Bay Area wins first-in-nation zero-nox appliance standard

What can cities learn from biodiverse forests?

King Tides Project story map out now!

Jemez Principles for Democratic Organizing: A Column

Get involved! Become an outings leader page 11
LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

Hi Team,

Summer is upon us! Wow! How did that happen? I guess time flies when you are having fun. Our team at the SF Bay Chapter has been having a great time holding more in-person events around the Bay Area to connect with members like you, continuing to build the most impactful and inclusive environmental movement possible.

On March 15th, our staff and Chapter leaders joined hundreds of public health, justice, youth, and other advocates for the Bay Area Air District meeting for a historic vote on two rules that limit lung-damaging nitrogen oxide (NOx) emissions from buildings. We won a zero-NOx standard for both space and water heating appliances sold and installed after 2027 and 2029, respectively. Read more on page 4.

On April 27th, we turned out on the steps of Berkeley City Hall to speak out against the desperate attempts by the gas industry to overturn the city’s historic building electrification ordinance.

On May 16th, we helped organize a rally before the Oakland City Council meeting to remind our representatives about their responsibility to protect public health and safety and keep coal out of Oakland.

On May 18th, our San Francisco Group hand-delivered postcards to Muni representatives calling for better crosstown bus service.

Along the way, our outings team has been leading trips in our wild lands and open spaces, enjoying the special places we have protected. Members across our Chapter have been attending public meetings to advocate for improved public transit funding, stronger laws to reduce single use plastics, and restoration of our treasured baylands. And we’ve hosted “Mem Mixers” around the Bay, bringing Chapter leaders, elected officials, and community based organizations together for collaborative conversations about active transportation, building electrification, and watershed conservation.

I’ll be the first to say that it has been so inspiring and rejuvenating to reconnect with you all in person—whether it be for a rally, a hike, or a policy-setting meeting. The strength and endurance of our movement is derived from our diverse and talented membership, and there is no telling what we can accomplish when we come together in community. While the pandemic forced us to get creative and devise new tools for collaboration and connection, it is our ability to organize and come together in the streets, in the council chambers, and on our public lands that propels us towards that tangible vision of a livable future for all.

I look forward to seeing you on the trail this summer!

In solidarity,

Chance Cutrano
CHAPTER CHAIR

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CONGRATULATIONS TO:

Climate Literacy Committee engages High School Students with New Fellowship

Our Climate Literacy Committee is thrilled to announce the brand new California Youth Climate Policy Leadership Program, a program that consists of a summer retreat and monthly fall workshops that focus on foundational knowledge and skill-building activities related to environmental and climate action, empowering high school students to initiate a climate policy campaign in their school or district.

While the program is no longer accepting applications for this fall (and garnered over 150 applicants for this first session!), we encourage you to check out the website at tinyurl.com/youthclimateleaders and keep an eye out for future updates to hear what our next generation of climate leaders gets up to this fall.

Bay Chapter Night Out: Meet Us at a Mixer

Pictured from left to right: Alexander Peters of Rich City Rides, Chapter Organizer Dani Zicky, Chapter Director Virginia Reinhart, Contra Costa County Supervisor John Gioia, Chapter Organizing Manager Jacob Klein, East Bay Public Lands Chair Norman La Force, Chapter Organizer Melissa Yu, Chapter Communications Assistant Liana Warren, Chapter Chair Chance Cutrano, and Naomi Schultz.

In January, we hosted our first Chapter mixer back together post-pandemic, and it was so special to see everyone in person connecting with both new and longtime friends. It was so successful, in fact, that we’re planning to host more, and our most recent mixer took place in late May at the Factory Bar in Richmond.

We chatted about everything from the Inflation Reduction Act to electric vehicle planning to bicycling to solar policy, sharing all that we’ve been working on and what’s important to us. We’d love feedback on where we should go next, so send an email to liana.warren@sierraclub.org and let us know. Keep an eye out in the coming months for our Fall mixer, and we’ll see you there!

Sierra Club YODELER
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Address Changes address.changes@sierraclub.org
Cover Photo Western tiger swallowtail butterfly on a California buckeye. Photo by Michael Reinhart.

PlasticFree Marin, an initiative run by our Sierra Club leaders, has mobilized and met its goal of getting all jurisdictions in Marin (minus Corte Madera) to either have their first reading or adopt the Marin Foodwaste Reusable Ordinance by May 10th. Major thanks to everyone who has worked hard to make this happen, including Jinesse Reynolds, Barbara Bogard, Chance Cutrano, Susan Hopp, and the seven PlasticFree Marin members who showed up and spoke on Zoom at a San Rafael Council meeting late into the night.

It is worth noting that all jurisdictions have had little or no pushback from businesses or the public, and the councils have voted unanimously in support. Today, we’re celebrating moving Marin closer to its plastic-free future!

Climate Literacy Committee engages High School Students with New Fellowship

Our Climate Literacy Committee is thrilled to announce the brand new California Youth Climate Policy Leadership Program, a program that consists of a summer retreat and monthly fall workshops that focus on foundational knowledge and skill-building activities related to environmental and climate action, empowering high school students to initiate a climate policy campaign in their school or district.

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**WE WON! Bay Area is First in Nation to Pass Zero-NOx Appliance Emission Standard**

**MELISSA YU**

On March 15th, Bay Area air regulators voted to approve the nation’s first zero-NOx standard for furnaces and water heaters, which will effectively phase out the sale of new gas furnaces and water heaters, beginning later this decade. The standard will apply when a consumer would already be replacing a burned-out appliance — it would not require anyone to remove working appliances. This is a historic moment for clean air in the Bay and beyond.

Sierra Club turned out in force to the Air District board meeting, and the vote passed in the afternoon with a resounding yes from both community members and the board, with 140 speakers showing up in support of the new standards and only 15 opposed. Board members passed the amendments with a final vote count of 20 yes votes, ZERO no votes, 1 abstain, and 3 absent. But why is this so important?

Well, gas appliances are an underappreciated driver of unhealthy air quality in the Bay Area. In homes and buildings, they’re responsible for more nitrogen oxide (NOx) pollution than the region’s passenger cars. Phasing them out will deliver enormous health benefits — it’s expected to help prevent roughly 11 percent of California’s statewide climate emissions. The state cannot meet its climate targets without eliminating this pollution. Moving to electric appliances like heat pumps — and powering these appliances with renewable energy — is the ticket to zeroing out climate emissions from heating homes entirely.

In recap, these new amendments will be instrumental for both the climate and our communities. How do we uphold the important ruling? We look forward to supporting the Air District staff and implementation working group members to ensure that this standard is implemented with strong equity guardrails to protect low-income communities. To learn more and get involved in this campaign, email Melissa Yu at melissa.yu@sierraclub.org.

Melissa Yu is the Senior Energy Campaigns Representative for the SF Bay Chapter.

**SUPPORT THE CHAPTER BY GOING SOLAR**

Thinking of going solar? If you go solar through SunPower, you’ll receive a $1,000 rebate and SunPower will donate $500 to the SF Bay Chapter. It’s a win for you, your local Sierra Club chapter, and the planet. Head to bit.ly/sunpowerforthebay to get your free quote and find out how much you can save.

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**The Battle to Keep Coal Out of Oakland Heats Up**

**DANI ZACKY**

Ever since the City Council voted unanimously in 2016 to ban the storage and handling of coal, Oakland and the developers of the old Oakland Army Base have been locked in litigation. With a trial scheduled to begin in July, this is the last chance for the parties to reach a settlement, and a possible agreement may come before the City Council in the coming weeks. In these crucial final weeks, we need to make sure that the City Council pushes for an enforceable settlement that will truly keep coal out of Oakland in order to protect community health and safety. The Sierra Club is organizing alongside community partners to make sure that the City rejects any settlement with loopholes that would leave the community vulnerable to the fossil fuel industry.

On May 16th, the Sierra Club rallied at a City Council meeting with partners including Youth Vs. Apocalypse, SF Bay Physicians for Social Responsibility, West Oakland Environmental Indicators Project, Communities For A Better Environment, Asian Pacific Environmental Network, No Coal In Oakland, San Francisco Baykeeper, Oakland Education Association, and more. The young people of Youth Vs. Apocalypse led us in chants and powerful public testimony urging the Oakland City Council to stay strong.

The stakes are incredibly high: if we lose, coal could come to the Bay Area in mile-long open-top rail cars, spreading toxic coal dust through countless communities along the way. West Oakland residents — who already live with the consequences of environmental racism in the form of freeway, diesel trucks, and port emissions — would suffer the worst health impacts from the toxic coal dust pollution: asthma, pneumonia, emphysema, and heart disease. The developers keep promising “good jobs,” but those jobs have never materialized. And, Oakland residents deserve work that doesn’t poison them or their community.

In early May, the Washington Post wrote about West Oakland’s toxic legacy in an article titled “City planners targeted a Black community for heavy pollution. Can the damage be undone?” (read the article online at wapo.st/3dtrucF). Let’s be clear: if the City Council supports a settlement with loopholes or vulnerabilities, it will not only fail to undo the damage to West Oakland wrought by decades of environmental racism, it will perpetuate the same harms in a whole new generation of residents.

**What You Can Do:**

The fight for an enforceably coal-free Oakland continues. While we wait for more news on a settlement agreement or the case to go to trial, we’re still working with our partners to ensure that Oakland keeps coal out. You can stay up-to-date and get involved in different action opportunities by joining the campaign at addup.sierraclub.org/campaigns/keep-coal-out-of-oakland.

Dani Zacky is an organizer for the SF Bay Chapter.

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**WHAT WILL YOUR LEGACY BE?**

Ensure your environmental legacy by naming the Sierra Club’s San Francisco Bay Chapter in your will or trust. If you have named your local Sierra Club chapter as a beneficiary or would like to discuss doing so, please contact us today:

**MATT BIELBY**

matt.bielby@sierrclub.org

(510) 848-0800 x 321
What Cities Can Learn from Forests

CHARLES WHITFIELD & GAREN CHECKLEY

When we think of thriving ecosystems, we often think about diverse old-growth forests like the Amazon rainforest. Dense, bustling cities are the human equivalent. Thinking of urban communities like natural ones opens up novel and insightful ways to consider land use policies.

It’s true: old-growth forests and dense, bustling cities have more in common than we might think. Both rely on deeply interconnected networks that evolve over time. Both are sensitive ecosystems that can be harmed by simplistic attempts to organize and homogenize them. Both are critical parts of the fight against climate change towards biodiversity and conservation.

In a thriving forest, trees, shrubs, ferns, and other flora grow alongside communities of animals and fungi where biodiversity is abundant. More than just being neighbors, each member of a forest community depends on all the others. Animals and smaller plants rely on the microclimates created by tall trees, and trees rely on these animals to spread seeds. And they even communicate with one another: trees utilize fungi in the soil that enables a “wood wide web” through which their roots share nutrients and information-carrying chemical signals. Even the death and fall of a towering tree lets in critical sunlight for younger trees and supports ecosystem renewal.

These networks are built over time, through a natural process called ecological succession. Starting from bare rock, “pioneer” species such as lichen and grasses are replaced by inmediate species of shrubs and smaller, faster-growing trees. Each new stage of the process creates the necessary environment for the next, altering soil chemistry and protecting fragile seedlings from harsh sun and wind. After decades or centuries, a mature forest is filled with the tallest, longest-lived tree species and achieves a stable peak in biodiversity.

Similarly, dense, urbanized areas are models of connections and diversity. A thriving human population has a diverse family of communities, organizations, businesses, schools, and other groups that each play a vital role in the life of the city. Cities are as interdependent as a forest: residents provide each other with the goods, services, social connections, and cultural experiences needed to live and thrive. Instead of fungal connections in the soil, we use fiber optics and radio waves to stay connected.

Over time, a thriving city grows and densities similarly to ecological succession in forests. Sparse, low-rise, car-dependent buildings make way for townhomes, tripleplexes, and small apartment buildings. As the city grows, it creates communities, jobs, and infrastructure that encourage yet more density and complexity. The result is a mature, dense, interconnected, and diverse urban landscape.

But both of these forms of communities can suffer when we try to simplify them. Man-made monoculture forests, or “tree plantations,” feature hundreds or thousands of identical trees that are far more susceptible to disease and wildfire. These sorts of forests are much less resilient than natural ones, where biodiversity helps to keep the ecosystem healthy.

Dense, communities — natural and urban — are also essential in our fight against climate change. Forests are nature’s original carbon capture technology. Trees take carbon dioxide from the air and store it in wood, beginning with the rapid growth of young forests and peaking as the oldest trees reach their full height. The taller the forest grows, the more carbon it captures. Monoculture forests, by contrast, have a poor track record of carbon sequestration.

Similarly, cities are the most carbon-efficient places for humans to thrive. Density enables walkability and sustainable public transit. Smaller multi-family homes take less energy to build, heat, cool, and fill with stuff. Residents in denser areas waste far less energy on transportation and utilities than their suburban counterparts. Because of this, allowing cities to grow upward with more density is a critical alternative to unsustainable suburban sprawl. Cities with this type diversity spread across more condensed areas allow us to efficiently use resources for human communities while preserving natural communities that would have otherwise been paved over.

The Sierra Club recognizes the need to promote this type of development in existing areas. The Sierra Club’s Smart Growth and Urban Infill Guidance advocates: “Choosing smart growth over sprawl is one of the most powerful decisions city and other local governments can make to reduce climate emissions and air pollution, conserve local habitat, and improve the health of their communities.” However, for too long communities in the Bay Area have resisted building additional homes where there’s already development. Multi-family and multi-unit buildings have been banned or discouraged by monoculture-like zoning policies and onerous processes and fees that drive up the cost of creating new homes in existing neighborhoods. Look around your neighborhood: do you see a planned monoculture, or a diverse, resilient community?

The fight against monoculture housing is seeing progress. The San Francisco Group has recently formed a new housing sub-committee and is inviting members to get involved to fight for diverse cities and dense, sustainable, transit-oriented communities.

If you are interested in getting involved in this fight for thriving, diverse, environmentally sustainable urban ecology, you can join the SF Group’s Housing Committee, or raise these topics in your local Sierra Club group discussions. The SF Group Housing Committee meets on the first Tuesday of every month. Email committee chair Danny Sauter at sfhousing@sfnyc.org for more information.

The power to resist monoculture-like suburban sprawl and foster diverse, resilient communities is in our hands. Charles Whitfield is the Chair of the SF group ExCom and a housing advocate. Garen Checkley is a member of the San Francisco Group of the Sierra Club.

1. nature.com/articles/nature12914.epdf
2. britannica.com/science/secondary-succession
3. nature.com/articles/nature12194.pdf
5. systems.com/interactive/2012/12/15/sharesclimate-planting-map-neighborhood.html
Hike and backpack ratings
Hike ratings are based on distance and elevation gain (the sum of all gains in elevation per day)
1. up to 6 miles A. under 1,000 feet
2. 6 - 10 miles B. 1,000 - 2,000 feet
3. 10 - 15 miles C. 2,000 - 3,000 feet
4. 15 - 20 miles D. over 3,000 feet
5. over 20 miles E. over 3,500 feet
Backpack ratings include a third digit for travel:
1. trail
2. limited/easy crosscountry
3. moderate crosscountry
4. strenuous/difficult crosscountry
What to bring
For day hikes, always bring lunch and enough water. Consider layered clothing, sunscreen, good hiking boots or running shoes.
Water and layered clothing. Wear hiking boots or running shoes.
For carpooling:
Masks are required in carpools.
For hiking:
Masks are optional for adults in outdoor areas.
Masks are required in visitor centers.
Vaccinations are not required, as vehicles, public transport, restaurants, or businesses have relaxed their own policies. 
Masks are not required for unvaccinated individuals.

Liabilities
To participate in a Sierra Club outing, you will need to sign a liability waiver. To read a copy of the waiver form, call (415) 977-5630 or visit tinyurl.com/outingswaiver.

COVID-19 Protocol
Masks are optional for adults in outdoor areas but required in indoor close quarters such as vehicles, public transport, restaurants, or visitor centers. Vaccinations are not required, but please be aware you may be on trips with unvaccinated individuals. Masks are required at all times for unvaccinated minors. If you are experiencing any possible COVID-19 symptoms, do not attend the outing and contact the outing leader. Report any positive COVID-19 tests after an outing to the outing leader.

Carpooling
Carpooling helps the environment and allows people without cars to participate. You can arrange carpools on our Meetup group: meetup.com/sfbayactivities. Outings will be listed there 2 - 3 weeks prior to the event. Masks are required in carpools.

SUMMER 2023 OUTINGS CALENDAR

WEEKLY • TUES
Lake Chabot Reservoir 1A Hike. Scenic weekly 3-mile hike. Park fees on street, $5 in lots, or annual pass from East Bay Regional Park District. Meet: 4:00 pm at house/cafè. Leader: Dolores Grunowald, (510) 798-7979 or doloreynot@gmail.com. (Solo Sierrans)

WEEKLY • WEDS
Lafayette Reservoir 1A Hike. Enjoy the lovely weather while walking around the beautiful reservoir. We have both faster and slower walkers, or you can walk at your own pace. Cost: 4 quarters for 1hr, 15 minutes of parking. Meet: 4:00 pm at the west end of the parking area near the picnic tables and permanent bathrooms. Leader: William Gilbert, slbakaley@gmail.com. (Solo Sierrans)

FIRST AND THIRD FRIDAYS
JUN 23 | JUL 7 | JUL 21
Redwood Park Evening Hike. Take an early evening stroll through Oakland’s Reinhardt Redwood Regional Park. This 4 mile hike features lush woods and expansive vistas. The terrain is hilly, so be prepared for at least a light cardio workout. Friendly dogs are welcome. Briewi: Water and layered clothing. Wear hiking boots or running shoes. Meet: 6:30 pm at Redwood Staging Area, Roberts Regional Recreation Area, Skyline Blvd, Oakland. Leader: Jeffrey Sanchez, amog@paxtell.net. (Sierra Singles)

SECOND SUNDAYS AND FOURTH SUNDAYS
JUN 26 • SAT | JUL 9 • SUN | JUL 23 • SAT | AUG 13 • SUN | AUG 26 • SAT | SEPT 10 • SUN | SEPT 23 • SAT
Let’s hit the West: Luxurious Walking in Delight Zen. A slow walking practice designed to relax and balance yourself resulting in deepening connection to your inner nature. Meet: 11:00 am at 3853 Solano Ave, Berkeley. Exits: 12:30 pm. Leader: Halley, sierragreentree@gmail.com. (Hiking)

JUN 17 • SAT
Pink Triangle Installation. We see it every year: the Twin Peaks Pink Triangle that overarches our City Pride Weekend. For many years, Rainbow Sierrans have helped install the Triangle. Join us this year to work on the main installation of the huge Pink Triangle and help with the ceremony staging setup for the commemoration. Meet: 7:45 am at 58-50 Christmas Tree Point Rd, San Francisco. Leader: Pamela LaPinto, pamela@sat.net and Paige Brown, (415) 225-2364 or pfreportsdj00@gmail.com. (Rainbow Sierrans)

JUN 17 • SAT
Henry Cowell 2B Day Hike. Join a leisurely, moderately-paced 6.8 mile hike through the Redwood Grove Loop to Cathedral Grove and the Observation Deck. Cost: $10 parking for: Briewi: Lunch, snacks. layered clothing, and liquids. There is no potable water on the route. Meet: 10:00 am at Henry Cowell State Park in the main lot to join the outing. The trip will last roughly 7 hours. The cost is $65 per participant, payable to the leader.

JUN 24 • SAT
Henry Cowell Fall Creek 2A Day Hike. Join a leisurely, moderately-paced 5.5 mile hike through the Fall Creek Lot #10 from San Lorenzo Valley High School. Briewi: Lunch, snacks. layered clothing, and liquids. There is no potable water on the route. Meet: 10:30 am at Hwy 9 (San Lorenzo Valley High School). Leader: Steve Bakaley, slbakaley@gmail.com. (Mount Diablo Group and Santa Cruz Group)

JUN 28 • WEDS
Early Bird Hike. This is for the early birds out there! This is a fast-paced 3 mile hike to get your morning going. We aim to be back at the cars by 7:45 AM. Come join us! Briewi: Water, hiking poles, layers. Meet: 6:30 am at 11500 Skyline Blvd, Oakland. We meet in the Trailhead parking lot off of Skyline Blvd in Oakland. We leave promptly at 6:30 am. Leader: Anita Brown, (415) 519-5457 and Kat Zumbach, zumbachkat@gmail.com. (Rainbow Sierrans)

JUN 28 • WEDS
Pole Walking for Exercise & Maintaining Mobility. Exclusively for Veterans (and their family members). When pole walking, you feel invigorated, taller and more confident! Join us to learn skills and techniques to help improve balance, endurance, spine function, and confidence on the trail, both uphill and downhill. Top quality poles and special balance tips provided. Learn which poles fit you best and will help you achieve your goals. Easy pace and gentle practice. Registration required, class size limited. Because of the limited class size, only ten spots are open if you truly intend to come. If you have to cancel, please advise the leader so another veteran can benefit from this training. Cost: Free for Veterans and their families. Meet: 10:00 am at West Memorial Veterans Building, 401 Van Ness Ave, San Francisco. Leader: Jarray Pakey. Sign up at sierrclub.org/teams-prizes/military-outdoors. (Hiking)

JUL 5 • SAT • WEDS
Yosemite: May Lake-Clouds Rest Backpack. 5-Day moderate backpack in Yosemite National Park over the Independence Day holiday weekend. The trip starts with a short 3 miles from the trailhead out past May Lake for the first night’s campsite. The trip continues past Tenaya Lake and under Sunrise Mountain, climbs up to Clouds Rest, descends to Sunrise Creek, and finishes hiking past Sunrise Lake and back to Tenaya Lake and the wilderness. Cost: $65. Briewi: All normal summer backpacking gear for you, along with your food for the duration. Meet: 2:00 pm at May Lake, California. Leader: Roger Williams, (415) 605-2079 or rogerw@paxtell.net, and Alice Chung, (415) 203-4133 or alicechung@att.net. (Backpacking)

JUL 6 • FRI
Lassen Volcanic National Park Campout. The Rainbow Sierrans are excited to return to Lassen Volcanic National Park for a long weekend of hiking, camping, stargazing and swimming in pristine mountain lakes. Meet: 2:50 pm at Lost Creek Group Campground, California. Leader: Paige Valentzas, (415) 271-2945 or pagieva@paxtell.net, Julie Sigoloff, (510) 724-6833 or juliesigoloff@gmail.com, and Kristin Anderson (925) 415-1136 or fswyrufish@mac.com. (Rainbow Sierrans)

JUL 12 • WEDS
Early Bird Hike. This is for the early birds out there! This is a fast-paced 3 mile hike to get your morning going. We aim to be back at the cars by 7:45 AM. Come join us! Briewi: Water, hiking poles, layers. Meet: 6:30 am at 11500 Skyline Blvd, Oakland. We meet in the Trailhead parking lot off of Skyline Blvd in Oakland. We leave promptly at 6:30 am. Leader: Anita Brown, (415) 519-5457 and Kat Zumbach, zumbachkat@gmail.com. (Rainbow Sierrans)

JUL 15 • SAT
Pole Walking for Exercise & Maintaining Mobility. Exclusively for Veterans (and their family members). Beautiful Coastal Practice Hike – Learn individualized strategies for enhancing performance and confidence on the trail, both uphill and downhill. Top-quality
poles and special balance tips provided. Registration required; class size limited. Because of the limited class size, please only reserve a spot if you truly intend to come. Cost: Free for Veterans and their families. Meet: 9:00 am at Mori Point, Mori Point Rd, Pacifica. Leader: Jayah Palye. Sign up at sierraclub.org/sfbay/activities/military-outdoors. (Hiking)

JUL 21 • FRI
Pole Walking for Exercise & Maintaining Mobility. When pole walking, you feel invigorated, taller and more confident! Join us to learn skills and techniques to help improve balance, endurance, spine function, walking gait and posture. Easy-to-learn techniques can help people navigate everyday obstacles and strengthen muscles that support your joints. Top quality poles and special balance tips provided. Learn which poles fit you best and will help you achieve your goals. Easy pace and gentle practice. Registration required; class size limited. Because of the limited class size, please only reserve a spot if you truly intend to come. If you have to cancel, please advise the leader so another veteran can benefit from this training. Cost: Free for Veterans and their families. Meet: 10:00 am at Concord Vet Center, 1333 Willow Pass Rd Suite #106, Concord. Leader: Jayah Palye. Sign up at sierraclub.org/sfbay/activities/military-outdoors. (Hiking)

JUL 22 • SAT
Pole Hiking Training, Point Reyes. Learn individualized strategies for enhancing performance and confidence on the trail, both uphill and downhill. Top quality poles and special balance tips provided. Registration required; class size limited. Because of the limited class size, please only reserve a spot if you truly intend to come. Cost: Free for Veterans and their families. Meet: 9:30 am at 1 Bear Valley Visitor Center Access Road, Point Reyes Station.

Leader: Jayah Palye. Sign up at sierraclub.org/sfbay/activities/military-outdoors. (Hiking)

JUL 17 • AUG 20 • THURS – SUN
Hoover Wilderness. High Sierra Traverse from Leavitt Meadows to Buckeye Creek. Basic: Individual commissary. Participants need to provide their own food and cooking equipment. A detailed equipment list will be provided. Meet: 8:00 am in Bridgeport, CA. Leader: Thomas Meissner, (707) 479-4465 or meissner.thomas2010@gmail.com. (Backpacking)

JUL 18 • AUG 21 • FRI – MON
Sierran Tableland First and Light. Tablelands is harder and more beautiful than it looks on a topo map. We will do it fast and light. Cost: $60 per participant. Bring: Ultralight backpacking gear. Meet: 7:30 am at Twin Lakes trailhead, Sequoia National Park. Leader: Brian Gunney (925) 455-5573 or brian@gunney.net and Carol Clark, (415) 796-3344 or goguestoutdoors@gmail.com. (Backpacking)

AUG 20 • AUG 25 • SUN – FRIDate: Hetch Hetchy Valley to Jack Main Canyon. Join us on this enchanting 6-day loop starting at the Hetch Hetchy Reservoir in Yosemite National Park. Because this may be a big water year, the waterfalls along Jack Main Canyon and around the reservoir should be spectacular. Bring: Individual: Indispensable. Participants bring their own food and cooking equipment. Participants need to furnish their own overnight sleeping gear. The leader will send a detailed equipment list to approved participants. Meet: 8:00 am at Hetch Hetchy Valley, CA. Leader: JP Torres, jptorres@csucn.net. (Backpacking)

Share Your Love of the Outdoors: Become an Outings Leader Today!

Do you enjoy exploring wild lands, meeting new people, and going on adventures? Are you a natural leader who loves to impart their passion for the natural world to others? If so, you are a great candidate to be a Sierra Club outings leader.

The Sierra Club’s outdoor activities (see page 8 for our calendar of activities) aim to connect all people with the natural world. As an outings leader with the San Francisco Bay Chapter, you will join others in exploring public lands, grapping with conservation issues, and even changing perceptions. Because trips are often specialized around a unique theme or experience, you could be hiking, backpacking, kayaking, or going on an urban walk. No experience is needed. It’s up to you to choose, because you ultimately design and lead your very own trip. Your passions can be our next set of outdoor activities!

What are the benefits of being a Sierra Club outings leader?

• Designing trips that reflect your interests and passions
• Spending time outdoors with like-minded people
• The satisfaction of leading the conversation on local conservation issues and providing trips that help others connect with natural wonders
• Free First Aid training
• Your outings are advertised to Sierra Club members and the public through our online calendar, here in the Yodeler, and on our Meetup webpage

The basic requirements to become an outings leader are pretty simple. You must be a Sierra Club member who is at least 18 years of age. Once you meet both of those requirements, all you need to do is follow these five easy steps:

1. Pick your activity and section. Decide what type of outing you would like to lead (hike, backpack, car camp, etc.), and which activity section you would like to affiliate with. You can find a list and descriptions of our activity sections online at sierraclub.org/sfbay/activities. You’ll want to already have the skills needed to lead the activity of your choosing.

2. Complete a First Aid training. Don’t worry! You can get certified on us—we’ll reimburse you for the training (up to a certain amount). Contact the outings coordinator (find contact info online at sierraclub.org/san-francisco-bay/leadership-roster) of the activity section you want to affiliate with to find out what type of first aid would be required.

3. Complete the Sierra Club Outings Leader Training. Contact the outings coordinator of the activity section you want to affiliate with for access to the online training.

4. Provisionally lead at least one outing. Choose a current outings leader to act as your mentor (meet outings leaders by participating in their trips or find their contact information online at the website listed above). You will scout your first outing with your mentor and lead it with them in attendance. Following the outing, the mentor leader will provide feedback on how you did.

5. Hit the trails! Following a successful first outing and evaluation from your mentor, you’ll receive approval to lead outings from the Outing Chair or delegated authority of the activity section sponsoring the outing. Then you’re a full-fledged outings leader and able to lead outings on your own, and it’s all happy trails from there on out!

The Sierra Club runs on people like you—it’s your passion that inspires our next generation of environmental activists. When you become an outings leader, you can change hearts and minds and get people connected with the outdoors! We’re so excited to see the activities you’ll bring our community and meet the people you inspire along the way!

Ansel Adams in Our Time: Experience the Work of Legendary California Photographer

From April 8th to July 23rd at the de Young Museum, “Ansel Adams in Our Time” presents more than 100 works from this self-described “California photographer” and places him in dialogue with 23 contemporary artists who are engaging anew with the landscapes and environmental issues that inspired Adams. Learn more about how you can experience the exhibit and buy tickets at bit.ly/adamsinourtime.


Join the shared EV charging network for free! Share your charger or find charging to reduce carbon emissions. We’ll donate to Sierra Club for each new signup! Your first charge is on us with promo code: CHARGECODE

Use referral name SF Bay Sierra Club at signup

EVmatch

www.evmatch.com
Re-Wild a Bit of Nature Near You!

ALAN CARLTON

In a highly urban area such as the Bay Area, with little in the way of large landscapes available for additional protective designations, a focus on "urban rewilding" is one natural and effective way to make a meaningful contribution to "30x30" goals: saving 30 percent of our land and waters by 2030 — a target enshrined in State and Sierra Club policy.

Cities can’t be rewilded overnight; it’s a long and ongoing process. But we ask you to think of at least one place in your neighborhood where regreening might be appropriate. Here are three examples:

1. Connecting existing parks — even mini-parks — can be done with fairly minor street redesign.
2. Depaving: taking out pavement and putting in greenery to reduce heat islands and prevent storm-water runoff that pollutes waterways and our Bay. It can be done in parks and other public spaces as well.

Shifting Gears: The E-Bike Revolution in Sustainable Transportation

ZOE RECKAS & CHANCE CUTRANO

What is an e-bike, and why are they everywhere?

Electric bicycles, or e-bikes, have been on a meteoric rise since 2020 as pandemic restrictions encouraged more people to get on bikes and as more affordable options became available. But what exactly is an e-bike? Simply put, an e-bike is a type of bicycle that gives the rider a helping hand via an electric motor and battery. This can be useful for a variety of reasons and allows people of all ages, abilities, and skill levels to get around in an efficient, affordable, and sustainable way. They’re a heck of a lot of fun, too!

How are e-bikes changing the way we get around?

The most effective way to reduce emissions in the transportation sector is to get people out of their cars, which isn’t easy. Bus stops can be difficult to walk to, public transit schedules aren’t always convenient, and some commutes are just a few miles too long for a "traditional" bicycle. E-bikes help remove many of these barriers to car-free transportation. With the help of an electric motor, that extra mile or two doesn’t seem so daunting, the hills are barely noticeable, the commute is faster than on a pedal bike, there’s no need to change out of sweaty clothes, and the weight of your grocery haul isn’t so overwhelming.

Additionally, e-bikes are a more welcoming option of transport. E-bikes foster goodwill with our fellow travelers. While riding on the road, keep your speed to a minimum helps to prevent crashes and injuries. Or announcing yourself in a friendly and respectful way while crossing at a crosswalk can help e-bikers to recognize that the extra weight and speed of their electric motor and battery can be intimidating for some. But with a bit of respect and patience, you can help people feel comfortable in the presence of e-bikers.

E-bikes reduce emissions and clear up roadways. The U.S. Department of Transportation estimates that between 35 and 50 percent of e-bike trips replaced car trips, making e-bikes an effective tool to achieve the tandem goals of reducing roadway congestion and carbon emissions. To realize these goals, we must continue to create safe and accessible transportation infrastructure and encourage the expansion of active transportation sector.

Zoe Reckas is the Marin County Bicycle Coalition Advocacy Assistant. Chance Cutrano is the Sierra Club SF Bay Chair Chapter Chair.

DONATE YOUR UNWANTED VEHICLE

Donate your vehicle to support the Sierra Club Foundation’s SF Bay Chapter! Not only will your generous donation continue to help us make a difference, but it can also help you qualify for a tax deduction. It’s easy, the pick-up is free, and our partners at CARs accept cars, boats, motorcycles, RVs, and more. To get started, visit our website at sfchf.careasy.org or call (844) 674-3772.

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CONTINUED ON FOLLOWING PAGE
The end product of this project is a StoryMap, a map that includes all photo submissions, marked areas of specific concern, and more. The StoryMap online today at bit.ly/KingTidesStoryMap. This is a reminder of how even our smallest spaces can be impacted by sea level rise, shoreline toxics, sustainable development, and more, as the Altar campaign may be of interest to you. The campaign is a collaboration between the SF Bay Chapter, Loma Prieta Chapter, and Redwood Chapter. Please email Dani Zacky at dani.zacky@sierraclub.org to learn more and get involved.

Dani Zacky is an organizer for the SF Bay Chapter.
Supporters gathered at People’s Earth Day for Water Justice in Oakland. Photo by Cole Burchiel. For a chance to get your snapshots featured in the next issue of the Yodeler, email photos to yodedit@sfbaysc.org or share them on Twitter or Instagram with the hashtag #SierraSnapshots. Include your name, the names of any people in the photo, and where and when the photo was taken.