

Sierra Club YODELER

THE NEWSPAPER OF THE SAN FRANCISCO BAY CHAPTER ♦ SUMMER 2023



**GET
INVOLVED!
BECOME AN
OUTINGS LEADER
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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 building appliances. 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.

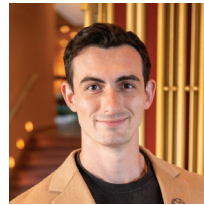
Along the way, our outings team has been leading trips in our wild lands and open spaces, enjoying the special places we have protected. Members across our Chapter have been attending public meetings to advocate for improved public transit funding, stronger laws to reduce single use plastics, and restoration of our treasured baylands. And we've hosted "Member 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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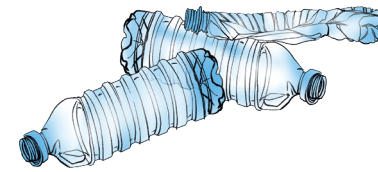
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Cover Photo
Western tiger swallowtail butterfly on a California buckeye.
Photo by Michael Reinhart.



SUMMER 2023 CHAPTER NEWS

Congrats to Marin County for Choosing Plastic-Free!



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 Foodware 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.

IMAGE CREDITS: Illustration by LillyCantabile on Pixabay.

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 Peter of Rich City Rides, Chapter Organizer Dani Zacky, 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 them quarterly, 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 to see you at our next mixer and hear about what matters to you. Each mixer will take place at a rotating location around the Bay. Have a favorite neighborhood bar or restaurant that you'd like to meet us at? 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!

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

MELISSA YU



Supporters gather to celebrate the victory at SPUR headquarters in San Francisco after the Air District meeting.

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 15,000 asthma symptom incidents and avoid up to 85 premature deaths every year, alongside numerous other health impacts, according to the Air District. It's important to note that it's communities of color and low-income communities that suffer the most from gas appliance pollution and unhealthy air quality.

Additionally, transitioning homes to electric heat pumps will require the talents and skills of workers from across the econ-

omy. According to a study from UCLA Luskin Center on Innovation, electrifying all of California's existing and new buildings by 2045 would create over 100,000 full-time equivalent jobs in various sectors of the economy. This is an exciting moment to create new jobs and invest in a climate-resilient economy.

When we talk about transitioning buildings to electric appliances, we often refer to making the switch to heat pumps. Heat pumps are highly efficient electric appliances that pull double duty, cooling and heating homes while using a fraction of the energy of other appliances. They are the ticket to adding cooling to millions of California homes without overloading the electricity grid. In the historically temperate San Francisco metropolitan area, according to 2019 Census data, only 47 percent of homes have cooling — a major health threat as temperatures in the region rise with climate change. This zero-NOx appliance standard will drive heat pump adoption, helping to address this critical gap in climate resilience.

And of course, this appliance standard will deliver key climate co-benefits. Burning fossil fuels in homes for heating is responsible for 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. Huge thanks to Board Chair John Bauters and all of the Board members who supported this historic 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.

PHOTO CREDIT: Photo by David Tuft.

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 freeways, 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/3oItwzE). Let's be clear: if the City Council supports a settlement with loopholes or vulnerabilities, it will not only fail to undo the

PHOTO CREDIT: No Coal in Oakland May 16th rally. Photo by Virginia Reinhart.



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.

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@sierraclub.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.



Thriving, biodiverse forest with a wide variety of flora and fauna.

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 succession². Starting from bare rock, "pioneer" species such as lichen and grasses are replaced by intermediate 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 diversity of families, community 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 densifies similarly to ecological succession in forests. Sparse, low-rise, car-dependent buildings make way for townhomes, triplexes, 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.



A monoculture forest is a far less healthy and resilient landscape.

The urban equivalent of this is suburban sprawl, monoculture communities like the ones that are widespread across the Bay Area and the United States. Just like tree plantations, large portions of American communities are zoned exclusively for single-family homes. Zoning laws, which were started to uphold racial segregation, now continue to separate housing and

commercial areas and impose height, density, and other limits that restrict opportunities for urban biodiversity. Each part of the community is isolated, making it impossible to form the rich, resilient networks of homes, transportation, community, and commerce that a thriving city needs.



Monoculture housing is also less healthy and resilient.

Not only does strict adherence to this rigid order make it impossible to have a wide variety of usage and building types in one area, it is also highly exclusionary. In monoculture urban planning, students and other people who don't fit the traditional single-family-home model are priced or pushed out of suburban sprawl. When people struggle to find housing, interdependent communities are displaced or cut off from each other, and local businesses are denied patrons.

Dense, diverse 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 captures³. Monoculture forests, by contrast, have a poor track record of carbon sequestration⁴.

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



A diverse urban environment where residents, businesses, and nature can thrive.

build, heat, cool, and fill with stuff. Residents in denser areas waste far less energy on transportation and utilities than their suburban counterparts⁵. Because of this, allowing cities to grow upward with more density is a critical alternative to unsustainable suburban sprawl. Cities with this type of 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@sfbaysc.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: [science.org/content/article/wood-wide-web-underground-network-microbes-connects-trees-mapped-first-time](https://www.science.org/content/article/wood-wide-web-underground-network-microbes-connects-trees-mapped-first-time)

2: [britannica.com/science/secondary-succession](https://www.britannica.com/science/secondary-succession)

3: [nature.com/articles/nature12914.epdf](https://www.nature.com/articles/nature12914.epdf)

4: [motherjones.com/politics/2022/10/wby-ambitious-tree-planting-and-carbon-offset-projects-are-failing/](https://www.motherjones.com/politics/2022/10/wby-ambitious-tree-planting-and-carbon-offset-projects-are-failing/)

5: [nytimes.com/interactive/2022/12/13/climate/climate-footprint-map-neighborhood.html](https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2022/12/13/climate/climate-footprint-map-neighborhood.html)

ABOUT THIS CALENDAR

Activities listed here are abbreviated. For full listings, registration, and waivers visit: sierraclub.org/sfbay/activities. The online calendar will also include changes, cancellations, and outings submitted after the print deadline.

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:

- T. trail
1. limited/easy crosscountry
 2. moderate crosscountry
 3. strenuous/difficult crosscountry

What to bring

For day hikes, always bring lunch and enough water. Consider layered clothing, sunscreen, good hiking boots with treads, and hiking poles. Non-service dogs are allowed only if specified in the listing; canine hikers should bring leashes, litter bags, and water for their dogs.

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, so 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/sanfranciscobay. 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 free on street, \$5 in lot, or annual pass from East Bay Regional Park District. MEET: 4:00 pm at boathouse/cafe. LEADER: Dolores Gruenewald, (510) 798-7897 or doloresgru@aol.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: 5 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, wmgibr@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. BRING: Water and layered clothing. Wear hiking boots or running shoes. MEET: 6:30 pm at Redwood Bowl Staging Area, Roberts Regional Recreation Area, Skyline Boulevard, Oakland. LEADER: Jeffrey Sanchez, amagi@pacbell.net. (Sierra Singles)

SECOND SUNDAYS AND FOURTH SATURDAYS

JUN 24 • SAT | JUL 9 • SUN | JUL 22 • SAT | AUG 13 • SUN |
AUG 26 • SAT | SEPT 10 • SUN | SEPT 23 • SAT

Let in the Wow: 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 1853 Solano Ave, Berkeley. ENDS: 12:30 pm. LEADER: Halley, sierragreenforest@gmail.com. (Hiking)

JUN 17 • SAT

Pink Triangle Installation. We see it every year: the Twin Peaks Pink Triangle that overlooks our City on 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 68-50 Christmas Tree Point Rd, San Francisco. LEADER: Pamela LoPinto, pamlo@att.net and Paige Brown, (415) 225-2364 or pbrown30@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 fee. BRING: 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 parking lot close to the porta-potties. LEADER: Steve Bakaley, sbakaley@gmail.com. (Mount Diablo Group and Santa Cruz Group)

JUN 24 • SAT

Henry Cowell Fall Creek 2A Day Hike. Join a leisurely, moderately-paced 6 mile hike to the Fall Creek Lime Kilns from San Lorenzo Valley High School. BRING: 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, sbakaley@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! BRING: Water, hiking poles, layers. MEET: 6:30 am at 11500 Skyline Blvd, Oakland. We meet in the Trudeau Center parking lot off of Skyline Blvd in Oakland. We leave promptly at 6:30. LEADER: Anita Bowen, (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, 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: 1:00 pm at War Memorial Veterans Building, 401 Van Ness Ave, San Francisco. LEADER: Jayah Paley. Sign up at sierraclub.org/loma-prieta/military-outdoors. (Hiking)

JUL 1 - 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 5 miles from the trailhead out past May Lake for the first night's campsite. The



JUNE 24
SATURDAY
1-5 PM
GRAND OPENING

'Point Molate
Park Now!'

presents stunning images of
wildlife + landscapes by
featured photographers
Jack Scheinman
Jeff Peterson
Tony Tamayo

refreshments
include tostadas
[with a portrait of Molly the river otter]
by the Great Tortilla Conspiracy
as well as aguas frescas by Mosa

POINT RICHMOND GALLERY
MARGI SULLIVAN
415-286-6298
SULLIVANMARGI@GMAIL.COM

trip continues past Tenaya Lake and under Sunrise Mountain, climbs up to Clouds Rest, descends down to Sunrise Creek, and finishes hiking past Sunrise Lake and back to Tenaya Lake and the trailhead. COST: \$65. BRING: All normal summer backpacking gear for yourself, along with your food for the duration. MEET: 2:00 pm at May Lake, California. LEADER: Roger Williams, (415) 601-2079 or rogerwsf@outlook.com, and Alice Chung, (415) 203-4133 or aliceysf@outlook.com. (Backpacking)

JUL 6 - JUL 10 • THURS - MON

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: 2:00 pm at Lost Creek Group Campground, California. LEADER: Paget Valentzas, (415) 271-2945 or pagetvalentzas@gmail.com; Julie Sigoloff, (510) 524-6833 or julie.sigoloff@gmail.com; and Kristin Anderson (925) 413-1316 or foureyedfish@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! BRING: Water, hiking poles, layers. MEET: 6:30 am at 11500 Skyline Blvd, Oakland. We meet in the Trudeau Center parking lot off of Skyline Blvd in Oakland. We leave promptly at 6:30. LEADER: Anita Bowen, (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 Paley. Sign up at sierraclub.org/loma-prieta/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 Paley. Sign up at sierraclub.org/loma-prieta/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 Paley. Sign up at sierraclub.org/loma-prieta/military-outdoors. (Hiking)

AUG 17 - AUG 20 • THURS - SUN

Hoover Wilderness. High Sierra Traverse from Leavitt Meadows to Buckeye Creek. **BRING:** 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.thomas2011@gmail.com. (Backpacking)

AUG 18 - AUG 21 • FRI - MON

Silliman Tableland Fast 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 gogetoutandrun@gmail.com. (Backpacking)

AUG 20 - AUG 25 • SUN - FRI

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 commissary. 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, jpinkflo@xecu.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, grappling with conservation issues, and even changing perceptions. Because trips are often specialized around a unique theme or activity, you could be hiking, backpacking, kayaking, bicycling, leading urban walks, or doing service work — **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 out-

ings coordinator (find contact info online at sierraclub.org/san-francisco-bay/leadership-roster#acsec) 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 outing 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 to our community and meet the people you inspire along the way!



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



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.

IMAGE CREDITS: Ansel Adams, "Moon and Half Dome, Yosemite National Park" (detail), 1960 Photograph, gelatin silver print. Museum of Fine Arts, Boston. The Lane Collection. Courtesy of Museum of Fine Arts, Boston. © The Ansel Adams Publishing Rights Trust. Exhibition organized by @MFABoston in partnership with the Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco.



Jemez Principles for Democratic Organizing: A Column

JACOB KLEIN

#6 Commitment to Self-Transformation

As we change societies, we must change from operating on the mode of individualism to community-centeredness. We must "walk our talk." We must be the values that we say we're struggling for and we must be justice, be peace, be community.

With this, we reach the final Jemez Principle and final column in this series. However, that doesn't mean the work is over. In fact, the final principle points towards the continuing and ever-evolving nature of democratic organizing and environmental justice. This principle calls on us to not simply know by reading, but to understand by doing. And by doing, we change ourselves and we change the world.

As activists, we seek change. We're not happy with the status quo. As the world moves, so must we. It can be unsettling at first, but it will happen whether we want it to or not. As we seek to change the world, we must remember that we will change too.

I'm reminded of the great Octavia Butler's *Parable of the Sower*. Of the many kernels of wisdom she shares, one sticks with me now: "All that you touch/You Change. All that you Change/Changes You. The only lasting truth/Is Change."

My mission in starting this column was to try and change our Sierra Club community, at least a little. To invite members on a journey with me as I explore the Jemez Principles and build a greater understanding of what working for justice can do for our environmental work, and what it can do to truly support the people who are under the wheel of oppression and marginalization.

It's been two years since this journey began, and I'll be honest that in trying to change Sierra Club, I have also changed. I have learned how to be a better partner to our environmental justice allies. I have blundered and erred, chosen my reality over listening. I have taken space and made space. Throughout it all, I keep trying.

I came up as an organizer in the progressive Jewish organizing space. In that space, we often turn to the *Pirkei Avot*, or *Ethics of the Fathers*, a collection of ethical maxims from Jewish

tradition. One that lingers with me states, "You are not obligated to complete the work, but neither are you free to desist from it."

For me, I think about this at every level — the personal all the way to the movement. And the Jemez Principles have been tools to remind myself, create a map of where I want to go and what I want to be — and what kind of world I want to live in.

To fight for justice, to fight for people's right to life, to fight for non-human life, our communities — our homes — must be tended. And to tend them, we have to keep bringing in justice and peace.

I leave you with another quote from Butler's *Parable of the Sower*, which any environmentalist and fighter for justice should read:

To benefit your world,
Your people,
Your life,
Consider consequences,
Minimize harm
Ask questions,
Seek answers,
Learn,
Teach.

Jacob Klein is the Organizing Manager for the SF Bay Chapter.



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 scfch.careasy.org or call (844) 674-3772.

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 concerning. Additionally, e-bikes are a more welcoming option for those who are unable to ride a traditional bike due to age or health concerns. And with more financial incentive and rebate programs emerging for e-bikes, particularly for low-income



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.

How can we safely use e-bikes in our communities?

There have been growing pains as current infrastructure struggles to keep up with greater usage, and it's important for e-bikers to recognize that the extra weight and speed of their bikes requires greater caution when interacting with other road users. On mixed-use pathways, always "slow and say hello" before passing pedestrians or other bicyclists, ringing your bell or announcing yourself in a friendly and respectful way while keeping your speed to a minimum helps to prevent crashes and fosters goodwill with our fellow travelers. While riding on the street, always abide by the rules of the road, such as obeying speed limits, signaling at turns, and stopping at red lights.

E-bikes reduce emissions and clear up roadways.

E-bikes may be new and might require some getting used to, but they can and do replace car trips, cleaning our air and freeing up our roads for those that have to drive. Recent studies estimate that carbon emissions could be reduced by 12 percent if just 15 percent of urban transportation miles traveled were instead made on e-bike¹. Other emerging research reported that between 35 and 50 percent of e-bike trips replaced car trips², 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 active transportation infrastructure and encourage the expansion of bicycling throughout our communities.

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

1: ppms.trec.pdx.edu/media/project_files/E-bike_Potential_Paper_05_15_19_Final.pdf
2: scholarship.org/uc/item/3mm040km#main

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

CONTINUED ON FOLLOWING PAGE

as individual homes.

- 3. Plant a tree — prioritize native species that are adapted for your landscape which will nurture native bees, butterflies, and moths.

Any greening project in a public place will have to be done through a local governmental entity. This is a good topic

on which to engage your local city council or parks department.

Questions? Ideas?

Contact Alan Carlton at carltonal@yahoo.com.

Alan Carlton is the Federal Parks Committee Chair.

Story of the Rising Tides: King Tides Project Map Out Now!

DANI ZACKY

View the map online now at bit.ly/KingTidesStoryMap.

This winter, King Tides hit the Bay Area, causing immense flooding that acted to foretell the impacts of sea level rise in our communities. Our Chapter and the Bay Alive Campaign, consisting of nearly 50 dedicated volunteers, set out into their neighborhoods, strolled along shorelines, and braved flooded pathways to capture these tides in photographs and tell the story of our future as the oceans rise — all in an effort we called the King Tides Project.

King Tides are not a new phenomenon. They are semi-annual high tide events that occur when the earth, moon, and sun are aligned to produce the greatest tidal effects of the year. This winter, however, between the record storms and seasonal tides, nearly every Bay Area city was affected.

The end product of this project is a StoryMap, a map that includes all photo submissions, marked areas of specific concern, sliding photos to compare regular tide cycles with the King Tides, and a recording of our webinar with speakers from the California Coastal Commission, San Francisco Estuary Institute, and the Bay Conservation and Development Commission. In these pictures, you'll see trails, benches, and other public spaces inundated with water — a reminder of how even the most regular of places will be impacted by sea level rise.

These images tell a powerful story. They are a symbol for the need for our regulators and decision makers to address the insidious loss of meaningful spaces in our communities. Our hope is that this StoryMap be used not only to educate about sea level rise, but to inspire meaningful conversations and serve as a template for future projects. We want to visually present

the challenges we will face to our decision makers and advocate for the smart adaptation and planning that we so desperately need. If we're prepared, we can protect our vulnerable communities and save these places that mean so much to us. Check out the StoryMap online today at bit.ly/KingTidesStoryMap and see first-hand how your community will be impacted! .

If you are interested in learning more about issues related to sea level rise, shoreline toxics, sustainable development, and more, the Bay Alive 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.



Palo Alto Baylands underpass during King Tide.



Palo Alto Baylands underpass during regular tide.

PHOTO CREDIT: Photos by Jennifer Hetterly.

Introducing Jumping into Solutions: A New YouTube Channel



HARI LAMBA

Jumping into Solutions is a series of short, entertaining, and informative video segments covering a wide variety of topics related to tackling climate change. We focus on engaging viewers with solutions that are available today, apply to both homes and businesses, consider transportation needs, and improve the local environment. Our goal is to make these solutions easy to understand so you can apply them to your life, improving your quality of life and saving money along the way!

Through interviews with experts and live, in-the-field footage of new technologies at work, we aim to answer practical questions like: How do new technologies work? How quickly should I expect to recoup my costs? How will I be impacted by climate-related changes in the law? Are there any rebates or other incentives available for me?

Some topics we've covered so far include heat pumps (a type of thermodynamic and energy efficient water heater) and reducing methane gas from landfills. We're expecting to dive even deeper, taking a look at solar panels, electric cars and bicycles, rainwater capture, and even local policy. We invite you to jump in with us!

Check out the channel at youtube.com/@jumpingintosolutions, also available in podcast form on Spotify, Google,


Apple, and iHeart Radio. For more information and inquiries, feel free to send an email to jumpingintosolutions@gmail.com.

Thank you to Pat Toth-Smith, producer and co-host as well as Hari Lamba, co-host and content contributor.

Hari Lamba is a member of the West Contra Costa Country Group Executive Committee.

Save the Date


Restore Hetch Hetchy Annual Dinner
 Saturday, October 7, 2023
 Berkeley City Club
 Special Guest: **Kim Stanley Robinson**



Award-winning author Kim Stanley Robinson will be joining us as our keynote speaker at this year's annual dinner.

Best known for his compelling science fiction novels and his concern with climate change and environmental issues, Robinson's "*The High Sierra: A Love Story*" explores his personal relationship with the Sierra as a California native and avid backpacker for over 40 years.

To reserve a spot, please send an email to admin@hetchhetchy.org.



hetchhetchy.org

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#SierraSnapshots | 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.

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Instagram @SierraClub_SFBay

SIERRACLUB.ORG/SFBAY

Our website is home to helpful information and resources including:

- Our blog, updated regularly
- The full events and activities calendar
- Group information and leadership roster

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Climate Literacy Committee pilots new fellowship for high school students (p. 3)
- Meet our chapter in person at a Chapter Mixer (p. 3)
- See the "Ansel Adams in Our Time" exhibit (p. 10)

EMAIL

Visit sierraclub.org/sfbay/email to sign up for Bay Chapter emails, including monthly bulletins and action alerts.