents prefer a new mayor.

Local elections matter - leaders in city and regional offices are making decisions every day about where to site warehouses, homes, businesses, and parks. They decide where to spend taxpayer dollars and what our cities and counties will look like in the future. You can make a difference by joining our political work.

Here is a snapshot of all the candidates and current results.

Derek	Marshal	Congressional District 23	Conceded 6:30 PM/11-10	Lost	
Raul	Ruiz	Congressional District 25	Active 8:45AM/11-16	Strong Lead/Won	
Pete	Aguilar	Congressional District 33	Active 8:45AM/11-17	Strong Lead/Won	Color Key:
Norma	Torres	Congressional District 35	Active 8:45AM/11-18	Strong Lead/Won	Strong Lead 10%+
Mark	Takano	Congressional District 39	Active 8:45AM/11-19	Strong Lead/Won	Leading 5%=<5%
Will	Rollins	Congressional District 41	Active 8:45AM/11-16	Still Active,behind/lost	Close -5%=<5%
James	Ramos	Assembly District 45	Active 8:45AM/11-16	Strong Lead	Behind <-5%
Eloise	Reyes	Assembly District 50	Active 8:45AM/11-16	Won	
Christy	Holstege	Assembly District 47	Active 8:45AM/11-16	Close	
Corey	Jackson	Assembly District 60	Active 8:45AM/11-16	Leading/Won	
Fauzia	Rizvi	Assembly District 63	Active 8:45AM/11-16	Still Active, Behind	
Steve	Padilla	Senate District 18	Active 8:45AM/11-16	Strong Lead	
Jesse	Sandoval	Fontana Mayor	Active 8:45AM/11-16	Still Active, Behind	
Erick	Jimenez	Rancho Cucamonga Council D1	Active 8:45AM/11-16	Still Active, Behind	
Gracie	Torres	Western Municipal Water District D2	Active 8:45AM/11-16	Strong Lead/won	
Grace	Garner	Palm Springs Council D1	Active 8:45AM/11-16	Close	
Jeffrey	Bernstein	Palm Springs Council D2	Active 8:45AM/11-16	Strong Lead	
Ronald	De Harte	Palm Springs Council D3	Active 8:45AM/11-16	Strong Lead/won	
Carlos	Garcia	Palm Desert Council D2	Active 8:45AM/11-16	Still Active, Behind/lost	
Yurema	Arvizu	Coachella City Council	Active 8:45AM/11-16	Still Active, Behind	
Enrique (Rick)	Saldivar	Cathedral City Council D4	Active 8:45AM/11-16	Still Active, Behind	
Joel	Kinnamon	College of the Desert Board A4	Active 8:45AM/11-16	Leading	
Patricia	Leal-Gutierrez	Coachella Divison 1 Desert Recreation	Active 8:45AM/11-16	Close	

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Moreno Valley Group News

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

It was great to be able to start official Sierra Club hikes again this year after a long pandemic shutdown.

The Moreno Valley group is continuing to lead about 2 hikes per month including the Wildlands Conservancy Oak Glen Preserve, the San Timoteo Nature Sanctuary trail and our Olive Mountain and Hidden Springs trails in Moreno Valley. Unfortunately, our very hot and humid summer hampered most efforts at hiking, even at the higher elevations. I'm looking forward to the cooler months for awhile and hopefully getting a few hikes scheduled and done in the Palm Springs area along with our local area. Upcoming are a hike into Lake Perris, Crafton Hills, and Whitewater Preserve.

Please check our chapter's [website](#) and look for our current [outings schedule](#). Please consider viewing and signing up for our monthly "Trail Talks" on the Chapter's website where various hike leaders or guest speakers hold live Zoom meetings with Q&A on an array of hike and nature related topics mainly within our Chapter. If you missed past Trail Talks check out our chapter's [YouTube channel](#) to catch up on any which may interest you.

Also, if you have an interest in becoming a hike leader for the Moreno Valley Group, please contact me (Christina Torres = cmt.teck@gmail.com) for information on upcoming leader training. Please continue to adhere to "Leave no trace" and "Pack it in, Pack it out" principles. Thanks, and hope to see you out on the trails soon!



We hope you enjoyed the Moreno Valley Group's newsletter we mailed to you last month which included an opportunity to vote for two of our Executive Committee members. You still have until November 12th to make sure we receive your mailed-in ballot.

Our Moreno Valley Group is in need of a new treasurer which is a position that is essential for our success in protecting the environment and people impacted by poor planning – especially placing warehousing next to their homes.

Our past treasurer is more than willing to help our new volunteer until they feel comfortable. **Please email us at movalleygroup@yahoo.com if you are interested in helping us, have questions and/or are willing to give it a try.**

Moreno Valley Business Center (MVBC): The MVBC is the latest warehouse project along Day Street and Alessandro Blvd in Edgemont. 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 the Center for Community Action and Environmental Justice (CCA EJ) filed appeals on July 25, 2022 of the Planning Commission's 3-1 vote to approve the project. Contact planner **Julia Descoteaux** (juliad@moval.org) **to be placed on the mailing list and to make your comments/concerns prior to the city council meeting which has not yet been scheduled.**

Please consider making a donation to our local Sierra Club Group (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 and the elderly.

Big Bear Group News

by Ellen Kesler, Chair

Our last General Meeting for this year was on October 20th with Bennett Rosso from the Big Bear Lake Department of Water. His topic was, “Resources for Saving Water” and gave us valuable information on ways to conserve water and rebates we could possibly acquire.

The Executive Committee is looking forward to our annual Holiday dinner together to end the year with cheer and good fellowship. With the pandemic pretty much behind us, we are eager to get a fresh start in the new year. We will be able to give a high school senior who qualifies, a scholarship this coming year due to the generous donation from the Xeriscape Group.



HAPPY HOLIDAYS AND A JOYFUL NEW YEAR EVERYONE!

Support Your Passion for a Just and Sustainable World

Create a legacy that protects and restores the natural world for future generations by naming Sierra Club’s San Gorgonio Chapter in your will or trust. Or, name Sierra Club Foundation as the beneficiary of your retirement plan for the benefit of your local chapter and leave less highly taxed assets to your loved ones.



To learn more about the advantages of making a planned gift and to become a member of the Rachel Carson Society, please contact us.



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Mojave Group News

by Carol Wiley

The Mojave Group will resume regular in-person meetings starting Wednesday, November 9 at 7:00 p.m. The program for this meeting will be "Local History, Wildlife, and Landscapes," presented by Sid Hultquist. Sid is a lifelong resident of the High Desert in Apple Valley. He spent 40 years as a firefighter in the area and recently retired as Fire Chief for the Apple Valley Fire Department. He has been hiking and exploring the backcountry of the Mojave Desert for more than 50 years. He also has a passion for history, photography, and solo hiking in remote areas.

The public is always welcome to attend our meetings, which are held at the Sterling Inn (Regency Room, 17738 Francesca Road, Victorville). Enter on the Ridgecrest side of the building. Please wear a mask to enter the building and stop at the desk for a quick temperature check. For more information call 760-245-8734.

That is the Mojave Group's good news. We have very bad news for those who have not heard. We lost our Chair, Susan Steuber, in September on the day of her 70th birthday. She led our group for some time and was very dedicated to her job. She very bravely fought pancreatic cancer for around 4 years. She will be greatly missed for her great leadership of our group and for her beauty and grace in all she did.

Chapter Elections Update

Elections for Chapter and Group Leaders have been adjusted to the January/February timeline, to ensure we have a full slate of candidates. The January/February Palm and Pine will have all the details on who is running for Chapter Executive Committee as well as Group elections (Moreno Valley election has been completed) .

Have you considered this opportunity to gain experience as a leader of a small but mighty non-profit? Our chapter impacts many facts of life here in Riverside and San Bernardino County. Learn more about the opportunity to share in leading our chapter in 2023 by contacting our Chapter Chair, Mary Ann Ruiz, at Chair@sangorgonio.sierraclub.org.



**CHANGE
POWERED BY
PEOPLE**

Outings Highlight: Whitewater Preserve Hike to Red Dome

By Shelby Reeder

Date and Time: Wed, Dec 21, 2022; 9:00 AM (Local Time)

Location: Whitewater Preserve, 9160 Whitewater Canyon Rd, Whitewater, CA

Hike Leader: Christina Torres, Moreno Valley Group

Registration: Sign up [HERE](#)

This December, take a break from your hectic holiday schedule and explore Whitewater Preserve with hike leader Christina Torres! This rich riparian habitat, bordered by the San Bernardino and San Jacinto mountains, is maintained by the Wildlands Conservancy.

Beginning at the Whitewater Preserve, hikers will follow the rock-lined path over Whitewater River then trek along the famed Pacific Crest Trail to a large red rock outcropping known as Red Dome. There's minimal elevation gain along this 4-5 mile out and back hike, making it a fairly easy trip and perfect stroll with visiting family and friends. Bring water, snacks, sturdy shoes, sunscreen, hat, poles if you use them.

Christina has been a Sierra Club Outings Leader for the Moreno Valley Group since 2013 and serves as the MV Group's Outings Chair. She is passionate about protecting the environment and enjoys the outdoors. Contact Christina with any questions about the hike at cmt.teck@gmail.com



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Contact Us

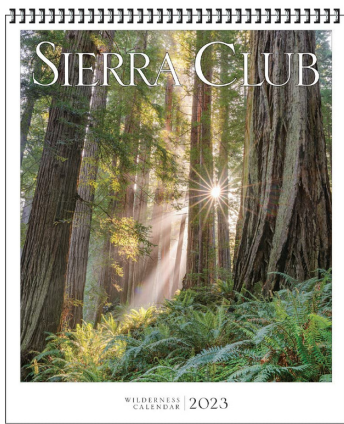
San Gorgonio Website: <https://sangorgonio2.sierraclub.org>

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Member services (address or info changes or questions): contact member.care@sierraclub.org or call our office at 951-684-06203

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



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