



# SIERRA CLUB

LOMA PRIETA CHAPTER

## 2022 Chapter Summary

Discover our local impact in 2022

Explore, Enjoy, and Protect  
San Benito, Santa Clara and San Mateo Counties



Hello Loma Prieta Chapter friends,

Welcome to our 2022 Chapter Summary. It is hard to believe that another year has flown by, but it has been a busy one as you will see from the following pages.

We're doing well in a number of ways. We've achieved a number of environmental successes, and we are poised on the brink of several important longer-term achievements as well. Our long-term health is even better as people like you have risen to the occasion, expanding your financial support along with your time and expertise. And we have been collaborating more with other organizations in order to increase our impact.

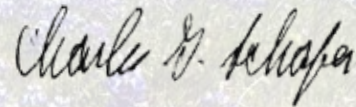
Of course, the elephant in the room is climate change, and we are encouraging steps to minimize its severity as well as mitigate the damage it will cause. Many cities are now developing Climate Action Plans, and our volunteers have been zealously evangelizing for the reduction of climate-warming emissions. We have also been raising awareness of the impacts that rising sea levels will have on lands adjacent to the Bay, as well as inland from increasing groundwater levels.

In addition, we are promoting the concept that to minimize the Bay Area's damage from sea level rise we need a region-wide approach. We are making progress, but we

also still need to press home the notion that Nature-Based Adaptation efforts are necessary in order to mitigate severe harm to our Bay, which is recognized as the West Coast's largest estuary and one of international significance.

We are making a significant impact upon the future of the Bay Area, thanks to your generous support. It would not be happening without you.

To Our Future!



**Charles Schafer**  
Chapter Chair



**James Eggers**  
Chapter Director



**East Palo Alto, Menlo Park, Redwood City, Burlingame:** successfully activated Bay Alive Program alumni as skilled advocates

**Palo Alto:** city council successfully supported the adoption of the tree protection ordinance to protect native species found in the urban matrix, tripling the number of protected private trees

**Mountain View:** successfully advocated for prioritizing biodiversity in the city's strategic plan

**Sunnyvale:** prevented the installation of bright blue LED lights on a parking structure that would have spread light pollution into the bay

**Santa Clara County:** successfully supported the county to begin creating a sustainability commission

**Burlingame, Campbell, Menlo Park, Millbrae, San Bruno, San Carlos:** successfully advocated for the adoption of all-electric reach codes

**Cupertino, Milpitas, Santa Clara, and San Jose:** successfully supported the adoption of the Cities' Climate Action Plans including measures we suggested

**San Jose:** prevented the building of a light tower in a sensitive riparian corridor of the Guadalupe river



- Supported community organizers, participated in workshops, gave public comments and/or letters to influence governments of the Cities of Burlingame, Campbell, Menlo Park, Millbrae, San Bruno, and San Carlos to adopt all-electric reach codes, Half Moon Bay (one of strongest in the nation), Los Gatos, Pacifica (one of strongest in the nation)
- Successfully influenced cities of Cupertino, Milpitas, Santa Clara, and San Jose governments to adopt climate action plans, which detail cities' actions to curb greenhouse gas emissions, by attending workshops, sending letters, and giving public comments
- Successfully advocated for the creation of a Sustainability Commission and for an environmental literacy and an education program in Santa Clara County
- Helped the San Francisco Bay Shoreline Contamination Cleanup Coalition to develop and implement a strategic plan to achieve safe and immediate cleanup of toxic and radioactive contamination near the Bay shoreline, where sea level rise threatens to spread hazardous contamination
- Successfully advocated for building setbacks and zoning changes to protect, expand, and enhance wetland habitat and ecosystem health in and around riparian corridors and 87 acres of wetlands in Sunnyvale's draft Moffett Park Specific Plan
- Gained a seat at the table as subject matter experts on the Bay Conservation and Development Commission's (BCDC) Regional Shoreline Adaptation Plan Advisory Committee
- Successfully prompted an amendment to the California Natural Resources Administration's Pathways to 30x30 Strategy (to conserve 30 percent of California's lands and waters by 2030) which emphasizes that "conservation of







© Sassan Hazeghi

San Francisco Bay and its estuaries is a critically important state priority and essential to meeting the objectives of 30x30”

- 88% of Chapter endorsees won General Elections
- Supported Palo Alto City Council in adopting a tree ordinance to protect native species found in the urban matrix, tripling the number of protected private trees
- Educated more than 50 Sierra Club leaders in an introductory webinar on the California Environmental Quality Act
- Educated 400 government, nonprofit, and community leaders through our Dark Sky Symposium featuring global experts on artificial light at night, light pollution and its impact on wildlife, and solutions to reduce bird collisions
- Stopped a light polluting art project near the Sunnyvale Baylands
- Blocked the Light Tower proposed to be built in the riparian confluence of the Guadalupe River and Los Gatos Creek
- Successfully advocated for prioritizing biodiversity in the City of Mountain View’s strategic plan
- Formed a Bay Area BioSafety working group to raise awareness about potential environmental impacts from bio-tech expansion along our shoreline and in our communities, and to promote best practices for siting labs, permitting and inspection oversight, and public transparency
- Launched a Bay-focused King Tides webinar and story mapping project in cooperation with the California Coastal Commission, in order to help visualize the likely impacts of sea level rise and highlight the additive effect of high tides and storm surge





## Protecting Ecology and Reducing Greenhouse Gas Emissions

***Dashiell Leeds, Conservation Organizer***

Humanity faces two simultaneous crises: the decline in global biodiversity and climate change. Fortunately, the solutions to these problems have mutually beneficial effects. Protecting ecosystems reduces emissions and makes us more resilient in the face of climate impacts, and reducing emissions will blunt the impact of climate change on ecosystems.

We applied this ecology and emission-reducing philosophy in our Climate Action Plan advocacy, resulting in major policy successes! I'm particularly proud of Cupertino's Climate Action Plan 2.0 Update. For more than two years we teamed with youth climate activists and community members, sending letters, giving public comments, and arranging meetings with elected officials. We influenced the City to accelerate by 5 years their carbon neutrality target (to 2040) and advocated for the inclusion of strong measures for equitable decarbonization in existing buildings as well as ecological protection and restoration. See our 2022 Conservation Impact for more examples of our climate and ecological influence!

*"We collaborated with Conservation Assistant Dashiell Leeds to oppose polluting gas infrastructure in Milpitas and San Jose. I appreciated his support in meeting with elected officials and giving research-based public comments demonstrating the extreme emissions of gas-powered fuel cells."*

**Linda Hutchins-Knowles, Co-founder of Mothers Out Front Silicon Valley**





# Creating Healthier Communities



**Loma Prieta Sustainable Land Use Committee**  
*Gita Dev, Sustainable Land Use Chair*

**The Sustainable Land Use Committee (SLU)** turned its attention to the new growth industry on the Peninsula - Life Sciences. New lab building projects have been sprouting all along the

Peninsula and along the Bay edge. Our emphasis this year has been in educating cities on the enormous differences between the various risk groups and Biosafety Levels of Life Sciences labs. As part of this work we have been influential in preventing a large biotech campus proposed on an old Redwood Shores landfill, subject to sea level rise and groundwater rise. In San Carlos, we were helpful in getting a large biotech development to reduce to Biosafety levels 1 and 2.

SLU has been working on General Plans and Housing Elements with some cities where we felt we could make a real difference, focusing on greenhouse gas reduction strategies, green streets, urban canopy and needed outdoor space for biodiversity and resident health. In addition, we were particularly pleased that we were able to get Redwood City to embark, finally, on their Sea Level Rise Risk Assessment project.

In addition to advocating for walkable communities with higher-density housing along the El Camino transit corridor, our focus in 2023 will continue to be on educating cities and counties on biosafety for our communities, for Bay health and for creating healthy, “green 15-minute neighborhoods.”

*“As a Bay Alive advocate, I see SLU as a Chapter partner providing expertise on development impacts that apply regardless of project location as an addition to the unique, significant shoreline impacts arising from sea level rise.”*

**Eileen McLaughlin**



# Protecting the San Francisco Bay



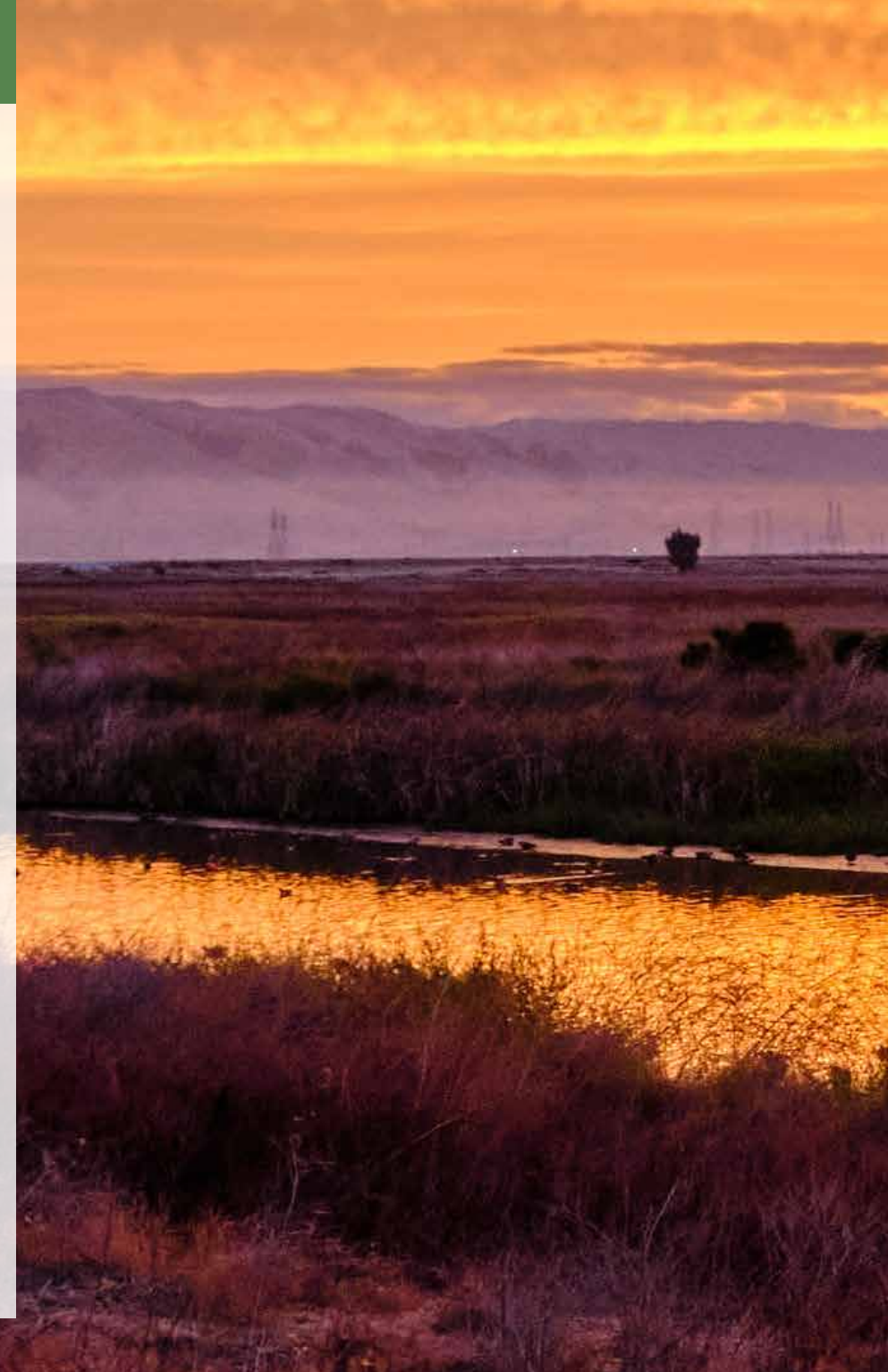
## **2022 Bay Alive Campaign** *Jennifer Hetterly, Bay Alive Coordinator*

2022 brought notable progress both in our impact and in public attention to the critical need for shoreline protection and adaptation for sea level rise resilience. We are thrilled

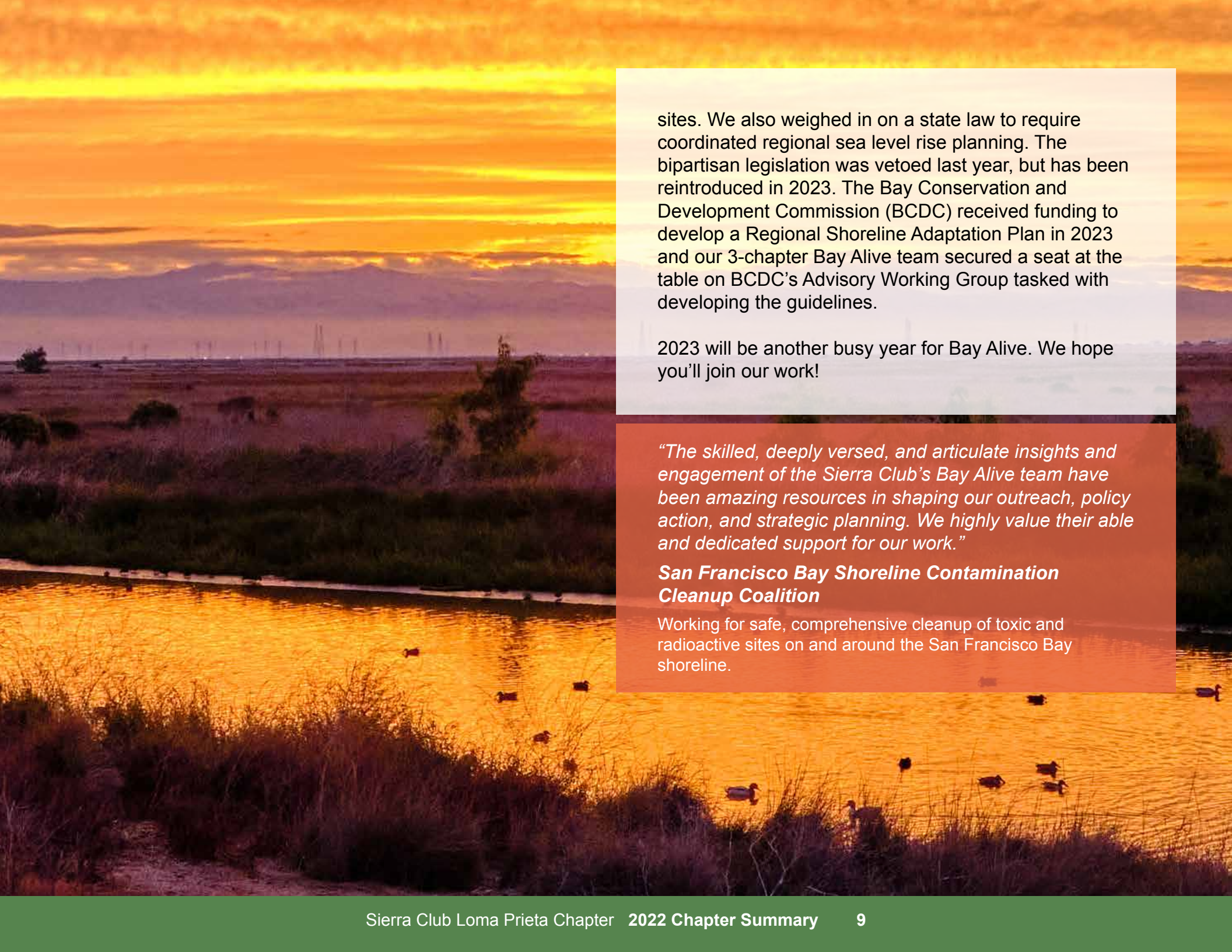
and grateful to have expanded our advocacy capacity with several **Bay Advocate Program** alumni playing skilled and critical roles in Bay Alive advocacy in East Palo Alto, Redwood City, Burlingame and Menlo Park, and also in planning our education programs. More than 500 government, nonprofit, and community leaders, and Sierra Club members, participated in our **Dark Sky and Bird Safety Symposium**, a **King Tides Project and webinar**, and a CEQA 101 webinar about navigating California's Environmental Quality Act.

In local **Bay Alive campaigns**, we successfully advocated for building setbacks and habitat-friendly design in a 12-acre shoreline bio-lab/office project in Burlingame. We're on track to secure shoreline and riparian buffer zones for flood resilience and habitat protection in **Sunnyvale's Moffett Park Specific Plan**, and we got Redwood City to send developers back to the drawing board, twice, when their plans for a massive bioscience project in Redwood Shores failed to address the community's environmental concerns.

Regionally, we provided extensive strategic planning support to the frontline community and environmental justice groups in the **SF Bay Shoreline Contamination Cleanup Coalition** as they build public awareness of contamination threats due to groundwater rise, and drive action toward cleanup of toxic







sites. We also weighed in on a state law to require coordinated regional sea level rise planning. The bipartisan legislation was vetoed last year, but has been reintroduced in 2023. The Bay Conservation and Development Commission (BCDC) received funding to develop a Regional Shoreline Adaptation Plan in 2023 and our 3-chapter Bay Alive team secured a seat at the table on BCDC's Advisory Working Group tasked with developing the guidelines.

2023 will be another busy year for Bay Alive. We hope you'll join our work!

*"The skilled, deeply versed, and articulate insights and engagement of the Sierra Club's Bay Alive team have been amazing resources in shaping our outreach, policy action, and strategic planning. We highly value their able and dedicated support for our work."*

**San Francisco Bay Shoreline Contamination Cleanup Coalition**

Working for safe, comprehensive cleanup of toxic and radioactive sites on and around the San Francisco Bay shoreline.



# Cultivating a Great Local Resource



***Santa Clara County  
Supervisor Joe Simitian***

Any of us who has ever hiked, backpacked or camped was probably admonished at some point to “Leave it as you found it”—and so we should. But the Sierra Club—and the Loma Prieta Chapter in particular—has always done more than that. Through conservation, education, political action and outings, wherever they travel—be it hiking at Castle Rock or walking the halls of the Capitol—thankfully, they leave our planet better than they found it.

I’ve been fortunate to have partnered with the Sierra Club’s Loma Prieta Chapter for over 20 years, with good results. As an elected official, I’ve seen firsthand how valuable their advocacy is, and how crucial it is to enacting good public policy. Recently, for example, the Loma Prieta Chapter joined our efforts to protect the hillsides habitat bordering the Lehigh Cement Plant & Quarry. As a result, we’re making progress. Lehigh has now announced that it will not restart production at its cement plant. And the Loma Prieta Chapter has been an indispensable partner!



Fremont Peak © Dara Hazeghi



# Exploring and Enjoying, to Protect (2022 Outings Report)



## Local Outings—Sharing the Glory of Nature

*Lisa Barboza, Loma Prieta Chapter Outings Chair*

Back in 1892, Sierra Club Outings were the foundational beginnings of the club. Hundreds of people experienced the magnificent Sierra for the first time, and brought back the experience to their friends and families — this is how much of the modern environmental movement was started. And it started with Outings.

Our outings range from day hikes to **backpacking**, **peak climbing**, **Military Outdoors**, and **backcountry skiing**. Our leaders know our local trails like no others. A conservation theme is vital to our outings.

Our two hundred incredible outings leaders, from fifteen activity sections, lead hundreds of hikes for thousands of local residents. Back in the year 2019, we helped more than 6000 participants discover and fall in love with our amazing local open space. In March 2020, our Outings program was suspended resulting from COVID-19 protocols.

When we started up again in July of 2021, Sierra Club National's intrusive Medical Form, which required detailed

medical information regarding medications, discouraged many of our long-time leaders, and our Outings program has not fully recovered. So we are starting back slowly.

In 2022, our Sierra Club leaders led 172 hikes, 17 over-nights, with 1000s of participants. Many of our leaders continue to lead "Private" hikes, leading over 125 outings.

A highlight of 2022 was our Military Outdoors program. We are working with veteran's groups to help with mobility using hiking poles to improve outcomes. This is important because we are able to reach this new community for the first time. We expect to expand in 2023.

Our Conservation Theme—Our leaders are Docents, knowledgeable of wildlife, flora and fauna, and geology. Hiking with these folks adds a layer of richness to the Outing experience and provides an appreciation of the conservation value of the land.

Sierra Club Local Outings, day hikes in particular, need relief from the extreme Medical Form requirements for our hikes. Only then will our outings program fully recover.

Happy Trails, Lisa Barboza; serving as your Loma Prieta Outings Chair



# 2022 by the Numbers



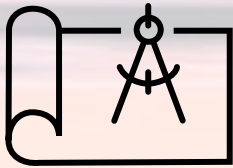
**82,328**

**Individual Supporters**



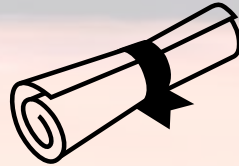
**> 80**

**Comment Letters and  
Public Comments**



**7**

**Urban plans, open space,  
and biosafety policies  
improved by SLU  
recommendations**



**> 500**

**Educated local  
environmental  
activists**



**191**

**Outings**



**> 1,000**

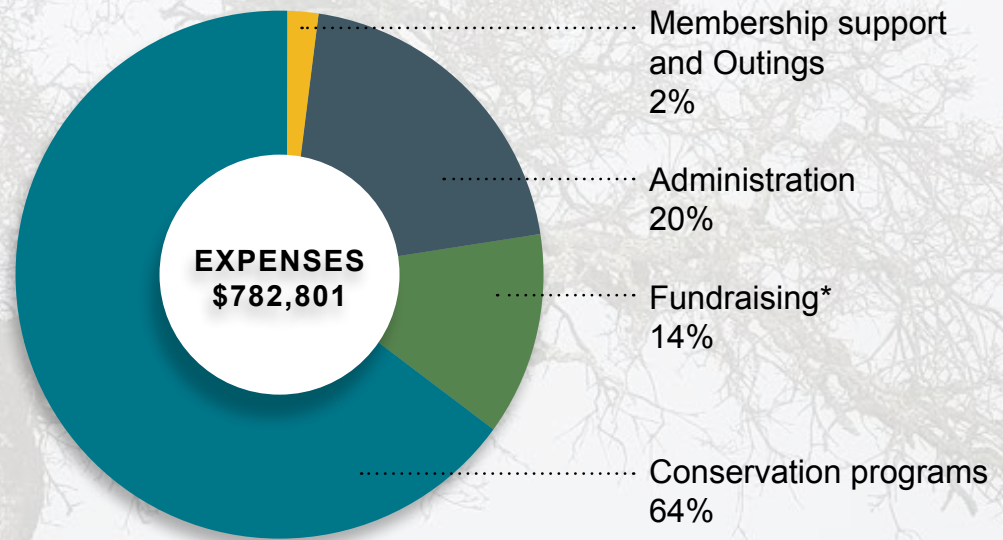
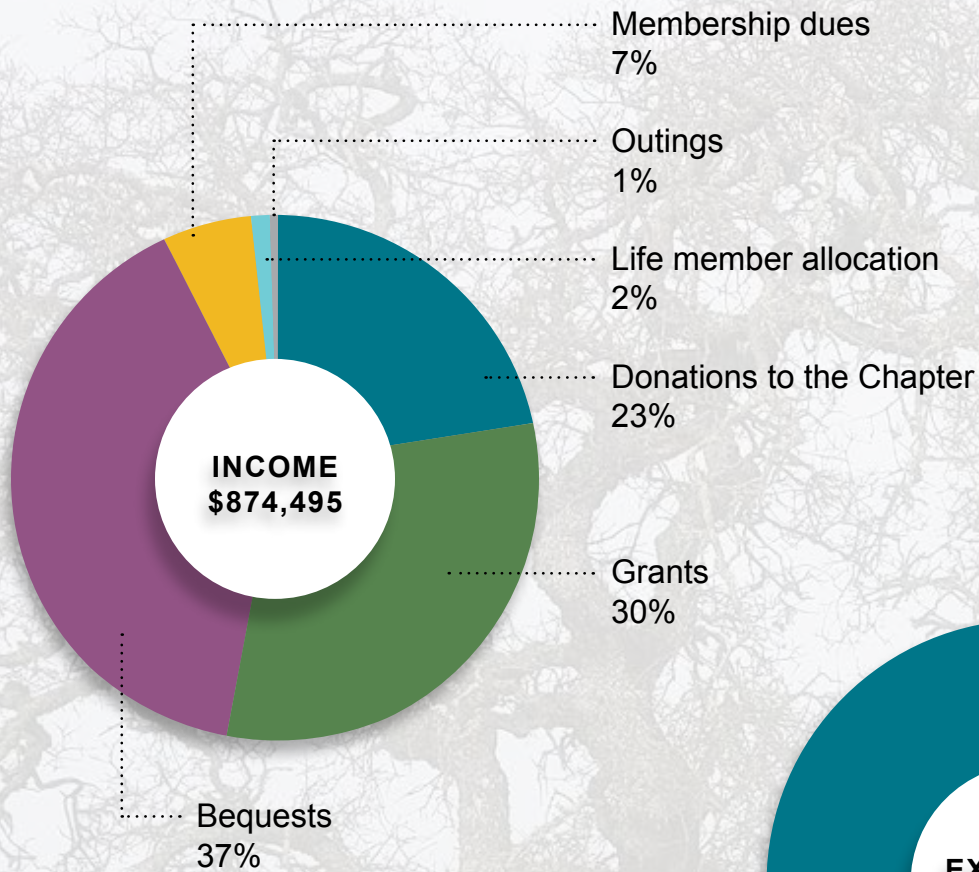
**Hike Participants**



San Francisco Bay © Rick Nordensten



# Expenditure and Income January - December 2022



\* Increased fundraising costs were due to increased cost of goods and services



# Sierra Club Loma Prieta Chapter Leadership

## 2022 Executive Committee

Charles Schafer, Chair  
Susan DesJardin, Vice-Chair  
Mary Buxton, Secretary  
Bruce Rienzo, Treasurer  
Nathan Chan  
Sue Chow  
Gladwyn d'Souza  
Michael Eldridge  
Mike Ferreira  
Gary Latshaw  
Ed Larenas  
Shani Kleinhaus

## Regional Groups

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

## Political Action Committee

Mike Ferreira, Chair

## Conservation Committee

Gladwyn d'Souza and Katja Irvin, Conservation  
Committee Co-Chairs

## Conservation Sub-committees Chairs

Sue Chow, **Climate Action**  
Gita Dev, **Sustainable Land Use**  
Gladwyn d'Souza, **Food**, Sustainable Land Use  
and Transportation  
Mike Ferreira, Coastal Issues  
Gary Latshaw, Air Quality  
Janet Hoffman, Pesticides

Katja Irvin, Water  
Mike Kerhin, Fracking  
Karen Maki, Forest protection  
David Poeschel, **Open Space**  
Martha Schauss, Wildlife

## Outings

Lisa Barboza, Outings Chair

## Outings Sections Chairs

Lisa Barboza, **Peak Climbing**  
Nathan Chan, **20s-30s**  
Gloria Chen, San Jose ICO  
Sharon Chuang, Black Mtn Hiking  
Glenda Marsh, **Ski Touring**  
Barbara Kelsey, **Hikers Hut**  
Dara Hazeghi, **Day Hiking**  
Jeannie Sivertsen, **Gay & Lesbian**  
Judith Ogle, **Singleaires**  
Stephen Stearns, **Backpacking**  
Brian Swing, **San Mateo Hiking**  
Sigal Wilnai, Family Outings  
Sandra Winkler, **Sierra Singles**

## Staff

Jennifer Chang Hetterly, Bay Alive Coordinator  
James Eggers, Director  
Justyna Guterman, Development Coordinator  
Barbara Kelsey, Chapter Coordinator  
Dashiell Leeds, Conservation Organizer  
Lydia Wilson, Communications Specialist



## What will be your environmental legacy?

Name your local Loma Prieta Chapter as a beneficiary in your will, living trust or other estate plans to 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)  
650-390-8494

[www.sierraclub.org/loma-prieta/legacy-giving](http://www.sierraclub.org/loma-prieta/legacy-giving)



Special thanks go to our 2022  
*Guardians of Nature Benefit*  
Business Sponsors

Google



NPIQ™



**SIERRA CLUB**  
LOMA PRIETA CHAPTER

[www.sierraclub.org/loma-prieta](http://www.sierraclub.org/loma-prieta)

Graphic Design by Judi Eichler Design Studio