



# Loo Wit Rumblings



Environment, Education, Conservation & Events for Southwest Washington

## Loo Wit Endorsements for Primary, General Elections

*Lehman Holder, Political Committee*

After reviewing endorsement questionnaires and interviewing candidates, Loo Wit's political and executive committees have endorsed two candidates for city council and one for Port of Vancouver commission.

For city council, endorsements went to Diana Perez, position 6, and Ty Stober, position 5. Jack Burkman was endorsed for port commission.



From Left to Right: POSITION 6 CANDIDATE – Diana Perez is running for Vancouver City Council, position 6. She has a strong environmental background. POSITION 5 CANDIDATE -- Ty Stober, incumbent Vancouver city councilor, is seeking reelection to city council in November. He was endorsed by Sierra Club in 2015. PORT COMMISSION CANDIDATE – Jack Burkman, former Vancouver City Councilor, seeks election to the Port of Vancouver Commission in November. Photos courtesy of candidates.

Position 6 is an open seat and has drawn a large number of candidates. Diana Perez's questionnaire and interview stood out and she received unanimous votes for endorsement from PolCom and ExCom. Diana works for the U.S. Forest Service and has an extensive environmental background as a fisheries biologist. She has focused on evaluating impacts to protected, endangered, threatened and sensitive species and their habitats on federal public lands, seeking to avoid negative impacts. She has 25-plus years of public land management experience and is a commissioner for Washington State Parks and Recreation. Among her goals as a Vancouver city councilor is the development of a climate action plan for the City of Vancouver.

*Article continued on following page*



### Loo Wit Endorsements for Primary, General Elections, Continued

*Lehman Holder, Political Committee*

Ty Stober, an incumbent city councilor, was endorsed by Loo Wit in 2015 and is seeking reelection. Ty also has strong environmental credentials and seeks to pass a climate action plan for Vancouver.

Port commission candidate Jack Burkman formerly served on Vancouver City Council. He seeks an open seat on the port commission. Jack opposes the expansion of oil, coal and gas transfer facilities at the port. He also supports creating a climate action plan for the port that balances business and environmental needs and improving the port's reputation through continued transparency and community involvement.

While Diana Perez's name will be on the primary ballot, Ty's and Jack's name will not, since they face only one opponent each and move straight to the general election on Nov. 5.

Loo Wit encourages its members to vote for its endorsed candidates. All politics is ultimately local, and elections matter.



Image via Allison Romero, behence.net

### Sign Waving Events set for Diana Perez

*Lehman Holder, Political Committee*

Loo Wit political committee (PolCom) will be supporting Diana Perez in her campaign for position 6 on Vancouver City Council by having sign-waving events on July 26 and Aug. 1, in advance of the Aug. 6 primary election.

Sign-waving is an easy, fun way to support our endorsed candidates. On July 26 (Fri), please join us from 4-6 p.m. on the Evergreen Blvd. overpass over I-5, just east of the Vancouver downtown library. On Aug. 1, we'll be at the intersection of SE Mill Plain and Chkalov, next to the Fred Meyer store, same time 4-6 p.m. Signs will be provided.

For information, contact Lehman Holder, [tripsguy@aol.com](mailto:tripsguy@aol.com).

# LOO WIT CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**Wednesday, July 24th.** Zenith oil terminal testimony. 6:30 pm.  
Clatskanie Cultural Center, Clatskanie, OR

**Friday, July 26th.** Sign-waving for Diana Perez. 4-6 pm  
Evergreen Blvd overpass, Vancouver, WA.

**Thursday, August 1st:** Sign-waving for Diana Perez. 4-6pm  
Intersection of SE Mill Plain and Chaklov, Vancouver, WA.

**Thursday, September 5th:** Loo Wit Executive Committee Meeting. St. Andrew's Lutheran Church, Vancouver, WA. Glass Room. 6:30—8:00 pm.

***Beyond Coal & Oil Task Force Meetings are held the 2nd Wednesday of the month at St. Luke's Episcopal Church in Vancouver. Meet & greet with pizza starts at 6:00 pm, followed by the meeting at 6:30 pm.***

## Connect With Us!

If you haven't already, please give us a "like" on Facebook! We share information about upcoming events, photos from outings and the latest Loo Wit news. You can even share our posts with your own Facebook friends, helping to spread the word about Loo Wit!

All of our upcoming outings are posted on MeetUp, and archives of our monthly newsletters on our website. You can find us on Instagram by searching "LooWit.Group"

[www.facebook.com/loowit.group](http://www.facebook.com/loowit.group)

[www.meetup.com/Portland-Vancouver-Sierra-Club-Outings-Events](http://www.meetup.com/Portland-Vancouver-Sierra-Club-Outings-Events)

[www.sierraclub.org/washington/loo-wit](http://www.sierraclub.org/washington/loo-wit)

You can also join our listserv for pertinent conservation related news! Send an email to [CASCADE-LOOWIT-CONSFORUM@LISTS.SIERRACLUB.ORG](mailto:CASCADE-LOOWIT-CONSFORUM@LISTS.SIERRACLUB.ORG) with "subscribe" in the subject line to be added to the list!



## Loo Wit Executive Committee Members

**Mark Leed**—Chair

**Don Steinke**—Oil & Coal

**Steve Foster**—Treasurer/Sales

**Lehman Holder**—Outings Liaison

**Alona Steinke**—Oil & Coal/at large

**Fred Suter** — Vice Chair/Legislative Liaison

**David Bybee**—Secretary

**Emily Waters**—Newsletter/NF Comm.

**Kelsey King**—At Large



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## Loo Wit ExCom Leaders 2019 (voting members)

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## Loo Wit Advisory & Committee Leaders 2019 (non-voting members)

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## Lead a Campaign!

*Don Steinke, Executive Committee*

Nothing leads to environmental decay more than silence.

If you are passionate about an environmental concern, please lead a campaign that addresses it. That's the grassroots model of the Sierra Club. Let us know.

When people lead, supporters follow. And without advocates, nothing happens. Alona and I attended a fundraiser for Jay Inslee in March and told him his silence on Natural Gas in general and on Tacoma LNG and Kalama methanol was hurting his campaign. A month later, Jay Inslee declared that because of the new science on natural gas, he could no longer support those two projects. That was very hard for Jay Inslee to do after first supporting those projects.

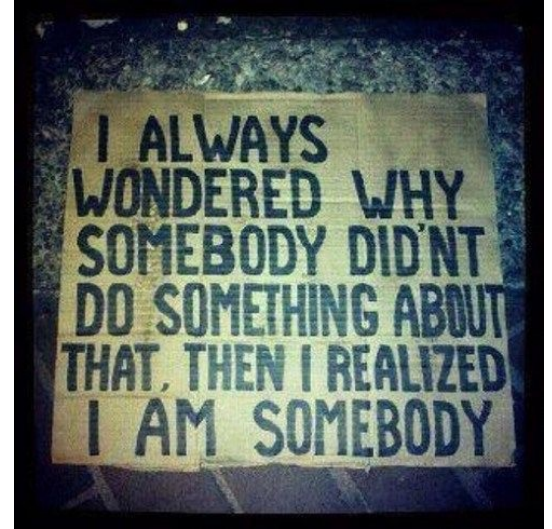


Image via Smiling Through the Chaos blog

We attended another fundraiser for Jay Inslee in July and urged him to:

- Halt construction of the Tacoma LNG project until the permits and legal issues are finalized
- Insist that Ecology take over the permitting process for both projects and ensure accurate environmental statements (The Attorney General's office said the EIS for one of the projects was fiction).
- Insist that Ecology rescind the 401 permit for the Tacoma LNG facility
- Insist that Ecology rejects the Shorelines Development for the Kalama methanol plant
- Have proper government to government consultation with the Tribes

The State of WA has something called the Centennial Accord that provides a legal route for the Governor and head of every state agency to have government to government relationships with treaty holding tribes in order to deal with matters of mutual concern. This topic was brought up to the governor this last January at the annual Centennial Accord gathering- 6 months later- construction still continues. There is a great section in the Native Daily Network documentary about the Tacoma project, called Ancestral Waters, that explains why that section of land should not legally be controlled by the Port of Tacoma. The port has failed to be able to produce a deed to the land in 2 separate civil disobedience cases - causing verdicts of "not guilty" of trespassing. Upholding treaty rights benefits all of us.

Please write to Governor Inslee here: <https://www.governor.wa.gov/contact/contact/contact-gov-inslee>

And to the Department of Ecology here : Maia Bellon maib461@ecy.wa.gov

If you'd like to receive our newsletter called Climate Action of Southwest Washington, let me know. Don Steinke crVanWash@gmail.com



# SIERRA CLUB

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## **Proposed Bottling Facility Draws Community Opposition**

*Mark Leed, Loo Wit Chair, Executive Committee*

Once again, the bottled water industry has targeted a small Northwest town with plans to extract water for corporate profit. On May 31, CG Roxane, aka Crystal Geyser, purchased 81 acres bordering the upper Cowlitz River in the Lewis County community of Randle, Washington. A few days prior, the company had applied for a water rights permit to pump 400 gallons per minute. They have been aided in this quest, unfortunately, by the Lewis County Economic Development Council, an agency funded by local taxpayers.

What changes would a bottled water plant bring to Randle? Very few permanent jobs, to begin with. A similar plant in Mt. Shasta, CA created around 10 low-paying jobs. According to a conservative estimate, the plant would put 100 semi trucks per day on local roads and US Highway 12. The amount of water drilled could exceed 100 million gallons per year, in an area that saw wells go dry during a 2015 drought. And many oppose bottled water on ethical grounds; water is a basic human right, not a commodity. The majority of plastic bottles are never recycled, and end up in streams, lakes, and ultimately, the ocean.

The Cowlitz Tribal Council has voted to oppose CG Roxane's plans, and a recent town hall drew large numbers of local opponents. The local nonprofit Lewis County Water Alliance created a Facebook group that now has over 1600 members. What can you do to help? Please write letters to the Department of Ecology, especially to Director Maia Bellon at [maia.bellon@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:maia.bellon@ecy.wa.gov), protesting water permit application No. G2-30744. You can also express concerns to Lewis County Commissioners Gary Stamper, Edna Fund and Bobby Jackson, especially if you are a county resident. The Lewis County Water Alliance is also raising funds to equip local activists to fight CG Roxane. To donate, please visit their Facebook page. Working together, we can protect our water from corporate profiteers and preserve the quality of life in the Cowlitz valley.



## Hantwick Trail Update

*Emily Waters, State & National Forest Committee*

Because of the steadfast support and engagement of the SW Washington community, Clark County Council has unanimously agreed to move forward with discussions between the Council and the Washington State Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to come to a solution for protecting the Hantwick Trail. Recently, the Hantwick Trail has been featured in the Columbian (click [here](#) to read the latest article), and Clark County Councilwoman Temple Lentz created a short video of herself at the trail (click [here](#) to watch), urging County residents to let the councilors know how they feel about this issue.

At this point, the beginnings of an intertrust transfer are being discussed as the most favorable solution, but the work is far from over. Please continue to write to County Councilors, Department of Natural Resource board members, and share this trail with your family and friends. Summer is the perfect time to walk the trail and take refuge from the heat along the shaded trail.



The Hantwick Trail on a summer day. Photo courtesy Emily Waters

Loo Wit is in the process of planning a wine & hike outing where members can hike the trail and then stop by a couple of local wineries that benefit from visitation to the trail and are supportive of efforts to protect it. Stay tuned to the Loo Wit Meet-Up page for more details on that event.



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## **Loo Wit, Others, Testify against Zenith Oil Terminal**

*Alona Steinke, Executive Committee*

On Monday, July 15, at least 400 people gathered at the Buckley Center on the University of Portland Campus, where the Portland City Council held a public hearing regarding the expansion of the Zenith oil terminal.

In 2017, Zenith Energy bought an old asphalt and crude oil terminal in Portland and almost immediately began importing tar sands crude by rail from Canada. The oil is stored in NW Portland, loaded onto tankers and sent to Asia and California. The company is using permits filed by the former owner in 2014, to expand the facility to handle up to four times more crude.

Tar sands crude oil is dirtier and more dangerous than other crude oils. When the train carrying Bakken crude derailed and caught fire in Mosier 3 years ago, oil spilled into the river and some into their water treatment facility which then had to be replaced. The fire burned for 14 hours.

If that train had been carrying tar sands crude, there would have been the added danger of hydrogen sulfide. At high levels, it kills your sense of smell and then it kills you. When spilled into the river it sinks, making it impossible to recover.

Several of us from Vancouver testified before Portland City Council members Jo Ann Hardesty and Chloe Eudaly and Mayor Ted Wheeler, saying that Zenith directly affects us as well as Portland. The trains travel from Canada, along the Columbia Gorge, through Camas and Vancouver, before crossing over the river to Portland. We urged the Council to deny all permits regarding Zenith's expansion.

Portland doesn't want Zenith and is looking for ways to block the expansion, but the actions have to be able to hold up in court. This will require some innovative and out-of-the-box kind of ideas. These are not ordinary times and this requires extraordinary action. It is up to us to decide what kind of world we want for our grandchildren and generations to follow.

**Please join us for a related hearing:**

**Wednesday, July 24th at 6:30 pm**

**Clatskanie Cultural Center**

**75 S Nahalem Street.**

**Clatskanie, OR.**





## LOO WIT OUTINGS

### Time to Get Outdoors - Sign up for an Outing!

*Lehman Holder, Outings leader*

Loo Wit summer outings are in full swing, and offer opportunities in sea kayaking, cycling (bicycle), and hiking. Local outings do not require Sierra Club membership.

So far, sea kayaking and cycling outings are going well, and there have also been some great hikes. Loo Wit has sponsored three beginner/novice outings for those new to sea kayaking and has partnered with the Clark College Community Education program on another. We've also paddled the Kalama and East Fork Lewis Rivers. Bike outings have visited the Columbia River Highway State Trail in the Gorge and ridden the newly-opened section of the Renaissance Trail just west of the Port of Vancouver.



Kayaking the Kalama River, photo courtesy Emily Waters

So how can you participate? To see outing details and rsvp, go to: [www.meetup.com/portland-vancouver-sierra-club-outings-events](http://www.meetup.com/portland-vancouver-sierra-club-outings-events). Questions? Contact Lehman, [tripsguy@aol.com](mailto:tripsguy@aol.com). Lehman's outings are posted 8 days in advance – next kayak outing will be July 28 at Scappoose Bay, off Hwy. 30 NW of Portland. Want to hike? Contact Don Rose, [drose1103@gmail.com](mailto:drose1103@gmail.com).



# Don't Get Left Out in the Cold... Join Us!



Sierra Club Outings are a terrific way to meet new people and enjoy the great outdoors. Whatever your interests - hiking, canoeing or birdwatching - there is an outing for everyone. If you are new to the area, let your local Chapter or Group give you the lay of the land. Join today and become part of America's largest environmental organization offering the most enjoyable outings.

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