BERKELEY BECOMES FIRST U.S. CITY TO PHASE OUT POLLUTING GAS
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LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

The saying “There’s no place like home!” is never more true than when you live in the Bay Area. The summer in particular is an enchanting time to be here. If you are in the mood for a toasty warm afternoon, you can hop over the hills to Livermore or Walnut Creek. If you desire a cool ocean breeze, head over to the Marin coast or Lands End. And the wildlife is never more wild than in the summer — I saw whales nursing new young off the coast, foxes frolicking in neighbors’ yards, and butterflies zipping through city gardens. Come summer, the Bay Area is truly one of the most delightful places to be.

Not everyone sticks around the Bay for the summer though. Some members have spent their summers traveling the planet, while others have dug in to explore local hikes in their own neighborhoods. As you read through this issue of the Yodeler, you have an opportunity to see what the chapter has been up to. We helped pass a Berkeley ordinance phasing out polluting gas in new buildings (page 6), stood up against a plan to dredge the Bay (page 7), advocated for a homeless navigation center in Fremont (page 11), and so much more — all in addition to hundreds of outings into the great outdoors!

If you missed connecting with us this summer, there are plenty of opportunities to do so this fall. Get involved in one of the campaigns that you read about in this newsletter, hop onto one of our chapter outings, or come join us at the David Brower Dinner on September 21st in San Francisco, where this year we will be honoring such environmental heroes as Nancy Pelosi and Helen Burke (see page 4). And don’t forget our mid-fall picnic on October 5th where we’ll be meeting new members and chatting with old friends (see page 3).

Wherever you find yourself this fall, we hope that you have a chance to connect with the chapter. The Bay Area is a unique and wonderful place to live. Come enjoy it with us!

Minda Berbeco
DIRECTOR

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Tree maintenance team needs volunteers

Over the last decade the Sierra Club Tree Team has planted over 2,000 trees in Oakland. (The program began in 2008 when the City reduced funding to the city’s Tree Division and suspended routine tree plantings.) We have gradually come to realize that tree maintenance (regular watering, trimming, and pruning as needed; stake repair and stake removal when broken, outgrown, etc.) must also be an important part of our scope of work. In Oakland where over 60 percent of all dwellings are not owner-occupied, it’s often the tenant who originally requested a tree, but then moves on with the owner unaware or unwilling to assure the tree’s continuing care.

Our new tree maintenance effort needs volunteers! This is a different service than planting; some parts of tree care are easier on the body, others harder. Any three-hour commitment during daylight hours is welcome. Come to learn; stay to serve. To volunteer, contact Arthur Boone at 510-910-6451 or arboone3@gmail.com. No texting, please.

Chapter picnic to be held Oct. 5 in Albany

Sat, Oct 5, 2:30 – 6:30 pm  
East side picnic area, Memorial Park, 1325 Portland Ave, Albany

Join fellow Sierra Club members and friends for an afternoon of good cheer, good food, and good company at our annual potluck picnic. We’ll provide games, information about our latest campaigns, and ideas for how to get involved in the Club’s local work. Bring a potluck dish (ready to eat) or beverage to share, reusable dishes and flatware (let’s go zero waste!), blankets, games, friends, and family.

We need help getting things to the park, setting up, welcoming guests, organizing food tables, cleaning up, and taking things back to the chapter office in Berkeley. To volunteer, contact William Yragui at wyragui@missionpeakconservancy.net or 650-642-5150 (cell).

Why bother running and voting in local Sierra Club elections?

By Peggy Da Silva

In a recent column in Sierra magazine, the Club’s Executive Director Michael Brune writes persuasively about the importance of protecting and exercising our American right to vote — the very bedrock of our democracy and the way we assure that public policy promotes the health of people and the planet. The Sierra Club fights back against rules that disenfranchise voters — usually the same people whose voices and rights have been suppressed time and again.

Can you guess one thing that national/state/local elections and Sierra Club elections have in common? If you said low participation, you are right. With Club elections participation under 10 percent of members, and many seats uncontested, we must do much more to ensure that our members feel welcome to run for the Club office — and feel confident that their vote matters.

We need to hear more voices, more ideas, and see different people in positions of power in our Club — and we have a chance now that chapter election season is upon us! It’s time to throw your hat in the ring. If you have been involved in an activity section or a local group or committee, we need your ideas and your leadership. The Sierra Club can be a powerful voice for our communities — away from fossil fuels, toward zero waste, advancing children’s experiences outdoors, and for environmental literacy. We value our long-term Executive Committee members, but many of them say that they want to see new people actively contributing and challenging us to think beyond our current perspectives.

Join in! The deadline to nominate yourself or another is Tuesday, September 3. If you missed that deadline, you can also run by petition. The deadline for receipt of petitions is Monday, September 23rd.

To see a list of open positions and learn more about the requirements and expectations, check out the 2019 chapter elections webpage at sierraclub.org/sfbay/runfor2019chapterelections. With specific questions, feel free to email the Nominating Committee at elections@sfbaysc.org.

Let’s have a vigorous, well-contested election — and please, everyone VOTE later this fall! (Ballots will be printed in the Winter issue of the Yodeler and emailed to all members whose email address we have on file.)
Strike for climate on Sept. 20

On September 20, three days before the UN Climate Summit in New York City, young people and adults will strike all across the US and world to demand transformative action be taken to address the climate crisis. Millions of us will take the streets to demand a right to a future, and we’re inviting you to #strikewithus.

Here in the Bay Area, there will be climate strikes in San Francisco, Oakland, Walnut Creek, Mill Valley, Berkeley, Albany and other locations. Find an event near you at sc.org/climatestrike.

You can meet up with the SF Bay Chapter’s Climate Literacy Committee at the San Francisco strike on September 20th at 10 AM outside Speaker Pelosi’s office in the Federal Building, 90 7th Street. The Climate Literacy Committee is dedicated to ensuring that high school students graduate understanding climate change and what they can do about it. For more information, contact clc@sfbaysc.org.

Why strike now? Scientists agree that we have only ten years left to act on the climate crisis. If we fail, we will risk the life of every person on this planet, as well as the extinction of most species. Democracies across the world have been corrupted and co-opted by fossil fuel profiteers and big polluters who are willing to trade human lives for profit. Although billions of people across the globe have marched, rallied, written letters, demanded action, faced arrest and risked their lives to stop the climate crisis, the fossil fuel industry’s hold on our governments is strong.

We know governments won’t deliver climate action and justice on their own, so we’re going on strike to show them what people power is capable of. Youth around the world have been striking from school to bring attention to the climate crisis because they deserve a future safe from climate catastrophe. Now, for the first time, they are asking adults to join them. Let’s follow their lead.

These strikes have the potential to be the largest mass mobilization on climate in human history. By joining in a worldwide day of action on an unprecedented scale, you can show elected leaders the power of a united movement against climate change and for justice.
November 2019 Endorsements

Here are the Sierra Club’s endorsements for candidates and measures on the ballot in Alameda, Contra Costa, Marin, and San Francisco Counties in the November 5, 2019 election. More endorsements will be completed between now and Election Day; to see the updated list, visit sierraclub.org/sfbay/november2019endorsements.

DEAN PRESTON for San Francisco Board of Supervisors, District 5

Dean Preston has worked for over two decades to prevent the displacement of people from their homes — to maintain local communities and prevent increases in commute-related pollution. We’re excited to endorse him for District 5 supervisor and look forward to his continued leadership on this and other affordable housing issues and his focus on making San Francisco a truly public-transit-first city. Preston’s demonstrated commitment to prioritizing the health of the environment and local communities over special interests make him a valuable addition to the Board of Supervisors.

NO on BRENTWOOD MEASURE L: Vineyards at Deer Creek Voter Initiative

Measure L would stretch the Urban Limit Line in east Contra Costa County to allow for development of 2,400 sprawl housing units. The Sierra Club opposes the measure because it would cause irreversible environmental damage by building on 815 acres of beautiful rolling hills and active farmland.

Urban Limit Lines are boundaries beyond which urban development is not allowed. These boundaries are essential tools for guiding new development to already urbanized areas. Building automobile-dependent single-family homes farther from transit and other services will further increase climate-warming emissions. If Measure L passes, this project would set a precedent for expanding the Urban Limit Lines in other areas. We need to focus on infill, transit-oriented development to combat climate change. That means denser, affordable homes near transportation — not more sprawl.

To learn more, visit allianceforabetterbrentwood.org or contact Delta Group chair Paul Seger: psseger65@gmail.com.

YES on EL CERRITO MEASURE H: Parks and Recreation Facilities Maintenance and Enhancement Special Tax Measure

Vote YES on Measure H to improve and preserve El Cerrito parks, pools, open spaces, recreation facilities, and programs. Measure H will extend the voter-approved measure from 2000, with no increase.

Vote YES on H to continue independent citizen oversight, mandatory financial audits, and yearly reports to ensure park and recreation facilities are maintained based on priorities in our Park and Recreation Facilities Master Plan, under review of our Park and Recreation Commission and Financial Advisory Board. Priorities include protecting natural areas and greenways; managing vegetation for fire safety; rehabilitating and maintaining parks and playfields; and improving disabled accessibility.

RENÉE GODDARD for Fairfax Town Council

Renée is an 18-year resident, teacher, environmental consultant and activist who has served on the Fairfax Town Council since 2013. Renée has been the zero waste project coordinator and is a current board member for Sustainable Fairfax. Renée has been actively involved in various Sierra Club priorities, leading on single-use plastic waste elimination.

PETER LACQUES for Fairfax Town Council

Since his appointment to the Fairfax Town Council in 2013, Peter has been a thoughtful environmental and social justice advocate, helping the town reduce its carbon footprint through the promotion of electric vehicles, and supporting accessory dwelling units. Recently, Peter has been collaborating with Councilmember Goddard to develop a single-use plastic foodware ban in Fairfax.

FORD GREENE for San Anselmo Town Council

Ford Greene has played a pivotal role moving the council on various climate-related actions brought before the council by staff. Recently, Ford swayed the council to pass one of the most progressive single-use plastic foodware bans in California. In addition, Ford has pushed a progressive electric vehicle strategy in the town. Over the years he has fought for the protection of public lands, clean water and air throughout Marin.

More endorsements will be made before Election Day. See them all at sierraclub.org/sfbay/november2019endorsements.
Berkeley becomes first U.S. city to phase out gas

MELISSA YU

This July, the Berkeley City Council voted unanimously to approve a groundbreaking ordinance that prohibits the installation of polluting gas infrastructure for new buildings. The ordinance, introduced by Councilmember Kate Harrison and co-sponsored by councilors Cheryl Davila, Ben Bartlett and Sophie Hahn, will phase out installation of polluting gas infrastructure when issuing permits for new buildings beginning in 2020. This is an important step toward clean, healthy, and affordable homes for our community.

In Berkeley, 27 percent of city-wide greenhouse gas emissions currently come from the use of gas in the residential and commercial building sectors. Berkeley has set ambitious emission reduction goals — but the city is still 18 percent behind its 2020 target.

Building electrification is an essential strategy to curb climate and air pollution and will play an important role in helping the city meet its ambitious emission reduction goals. That’s because electric infrastructure is powered by increasingly clean sources. In Berkeley, municipal buildings are powered by 100 percent carbon-free electricity, and electricity for privately owned buildings is 85 percent carbon free at a minimum.

Shifting to electric power in our buildings dramatically lowers greenhouse gas emissions by cleaning up emissions at the source of generation.

Berkeley’s gas phase-out isn’t just a good move against the climate crisis; it’s also good for public health. Gas appliances are responsible for harmful levels of indoor air pollution. A recent study found that a majority of homes with gas stoves have recorded indoor air pollution levels that would be illegal if found outdoors. Gas stoves have been linked to increased rates of childhood asthma. By phasing out gas in new buildings, Berkeley moves to protect the health of its current and future residents.

Housing stock and affordability is top of mind for many Californians. Bypassing gas hook-ups and opting for all-electric appliances provides significant cost reductions in new construction. Local homeowners and developers that go electric can expect to save up to $540 per year compared to buildings that burn polluting gas. Affordable housing developers have embraced all-electric design due to lower ongoing utility costs. In the long run, this can benefit renters who do not have a choice to change the gas infrastructure in their units.

Berkeley is the first city in the country to take the groundbreaking step of banning gas in new buildings as it strives to protect its community and embrace a clean energy future. The passage of this gas ban is more proof that California’s cities and counties are embracing the climate goals of SB 100 (which commits the state to 100 percent clean power by 2045) and moving their communities beyond fossil fuels. The fact that both local energy providers — East Bay Community Energy (EBCE) and Pacific Gas and Electric (PG&E) — endorsed the ordinance is further proof that our future is electric.

Berkeley has established itself as a leader by banning gas and creating a roadmap for other counties and cities across the country to follow. More than 50 other cities in California are exploring building codes and ordinances to transition new construction away from dirty fossil fuels.

We’ve already seen a wave of interest from neighboring cities and we need your help to get other cities to phase out gas infrastructure. To learn more about how to get involved, email Melissa Yu at melissa.yu@sierraclub.org.

MORE THAN 50 OTHER CITIES IN CALIFORNIA ARE EXPLORING BUILDING CODES AND ORDINANCES TO TRANSITION NEW CONSTRUCTION AWAY FROM DIRTY FOSSIL FUELS.
Trump administration wants to dredge SF Bay to make room for more oil

PROTECT THE BAY COALITION

This summer, public-interest groups including the Sierra Club filed a joint letter with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers strongly warning against efforts to dredge a deeper channel through San Francisco Bay.

The Army Corps’ proposal would result in a 13-mile dredging project designed to make it easier for oil tankers to move greater amounts of crude to and from Bay Area refineries. Dredging scrapes layers off the bay floor to make a deeper path for ships, allowing them to load up with more oil while navigating through the bay.

The dredging would coincide with local refineries’ plans to process more Canadian tar sands crude via ship over the coming years. Canada has taken another step toward completing the massive Trans Mountain Pipeline expansion, which would significantly increase the volume of dirty tar sands coming to West Coast refineries. The dredging project may also allow the Port of Stockton to export more coal to Asia.

According to expert analysis, the dredging project could release up to 7.2 million additional tons of carbon dioxide equivalent into the atmosphere, along with significant increases in local air pollution. The proposed project may also make oil spills more likely and more severe. In 2016 a spill from an oil tanker docked at the Phillips 66 refinery in Rodeo sent 120 people to the hospital, and the Air District issued a shelter-in-place order for 120,000 residents in Vallejo.

The project could also be detrimental to numerous imperiled fish species that inhabit San Francisco Bay. Whales and other marine mammals could see greater risks from ship strikes and be harmed by increased noise levels.

The groups opposing the plan issued the following statements:

“This proposed project is just another attempt by the Trump administration to make it easier for the fossil fuel industry to profit at the expense of our health and safety,” said Terilyn Chen, the Sierra Club’s regional coal organizer. “Our communities do not want to see more dirty tar sands traveling through our water, and we will continue to fight back against this dangerous proposal.”

Zolboo Namkhaidorj, youth organizer at Communities for a Better Environment said: “The Trump administration is proposing what amounts to almost $15 million in subsidies each year for four refineries to increase production. The communities of color beside the refineries will be breathing even more dangerous pollution, when we need to be transitioning off fossil fuels and into healthier communities.”

“The Corps has failed to fully disclose the project’s impacts,” said Erica Maharg, managing attorney for San Francisco Baykeeper. “This dredging project will increase refinery production, potentially open up more exports of dirty coal through the bay and harm imperiled fish species. The Corps must do more to mitigate these harms.”

Marcie Keever, legal director for Friends of the Earth said: “The Trump administration is pushing this project to allow Big Oil to bring more dirty, climate-destroying tar sands oil and other crude to California. This action puts our region and communities at an unacceptable risk of more pollution and oil spills and the Army Corps’ actions should be halted immediately.”

“This project is a boondoggle meant to line the pockets of big oil companies,” said Hollin Kretzmann, a senior attorney at the Center for Biological Diversity. “But the harms from spills, accidents and climate chaos will fall on the public and the marine species that live in the bay’s unique ecosystem.”

WHAT YOU CAN DO

As our window to prevent climate catastrophe grows smaller, the Trump administration and Big Oil continue to advocate for initiatives that will only worsen the crisis.

Go to bit.ly/DontDredge to sign our petition and join us in calling on the federal representatives of this region to do everything in their power to stand with their constituents and oppose this misguided project.

You can also visit www.protectthebay.org to learn more about this threat and find volunteer opportunities with the Protect the Bay coalition.
Yes, there is a climate emergency! (And here's what you can do)

REBECCA FRANKE

Often slipping by with too little notice, communities around the world, including many here in California, are declaring climate emergencies. They recognize that waiting for national governments to take the lead isn’t sufficient. And coasting along with "someday, not now” nonchalance no longer cuts it. We’ve reached the point where "climate change” is not an accurate description of our situation and only obscures the fact that all life on this planet is already on the receiving end today of a destabilized climate.

Thankfully, we still have a little time to mobilize and accelerate local and regional support for comprehensive, immediate, and sustained action to help limit the worst impacts of a global temperature increase of 1.5 degrees Celsius (2.7 degrees Fahrenheit). That is what’s driving cities inside and outside the Bay Area to declare climate emergencies — cities including Oakland, Alameda, Berkeley, San Francisco, Hayward, Fairfax, Petaluma, Cupertino, and Richmond. Los Angeles skipped a resolution, and moved to create the "Climate Emergency Mobilization Department” to coordinate climate action across the city.

While declaring a climate emergency is an extraordinary step, your help is needed to turn such declarations into action. Here’s what you can do:

Share your sense of urgency with others, especially your elected officials. Instead of accepting the notion that it will take decades to make a significant impact on reducing greenhouse gases, urge city officials to look at how to mobilize departments, staff, resources, programs, regulatory legislation, incentives, and constituent/community participation to implement solutions beginning right now... this year!

Ask elected officials to immediately review climate action plans, zeroing in on high-impact actions. Buildings and transportation are the top producers of greenhouse gases in California, offering the highest payback for investment in mitigation.

Look at the actions other cities are undertaking as possible models to replicate locally. Great ideas are sprouting everywhere. For instance, San Francisco’s Mayor Breed has proposed mandating that all large buildings switch to renewable energy by 2030. Berkeley has become the first city in the country to ban natural gas hookups to new buildings. And Copenhagen, Denmark is aiming to be the first major city to achieve net zero greenhouse gas emissions and carbon neutrality by 2025.

Ask your city council member or other elected representatives what they are doing to respond to our climate emergency. If your city has passed a declaration, now’s the time to get involved in its implementation. If your city hasn’t done so, then it’s time to meet with your council person to begin the process. The Sierra Club SF Bay Chapter’s Energy & Climate Committee has put together a one-stop source of information, available at bit.ly/LocalClimateAction. Here you can find additional background on the climate emergency, sample resolutions, and a downloadable spreadsheet full of best practices for reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Which ones could you take to your city government?

Work across political boundaries with your neighbors, other cities, and regional agencies to move more quickly to address the climate crisis. For example, environmental groups, including the Sierra Club, are joining together to organize a Regional Climate Emergency Mobilization Summit for this fall. It will bring together municipalities and regulatory bodies across the nine Bay Area counties to advocate for specific policies and explicit commitments to transition as quickly as possible from fossil fuels. Get involved! Ask your elected officials to participate in the Summit and/or volunteer to help plan this important event.

Visit sierraclub.org/sfbay/blog for updates and consider attending meetings of the Energy & Climate Committee to remain current on the Summit and the many additional activities in which our volunteers are involved. We meet once a month on the third Thursday, from 7:00-9:00 pm at the Bay Chapter office, 2530 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley. For more information contact Richard Rollins at rrollins@rollinscs.com or Dave McCoard at dmccoard@hotmail.com.
Setback at Planning Commission doesn't deter No Coal in Richmond coalition's effort to protect community, environment

TERILYN CHEN

The Richmond Planning Commission held a public hearing on July 18th to consider an ordinance that would prevent future coal facilities as well as phase out current coal storage and handling at Richmond’s Levin terminal. (Last year the Levin terminal handled nearly one million metric tons of coal!) The hearing lasted past 11 pm, with dozens of speakers testifying to the health and environmental impacts of coal and petroleum coke operations.

During the No Coal in Richmond rally before the meeting, speakers gave powerful testimony about the dangers of a coal facility in the city. Speakers at the rally included Easter Hill United Methodist Church’s Reverend Dr. Dale M. Weatherspoon, Contra Costa County Supervisor John Gioia, WCCUSD Board Member Valerie Cuevas, activist filmmaker Brenda “BK” Williams, Richmond Councilmember Eduardo Martinez, Kaiser Medical Assistant Patty Ponce, APEN Senior Richmond Community Organizer Torm Nompraseurt, youth advocate and businessman Diego Garcia, and indigenous leader Courtney Cummings.

After hearing nearly four hours of testimony from those supporting and opposing the ordinance, the Planning Commission folded to pressure from the terminal to not recommend the ordinance to the council. The fight is not over though! The city council can still vote on the ordinance at an upcoming council meeting — and we are here to make sure that they do.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

Come help us fight fossil fuels here in Richmond! Keep up to date by visiting the No Coal in Richmond website at ncir.weebly.com or connect with Sierra Club organizer Terilyn Chen at terilyn.chen@sierraclub.org to find out how you can get involved.

PHOTO CREDITS: Left column, clockwise from top left: Anti-coal activists, courtesy Minda Berbeco. Contra Costa Supervisor John Gioia (top right) and Richmond Councilmember Eduardo Martinez (bottom) speak at the No Coal in Richmond rally, photos by Steve Nadel. Right column, clockwise from top left: Anti-coal activists, courtesy Minda Berbeco. Rally photos (top right and bottom) by Steve Nadel.
Plan for Marin's largest public housing complex could worsen County's racial disparity

JULIA FOOTE

Many national and local land use policies were designed to separate people by class and race, and many planning, housing and development practices still reinforce those inequitable and racist outcomes. This holds true in Marin County, a place with a long history of segregation and exclusion that continues to this day.

The RACE COUNTS Project found that Marin County has the highest level of racial disparity in all of California across the issues of economic opportunity, health access, a healthy built environment, and housing. For the small percentage of black and communities of color living in Marin, it is getting more and more difficult to stay.

Marin City is one of the more racially diverse cities in the county, and much of that diversity can be attributed to Golden Gate Village, Marin's largest public housing complex with 300 units that house around 700 residents. It is worth noting that this is the only public housing project in the county that serves families.

Marin Housing Authority manages Golden Gate Village. Unfortunately, residents say they have suffered years of deferred maintenance and neglect which has led to uninhabitable conditions such as rats, black mold, exposed pipes and wiring, and collapsed ceilings. The Golden Gate Village Residents Council — the elected body who are, by law, the official representatives of village residents — conducted a door-to-door survey of all 300 units and found that 117 units are in need of significant repair.

Residents speculate that the Housing Authority let the units fall into such terrible conditions so that they could privatize the effort to restore them. Although the residents of Golden Gate Village have proposed their own plan to revitalize their homes and benefit their community, Marin Housing Authority has contracted with a private developer by the name of Michaels Development Co. to manage the revitalization of the village. Given the prime location of Golden Gate Village up on a hill, privatizing this effort likely correlates to the financially lucrative potential of the site. It is likely that the plan will include the construction of new units, some at market rate, which could lead to displacement of existing residents.

It is a real shame that the Housing Authority has been dismissive of the residents' proposal for restoring Golden Gate Village, which includes a deep-green retrofit of the existing buildings and on-the-job training for residents to make and maintain green building improvements. Additionally the proposal aims to pursue home ownership for residents through a community land trust. The resident plan strongly aligns with the Green New Deal — it upgrades all existing buildings to maximal energy efficiency; provides jobs with resources and training; provides affordable, safe, and adequate housing; builds community ownership; secures community resiliency; and counteracts systemic injustices.

Effectively, the residents’ plan would empower this community to plan, implement, and administer the Green New Deal at the hyper-local level. It could serve as a template for other underserved communities in Marin and beyond. The Marin County Board of Supervisors has enthusiastically endorsed the Green New Deal, and this is an opportunity to put it into action.

Meanwhile, Michaels is behind on its contract and residents are left living with substandard conditions and uncertainty of displacement. Residents are urging the Marin Housing Authority Board of Commissioners to scrap their deal with Michaels.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

Let the Marin County Housing Authority Commission know you support the Resident Plan, including the creation of a Community Land Trust. Send an email to the Housing Commission (BOS@marincounty.org) and Tenant Commissioners Homer Hall (HHall@marinhousing.org) and Rob Simon (RSimon@marinhousing.org). Attend a meeting of the Housing Authority and speak to the issue. Meetings are on Tuesdays at 1:30 PM, once a month. Check the Marin County calendar for the exact date each month.

You can also contact your County Supervisor. Find their contact information at marincounty.org/depts/bs/contact-us.

If you would like more information or would like to join a group working on this issue, send an email to GreenNewDealMarinCity@gmail.com.

IMAGE CREDIT: Chart of homeownership by race in Marin County courtesy of the RACE COUNTS project. Find more at www.racecounts.org/county/marin.
Sierra Club supports a housing navigation center in Fremont

JULIA FOOTE

Between 2017 and 2019 the homeless population in Fremont increased by 27 percent. Of the 608 homeless counted in the city this year, 485 are without shelter. To address the homeless crisis, the City of Fremont has proposed building a housing navigation center. The housing navigation center would provide a clean, safe, calm and flexible environment that allows homeless individuals and families to rebuild their lives and focus on finding stable permanent housing. Among other services, the center would offer up to six months of housing for 45 homeless adults; meals and a communal kitchenette; storage for personal belongings; toilets, showers, and laundry; health and wellness services; employment/benefit assistance; substance abuse services; and intensive case management.

Housing homeless residents in Fremont is both a social justice and environmental justice issue. The Sierra Club believes that housing is a human right, and all neighborhoods should be open to people of all income levels and backgrounds. A navigation center is an important tool to address the environmental, public health, and safety issues that homelessness presents, so in the face of strong local opposition, the Sierra Club has voiced its support for a homeless navigation center in Fremont.

The Sierra Club’s letter of support to the Mayor and City Council of Fremont emphasized that Fremont should select a navigation center site with the closest proximity to the services and transportation resources needed by the users. The city should also identify and incorporate “best practices” at existing navigation centers to make the Fremont Navigation Center a model of success in transitioning our homeless residents into permanent housing. Our letter also stressed the importance of Fremont selecting a site for the navigation center by September 2019 to ensure that dedicated funding gets used, and encouraged outreach and education efforts throughout the community about the benefits of programs that house homeless people.

Why is homelessness an issue that an environmental organization like the Sierra Club cares about? The answer is rooted in the core principle of environmental justice: that everyone deserves to live in a healthy and sustainable environment. Improving the public health and well-being of all communities also goes hand in hand with tackling the climate crisis. Our resilience to the threat of climate change begins with our social, cultural, and economic resilience, which depends upon inclusive and fair communities.

It’s also important to note that the Bay Area’s homeless crisis is a direct result of our housing crisis. The Sierra Club supports affordable housing policies that protect existing neighborhoods and new residents from unreasonable economic and physical disruption. We also support compact infill development near transit and other services. Read more about our policy at sierraclub.org/sfbay/housing-and-development.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

We encouraged our members and supporters in Fremont to vocalize their support at three community workshops held in August. The next opportunity for public input is a City Council meeting in September (date still undecided as of this printing) to approve a final site selection for the center. Visit fremont.gov/calendar to check for the date, time, and location of that meeting, or email julia.foote@sierraclub.org.

Fremont residents can also go to bit.ly/fremonthousing to send a message to Fremont elected officials expressing your support for a housing navigation center.

To get involved in the work of our Environmental Justice Team and help out on issues like this, email Elizabeth Lam at elamberkeley@gmail.com.

Chron's position on plastic bags belies its own practices

KATHERINE HOWARD

The San Francisco Chronicle recently highlighted the enormous damage that plastic bags inflict on the environment in front-page articles and even an editorial (“Trash ing plastics,” May 30, 2019). The newspaper's own policy with regard to plastic bags is: "The Chronicle is delivered in a recyclable plastic bag during inclement weather or by specific request. To opt out of having your paper bagged, please call (415) 777-7000 or (800) 281-2476.""

Despite this policy, in at least one San Francisco neighborhood the Chronicle is delivered in a plastic bag every day, rain or shine. If this policy is followed for all deliveries, with a daily circulation of over 160,000 copies (and 222,000 on Sundays), the Chronicle could be contributing roughly 62,000,000 plastic bags to the waste stream every year.

Over the years, I have had little luck in persuading the Chronicle to deliver my own newspaper without a plastic bag. I have called the recommended phone number many times, then escalated to talking to the people actually involved in the delivery process. I worked my way up the ladder from the local delivery person to the Area Supervisor and on up to the Regional Manager. In most cases I received a call back and a promise to ditch the bags. Then a few days or weeks later the bags would be back.

The Chronicle also suggests emailing them about subscription problems. So I corresponded with five different, pleasant people at homedelivery@sfchronicle.com, all of whom promised to remedy the plastic bag situation — with no long-term effect. Meanwhile, articles against plastic bags continue to run in the paper’s pages.

In discussing this at meetings of the Sierra Club’s San Francisco Group I found that others have experienced the same problem. As a result we sent a letter to the Chronicle publisher, the editor in chief, and the editorial page editor. Our letter applauded the editorial against single-use plastic bags and suggested that newspapers be delivered without a bag, unless it is raining. If a bag is absolutely necessary due to weather or other issues, it should be a 100 percent plant-based compostable bag. As of the date of this writing, we have received no response.

As stated in the Chronicle’s own editorial, "Plastics are convenient and cheap, but they’re made of a nightmare material that essentially never degrades." So we are asking all of you: please contact the paper and ask that they do away with the plastic bags. Here’s that number again: (415) 777-7000. Or, email homedelivery@sfchronicle.com. Let us know your results!
Join the intergenerational movement to grow a Green New Deal

JULIA FOOTE

The Green New Deal is the bold vision we need to tackle two of the biggest crises we face: climate change and inequity. The Green New Deal will help us transition from an economy of low wages, toxic pollution, and systemic injustice to one driven by good, high-paying jobs and 100 percent clean energy for all.

Much of the momentum building behind the Green New Deal has been led by youth activists with the Sunrise Movement. This movement is intentionally youth-led and youth-centered, focused primarily on organizing people 35 and younger. That decision is both strategic and cultural. Youth have inherited a crisis that we did not create, yet every one of us will see the devastating effects of climate change in our lifetime. Strategically, this movement uplifts the voices of youth because they hold a unique moral clarity that is key to reaching millions, across party lines. Culturally, youth activists are often unheard and written off as inexperienced or naive; yet we’ve seen political leaders continue to fail us for decades, not taking the caliber of action necessary to address the climate crisis passed down to us.

That being said, this movement and mobilization for a Green New Deal needs the support of everyone, regardless of age. It is going to take ALL of us to transform our society and economy to win the change we need. If you are over 35, here are some ways that you can help:

FIRST STEPS:
1. Learn more about the Green New Deal at sierraduel.org/trade/green-new-deal.
2. Join the Sierra Club’s Green New Deal Action Team! Sign up at bit.ly/GNDactionteam and we’ll make sure to keep you informed about the latest efforts to secure a Green New Deal and the many opportunities for you to make a difference in your community.

BIGGER STEPS:
1. Organize a Green New Deal Town Hall in your community to share information and discuss what a Green New Deal should look like in your city. Reach out to julia.foote@sierraclub.org if you’re interested in hosting a Town Hall.
2. Write op-eds or letters to the editor in your local paper to push media coverage on the climate crisis and a Green New Deal. Here’s a guide on how to write and submit one: sunrisemovement.org/lte.

PROVIDE DIRECT SUPPORT TO THE SUNRISE MOVEMENT YOUTH:
1. Provide meeting spaces and housing. Youth often have limited access to free meeting spaces or housing for out-of-town activists who travel to join actions and summits. If you live somewhere that could be a meeting space, or if you can host people during gatherings and trainings, that is a great way to support the movement!
2. Provide cars and food. If you’re able, lending your car or providing food for trainings, actions, and other gatherings held by Sunrise lifts a huge financial burden.
3. Show up at Sunrise actions and events when invited and in solidarity with actions of aligned groups. Some Sunrise events are intended to be youth-only spaces, but many are open to people of all ages! The same holds for local organizations and groups that have been doing work aligned with our mission for decades. Show up, and be sure to uplift and center the leadership of the young people (or existing partner organizations) around you.
4. Utilize your network. Do you have connections to a newspaper editor, a celebrity influencer, politicians, other environmental groups, and unions we need on our side?

REACH OUT:
If you are interested in any of the actions above and want to be a Sierra Club volunteer for the Green New Deal in partnership with Sunrise Movement, please reach out to me at julia.foote@sierraclub.org. Outside my role as an organizer for the Sierra Club, I am part of the Sunrise Bay Area Hub and can support this partnership in working together to build an intergenerational movement for a Green New Deal.
Illegal development at Point Molate would put Richmond in the red

Norman La Force

Point Molate is one of the last great shoreline open spaces in the Bay Area. The East Bay Regional Park District’s Master plan calls for it to be a regional park. It is rich in wildlife, home to unique habitats and flora, and the offshore eelgrass beds — a pillar of the Bay Estuary ecosystem — are the healthiest and most expansive in San Francisco Bay.

We’ve reported in these pages that Point Molate is under threat of an illegal sweetheart deal that the city made with the developer and an Indian tribe (after they sued the city for rejecting their proposal for a casino at Point Molate). That deal was made in violation of California’s open government law, the Brown Act, and locks the city into a development of thousands of luxury houses at the site. Citizens for Eastshore Parks, SPRAWLDEF, and four Richmond residents sued the city over this illegal settlement. So far they have won an attempt by the defendants to dismiss the case.

The development proposal is economically a disaster for the city and environmentally a disaster for the Bay Area. Economically, the proposal would cause the city to bleed red ink. Richmond has failed to carry out a fiscal impact analysis on its plan to sell Point Molate to the Southern California-based SunCal real estate corporation — as would be expected if it were exercising reasonable due diligence.

In the absence of a fiscal impact analysis by the city, three citizen groups (Citizens for Eastshore Parks, the Point Molate Alliance, and SPRAWLDEF) commissioned one. The analysis was done by Alexander Quinn, Director of Sustainable Economics at Hatch, the globally respected business and engineering consulting firm. Mr. Quinn found that the proposed sale of Point Molate for a luxury housing tract could end up costing the city $2.4 to $3.5 million a year in city services and other expenses. The city would have to cut services or raise taxes to pay these costs. It would also mean that today’s residents, with average incomes of $55,000, would end up subsidizing thousands of new residents with incomes of over $200,000.

The citizens’ analysis is available to the public. The Sierra Club and the organizations that commissioned the report have given it to members of the city council and have called on the city to hold a study session to review Quinn’s work. We want city officials to publicly discuss any issues or concerns they have with the analysis rather than hide behind internal critiques that the public won’t see.

The proposed project is also an environmental disaster. Between 1,100 and 2,200 luxury housing units would be built in a location that has no public transit of any kind, no schools nearby, and right next to the Chevron refinery. This mini luxury town would require a fire station — but even that would probably be insufficient to protect the residents from a fire. There is only one two-lane road in and out of Point Molate, so one would have scenario like we saw in Paradise if a large fire roared through Point Molate. When asked about this safety problem, the city’s former Planning Director blithely stated that residents would be able to evacuate by riding ferry boats!

The proposed building site is also far from any Priority Development Area identified as part of a regional plan to focus housing growth around transit hubs, established job centers, shopping districts and other services. The only access in and out of Point Molate would be by private car, adding to carbon emissions and climate change. Moreover, the lack of transit and walkable retail space also means that any low-income or affordable housing at Point Molate would not be viable. Such housing should be built in the downtown areas near public transit.

This development proposal would also threaten the eelgrass beds lying off of Point Molate. These beds are the nursery for the small organisms that Bay fish, shrimp, crabs and other water species feed on. The eelgrass is also an important spawning ground for such species. In fact, Point Molate’s eelgrass beds are among the most important eelgrass areas along the entire West Coast and are vital for the health of the San Francisco Bay Estuary. Run-off of sediment and pollutants from development could cause significant negative impacts on the eelgrass and the many species that rely on them.

All these problems make it clear that Point Molate is not a place for what would be gated luxury housing. Instead, Point Molate should be a public park with recreation opportunities open to everyone — not a privileged few. Write the City Council and tell them to renegotiate the settlement and get Richmond on the way to making Point Molate a great public park and open space resource. Email the councilmembers at:

ben_choi@ci.richmond.ca.us
nathbates@comcast.net
eduardo_martinez@ci.richmond.ca.us
demnlus_johnson@ci.richmond.ca.us
jael_myrick@ci.richmond.ca.us
melvin_willis@ci.richmond.ca.us
Sierra Club California water report offers real solutions to State's water issues

BRANDON DAWSON

The discussion around California’s approach to water policy has finally shifted away from trying to justify or debunk the need/costs for the Delta twin tunnels project for the first time in over a decade.

A recent executive order from Governor Gavin Newsom established this refreshing shift.

And Sierra Club California activists quickly responded with an important paper that outlines how California’s water policy can now be shaped to promote sustainability and regional resilience.

The paper, “The Smart Alternative to Tunnel(s): A Sensible Water Management Portfolio” (available online at bit.ly/CAwatersolutions) was researched and written by a team of volunteer leaders on Sierra Club California’s Water Committee who have expertise in water policy.

The paper calls for a sustainable portfolio approach as a solution to the many water challenges that California faces such as climate change, over-allocation and over-pumping of critical groundwater basins.

The report proposes practices that affect different water-using sectors and can be employed across the state.

For the agricultural industry, the document suggests investing in and managing new irrigation technology and techniques that will increase water use efficiency, as well as better enforcement in assessing and managing water transfers.

The report notes that within urban communities, fixing old water pipes and systems and investing in rainwater capture techniques that provide a recharge benefit to underlying groundwater aquifers could result in saving substantial amounts of water per year.

The report provides reasonable and feasible alternatives to the long-simmering twin tunnels project that would have moved water through two enormous tunnels from rivers north of the San Francisco Bay Delta to farms and communities south of the Delta and diverted fresh water away from the Delta.

Days after Governor Newsom signed an executive order to build a climate-resilient water system, he formally rejected the twin tunnels project and ordered the Department of Water Resources to start planning for a single tunnel.

But even a single tunnel would be costly and unnecessary. There are numerous alternatives, as the report illustrates, to building just one tunnel that are less expensive, less energy-intensive and more environmentally prudent.
Why she gives? "For generations to come," says Laura Einowski

Laura Einowski is relatively new to the Sierra Club, but in just three years she has made herself an invaluable member of our volunteer leadership team and our outings program, as well as through her financial contributions to the chapter. After getting the lay of the land by volunteering as secretary to the chapter’s Executive Committee, she was appointed to the role of ExCom Vice Chair. She has also served on the chapter’s financial committee and David Brower Dinner planning committee, where she used her skills as an architectural color designer to create beautiful event graphics. In 2017, Laura raised over $1,000 for the chapter through a Team Sierra crowd-funded hike in Kings Canyon. Laura’s outings for the chapter’s Hiking section often have a strong educational component, connecting participants with current conservation campaigns. In 2018, Laura was elected by her fellow members to a 2019-2020 term on the ExCom.

Read this Q&A with Laura to learn what she finds so rewarding about contributing to the local chapter in all the myriad ways she does:

Q: WHAT MADE YOU INTERESTED IN THE LOCAL CHAPTER’S WORK?
I came to the chapter at a time when the country was entering a major political shift. I was hoping for the best but prepared for changes that would directly threaten so much of what is important to me, and so many others. As an avid backpacker and hiker, I needed to be an advocate to protect the environment and to help encourage others to do the same. Instead of silently watching I decided to get involved directly with the Sierra Club and be a part of the change I wanted to see.

Q: WHY DO YOU GIVE TO THE CHAPTER?
As someone who spends most of their free time on the trail and out in nature, I have been focused on how to preserve and conserve our lands for generations to come. Giving to the Sierra Club, both on a volunteer and monetary level, has been a great opportunity for me to contribute to what is important to me, while also benefitting others. Our local chapter works tirelessly on so many issues and campaigns that directly affect our community. It’s rewarding to be a part of that.

Q: ANYTHING ELSE YOU WANT TO SHARE?
Being an active volunteer with the Sierra Club has been a really amazing experience. I’ve been able to achieve more than I thought possible through my time and money donated to the organization. When I give locally, I am part of the changes that directly affect me, communities, and lands around me.

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

PHOTO CREDIT: Laura Einowski backpacking the Rae Lake loop in Kings Canyon National Park.
Remembering Sierra Club leader Adam Duhan

SUZANNE YORK

Adam Duhan was passionate about people and the environment, especially increasing awareness on the need for a stable and healthy global population. For approximately six years, he co-chaired the Healthy People, Healthy Planet committee of the SF Bay Chapter (formerly called the Population, Health & Environment committee). He clearly understood the need to connect family planning, human rights and development with environmental conservation.

Adam’s sense of humor and energy level were legendary and always livened up the monthly committee meetings. He clearly wanted to see more support for reproductive health and rights and protecting the natural world and all beings. And he deeply felt the Sierra Club shouldn’t shy away from helping people understand the impacts of population growth and why it’s an important issue to get to that better and more equitable world so many of us want. One local Sierra Club member said that Adam was a hero in his eyes for restarting the local population committee.

Our committee will be a lot quieter without Adam’s presence and passion. He will be greatly missed. And consider yourself fortunate if you ever received one of his origami dollars, which he often worked on during our meetings. For more on Adam’s life, please read his obituary in Berkeleyside at bit.ly/adamduhan.

National Drive Electric Week is September 14 - 22

National Drive Electric Week is a celebration to heighten awareness of the widespread availability of plug-in vehicles and highlight the benefits of all-electric and plug-in hybrid-electric cars, trucks, motorcycles, and more. They are fun to drive, are less expensive and more convenient to fuel than gasoline vehicles, are better for the environment, promote local jobs, and reduce our dependence on foreign oil. Are you considering going electric? Come talk to owners who have successfully done so. Events also include food, music, prizes, and family fun. For a chance to win $250, register at driveelectricweek.org and complete a short survey.

Berkeley event (at the farmer’s market):
Sat, Sept 14, 11 am – 3 pm
Civic Center Park, 1940 Allston Way

Richmond event:
Thu, Sept 19, 2019, 12 – 3 pm
325 Civic Center Plz (across from Richmond Public Library)

San Francisco event (at the Sunset Community Festival):
Sat, Sept 21, 11 am – 4 pm
West Sunset Playground, Ortega and 39th Ave

Sierra Club launches new solar partnership with SunPower

The Sierra Club is teaming up with the company SunPower to help our members and supporters go solar and fight climate change. When you go solar with SunPower using the link bit.ly/sunpowerforthebay, you’ll receive a $1,000 mail-in rebate and your local Sierra Club chapter will receive $500 to support its local work.

With more than 30 years of solar experience and a commitment to sustainability, SunPower can help you go solar today. By going solar with SunPower you can reduce — or potentially even eliminate — your electric bill.

Get started today: go to bit.ly/sunpowerforthebay to receive your quick and free solar savings estimate.
ABOUT THIS CALENDAR

Activities listed here are abbreviated. For full listings, 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 on a Sierra Club outing, you will need to sign a liability waiver. To read a copy of the waiver form, call call (415)977-5630, or visit http://tinyurl.com/outingswaiver.

Problem resolution
If you have an outing-related concern that you are not able to address via the outing’s leader, please contact the chair of the sponsoring section or group. If that is not sufficient, you can contact the Activities Committee ombudsman, Seth Feinberg, at sethfeinberg@yahoo.com or (510)969-7151, or the Chapter office at (510)848-0800.

Carpooling
Carpooling helps the environment and allows people without cars to participate. If you are driving to a hike, please stop by the carpool point to pick up others. If you’re a rider, pay a share of expenses. Many activities are listed on the Chapter’s Meetup site a couple weeks in advance of the event. Join the Meetup group and post a comment requesting or offering a ride: www.meetup.com/sanfranciscobay.

FALL 2019
OUTINGS CALENDAR

TUESDAYS
Lake Chabot Reservoir 1A hike. Scenic weekly three-mile hike followed by optional dinner at a local restaurant. Meet: 4 pm at boathouse/cafe. Leader: Dolores Gruenewald, (510)351-6247 or doloresgru@aol.com. (Solo Sierrans)

WEDNESDAYS
Lafayette Reservoir 1A hike. We have both faster and slower walkers, or walk at your own pace. Optional dinner afterward. Meet: 4 pm in parking lot (takes five quarters or annual pass). Leader: Lee Cowden, (925)934-6357. (Solo Sierrans)

SECOND & FOURTH MONDAYS IN SEPTEMBER
FIRST & THIRD MONDAYS IN OCTOBER & NOVEMBER
"Being Zen" 1A mindfulness walk. (Sep 9 & 23, Oct 7 & 21, Nov 4 & 18) Slow, luxurious walking in the illumination of evening sun rays. Tune inward. During stops at different gardens and parklets, we will check in. Pace is about one mile per hour, designed to down-regulate your internal pace to assist in tuning into a deeper connection and presence with yourself. Please RSVP via online calendar listing or by emailing leader. First five signups get a poetry book. Cost: Money for optional post-walk dinner on Solano Ave. Meet: 6:30 pm at parklet outside of Zachary’s, 1853 Solano Ave, Berkeley. Ends: 8 pm. Leader: Halley Forest, sierragreenforest@gmail.com. (Hiking)

SEP 2 • MON
San Francisco to Sausalito via the Marin Headlands 3B hike. Play tourist at home on this urban hike through the northern tier of San Francisco, across the Golden Gate Bridge and over the Marin Headlands into Sausalito. Our route will include Telegraph and Russian Hills, Fort Mason, the Marina Green, Crissy Field, and great views on our route through the Marin Headlands. Rain or excessive heat cancels. Meet: 9:45 am at Embarcadero Plaza, by the Hyatt Regency stairway. Ends: 7 pm. Leader: Bob Solotar, (510)525-2110 or bob_solotar@hotmail.com. (Hiking)

SEP 7 • SAT
Inner Sunset to Corona Heights 1B walk. One-way walk to Corona Heights via the Haight-Ashbury with lots of old Victorian houses and wonderful views. Return via Muni. Any rain cancels. Cost: Muni fare: $1.25 or $3 for seniors. Meet: 10:15 am at 9th Ave. and Irving St. (northeast corner), San Francisco. Ends: 2:30 pm. Directions: Take N Judah or 44 Muni. You can also take 6 or 43 Muni and walk one block north or take 7 Muni and walk one block south. Leader: Gloria Navarra, (415)731-6144. (Hiking)
SEP 7 • SAT
Forest of Nisene Marks 3B hike. A leisurely to moderately paced 14-mile day hike to the Sand Point Overlook via the West Ridge Trail with return via the Loma Prieta Grade. The hike is 95 percent in forest with a couple of spectacular view spots at the top. Elevation gain with some roller coastering is just under 2,000 feet. Any rain cancels. Cost: $8 parking. Bring: Yellow jacket medication, if you’re allergic. Meet: 10 am at George’s Picnic Area. Ends: 6:30 pm. Leader: Steve Bakaley, slbakaley@gmail.com. (Mount Diablo and Santa Cruz County Groups)

Lands End 3B coastal walk. Leisurely paced but all-day history walk from Sutro Baths ruins (near Cliff House) to near Golden Gate Bridge and back to start, using mostly different routes. Many stairs. Any rain cancels. Bring: Money for post-walk dinner at local restaurant. Meet: 9 am near restrooms outside Lands End Visitor Center next to parking lot above Sutro Baths ruins. Take #38 Geary Muni bus to near that point. Ends: 6:30 pm. Leader: Guy Mayes, (510)522-1590. (Hiking)

SEP 8 • SUN
Tarantula trek 1A hike. Join us for an evening hike up Mitchell Canyon in search of the crepuscular critters that call Mount Diablo home. We’ll get close up and personal with the tarantulas before we head out to look for owls, bats, spiders, scorpions, and other denizens of the dark that hide during the day but shine figuratively and sometimes literally as the sun goes down. This is a 3-mile roundtrip nature hike. Cost: $6 parking (exact change required). Bring: Flashlight. Meet: 5:30 pm outside Mitchell Canyon Visitor Center. Ends: 8:30 pm. Leaders: Ken Lavin, (925)852-8778 or Ken_lavin@hotmail.com; Elizabeth Watson, sweettrails00@gmail.com. (Mount Diablo Group)

SEP 14 • SAT
Moonlight on Mission Peak 2C hike. Moonlight hike from Ohlone College to Mission Peak summit on the Peak Trail. Headlamps or flashlights are recommended for short sections of trail, but the objective is to enjoy hiking in the moonlight with no artificial illumination. Not a beginner’s hike. 7 miles with significant elevation gain. Snow and/or heavy rain will cancel the hike. Meet: 6:30 pm at Mission Peak trailhead near parking garage and tennis courts. We enter the park at the Ohlone College trailhead to the Peak Trail. Ends: 10 pm. Leader: William Yragui, (650)642-6510 (cell) or wyragui@missionpeakconservancy.net. (Southern Alameda County)

Corona Heights Natural Area workday. More than 100 native plant species are recorded here and it is important habitat for native and migrating birds and insects. Join us for our monthly workday to remove invasive plants, nurture native species, and perform light trail maintenance. Rain or shine. All tools and gloves provided. Children welcome with adult. Wear layers and closed-toe shoes. No dogs allowed. Meet: 10 am on north side of Randall Museum (parking lot is on south side) at end of Museum Way, just off Roosevelt Way. Short walk from Castro Muni station. Ends: noon. Leader: Russell Hartman, (650)242-2679, rpb1917@comcast.net. (Rainbow Sierrans)

SEP 15 • SUN
Seals and sea otters by kayak in Elkhorn Slough. We will search by kayak for seals and sea otter in addition to all other wildlife of the Slough. Leaving from Moss Landing, we’ll have a leisurely paddle through the protected waterway. Excellent birding. Beginners welcomed. Cost: $60 for Rainbow Sierrans members, $70 for non-members. Meet: 9:30 am at 2390 CA-1, Moss Landing. Ends: 2:30 pm. Leader: Beth Bittle, (510)759-6225 or callingu2@gmail.com. (Rainbow Sierrans)

Hawk migration and raptor research demo with Feminist Bird Club. We’ll join the Feminist Bird Club’s SF Bay chapter, in partnership with Golden Gate Raptor Observatory, to learn about GGRO’s banding and research program. Weather permitting, we’ll also learn how to identify migrating raptors. We won’t be hiking, but access to Hawk Hill is up a paved, graded trail, and then standing on an uneven unpaved surface. Bring: Binoculars and small folding chair if you need one. Meet: 9:30 am at Conzelman Road, Sausalito. Directions: Accessible from San Francisco by 76x bus and a .7-mile walk. Limited parking available on Conzelman Road at the Marin Headlands Vista Point. Ends: 12 pm. Carpool: Email leader for carpooling list. Leaders: Pam LoPinto, (415)640-7593 or pamlo@att.net; Paige Brown, (415)641-1483 or paige.brown@gmail.com. (Rainbow Sierrans)

SEP 21 • SAT
Alameda 2A architectural walk. View Victorian-era houses and other historic homes on this educational walk. Any rain cancels. Bring: Money for post-walk dinner at local restaurant. Meet: 10 am at entrance to Robert Crown Memorial Beach. Directions: Take O bus from San Francisco or #51 from Berkeley or Oakland to get off at Webster and Santa Clara, a short walk from start. Ends: 5:30 pm. Leader: Guy Mayes, (510)522-1590. (Hiking)

SEP 28 • SAT
Corona Heights Natural Area workday. More than 100 native plant species are recorded here and it is important habitat for native and migrating birds and insects. Join us for our monthly workday to remove invasive plants, nurture native species, and perform light trail maintenance. Rain or shine. All tools and gloves provided. Children welcome with adult. Wear layers and closed-toe shoes. No dogs allowed. Meet: 10 am on north side of Randall Museum (parking lot is on south side) at end of Museum Way, just off Roosevelt Way. Short walk from Castro Muni station. Ends: noon. Leader: Russell Hartman, (650)242-2679, rpb1917@comcast.net. (Rainbow Sierrans)

CONTINUED ON FOLLOWING PAGE
OUTINGS CALENDAR

CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

OCT 5 • SAT

Rainbow Sierrans annual picnic. Save the date! There will be hikes in the morning, followed by a BBQ, games, and much socializing. More details to come. Meet: 11 am (exact time TBD) at Lafayette Reservoir. Leader: Ann Lehr, (925)287-1639 or xenaphile1@comcast.net. (Rainbow Sierrans)

OCT 13 • SUN
Moonlight on Mission Peak 2C hike. Moonlight hike from Ohlone College to Mission Peak summit on the Peak Trail. Bring: Headlamp or flashlight. Meet: 6:30 PM at Mission Peak trailhead near parking garage and tennis courts. Ends: 10 PM. Leader: William Yragui, (650)642-5150 (cell) or wyragui@missionpeakconservancy.net. (Southern Alameda County)

Presidio 3A history walk. All-day educational tour of historic Presidio in San Francisco. Any rain cancels. Bring: Money for post-walk dinner at local restaurant. Meet: 9 am at cannon on north side of Lyon and Lombard Streets at gate to Presidio. Closest Muni buses are #30 or #45 from downtown or #28 from avenues. Ends: 6 pm. Leader: Guy Mayes, (510)522-1590. (Hiking)

Angel Island 2B hike. Hike up and around Mount Livermore, then head down to secluded Perles Beach. A wide variety of terrains and (weather permitting) spectacular views. Cost: $15 cash for the Tiburon–Angel Island ferry (round trip), plus parking ($5+). Meet: 9:30 am at the Tiburon Ferry terminal to take the 10 am ferry. From SF: Take the 9:20 am Blue & Gold Fleet ferry from the Ferry Building or the 9:45 am ferry from Pier 41. Once on the island, meet the group in front of the restrooms. Leader: Jeffrey Sanchez, (510)599-5238, amagi@pacbell.net. (Sierra Singles)

OCT 26 • SAT

OCT 27 • SUN
Sycamore Grove 2A hike. 7-mile walk through Sycamore Grove Park, containing one of the largest remaining groves of native sycamores in California. Optional climb to view point overlooking the Livermore Valley. Heavy rain or excessive heat cancels. Meet: 10:45 am at Wetmore Road entrance, Livermore. Ends: 4 pm. Leader: Bob Solotar, (510)525-2110 or bob_solotar@hotmail.com. (Mount Diablo Group)

NOV 2 • SAT
Sunol Maguire Peaks 3C hike. Enjoy spectacular views of the Ohlone backcountry and surrounding area on this 12.5-mile hike with 2,000+ feet of elevation gain. Not for speed demons or gazelles, but not a beginner's hike. Rain, poor air quality, or excessive heat cancels. Cost: $5 park fee. Meet: 9:30 am at Visitor Center, Sunol Regional Wilderness. Ends: 5:30 pm. Leader: Bob Solotar, (510)525-2110 or bob_solotar@hotmail.com. (Hiking)

Walk through the 'City of the Dead' 2A hike. All-day educational walk through many of the cemeteries of Colma, the 'City of the Dead.' (This walk is Colma, Part 2. Part 1 will be next May, but you don't need to do Part 1 before going on Part 2.) Meet: 10 am at Colma BART near station agent's office (next to turn-style gates). Ends: 5:30 pm. Leader: Guy Mayes, (510)522-1590. (Hiking)

NOV 9 • SAT
Hike Mission Peak from Ohlone College 2C hike. Explore Mission Peak Regional Preserve from end to end. Enjoy expansive views of the South Bay and little-explored parts of this park. Any rain cancels. Cost: $4 parking fee. Meet: 9:30 am at Mission Peak trailhead near parking garage. Ends: 5 pm. Leader: Steve Bakaley, sibakaley@gmail.com. (Southern Alameda County and Santa Cruz County Groups)

NOV 12 • TUE
Moonlight on Mission Peak 2C hike. Moonlight hike from Ohlone College to Mission Peak summit on the Peak Trail. Headlamps or flashlights recommended for short sections but the objective is to enjoy hiking in the moonlight. Not a beginner's hike. 7 miles with significant elevation gain. Snow and or heavy rain will cancel the hike. Meet: 6:30 PM at Mission Peak trailhead near parking garage and tennis courts. Ends: 10 PM. Leader: William Yragui, (650)642-5150 (cell) or wyragui@missionpeakconservancy.net. (Southern Alameda County)

NOV 23 • SAT
Corona Heights Natural Area workday. More than 100 native plant species are recorded here and it is important habitat for native and migrating birds and insects. Join us for our monthly workday to remove invasive plants, nurture native species, and perform light trail maintenance. Rain or shine. All tools and gloves provided. Children welcome with adult. Wear layers and closed-toe shoes. No dogs allowed. Meet: 10 am on north side of Randall Museum at end of Museum Way, just off Roosevelt Way. Short walk from Castro Muni station. Ends: noon. Leader: Russell Hartman, (650)242-2679, rph1917@comcast.net. (Rainbow Sierrans)

NOV 30 • SAT
Golden Gate Park 2A hike. Walk through the Golden Gate Park on some of its off-beaten paths and hidden scenic trails. Any rain cancels. Bring: Money for optional dim sum stop. Meet: 10:15 am at 9th Avenue and Irving Street, northeast corner. Directions: Take N Judah or 44 Muni. You also can take 6 or 43 Muni and walk one block north, or 7 Muni and walk one block south. Ends: 4 pm. Leader: Gloria Navarra, (415)731-6144. (Hiking)
EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

MEET: 7 pm at Ygnacio Valley Library, 2661 Oak Grove Rd., Walnut Creek. Programs are free and open to all and no reservations are necessary. Leader: Ken Lavin, (925)852-8778 or ken_lavin@hotmail.com.

Wed, Sept 11 — Evening on the mountain
Mount Diablo State Park is one of the Bay Area's iconic hiking spots. But what is it like after the human visitors head home and the resident flora and fauna reclaim the mountain? Join us for a slide presentation and talk describing the secret lives of the crepuscular critters and evening bloomers that hide in shadows during the day, but shine brightly (figuratively and sometimes literally) as darkness falls. We'll bring a tarantula to view as well as skins and skulls from some native Mount Diablo mammals to view and touch.

Wed, Nov 13 — Inside Russia today
Join us at our November meeting and enjoy a fascinating presentation on Russia. Larissa Ivanova will show us some of the natural and cultural history of her native land.

Fri, Sept 13 – The ecology and management of Point Reyes
Join Laura Cunningham for a presentation of her artwork, photos, and research on the ecology and management of Point Reyes National Seashore. Cunningham will discuss her research on what primeval Point Reyes was like 500 years ago, with herds of tule elk, grizzly bears, abundant salmon, pods of whales offshore, and lush coastal prairies filled with wildflowers and rare butterflies. Issues with current commercial dairy and ranching leases in the park will be examined, as well as alternatives for managing tule elk herds.

An ongoing National Park Service General Management Plan revision is ongoing for Point Reyes National Seashore and the northern portion of Golden Gate National Recreation Area, and public comments are welcome. This plan revision will decide how these park units will be managed as our public lands for decades to come.

Laura Cunningham is an author, artist, historical ecologist, and conservationist. She wrote and illustrated A State of Change: Forgotten Landscapes of California (Heyday 2010). She is California Director for the conservation nonprofit Western Watersheds Project.

Fri, Oct 11 — Citizens’ Climate Lobby and the carbon fee
Join Ben Keller, a volunteer from the local chapter of Citizens' Climate Lobby to learn more about the Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act (H.R. 763). If passed, the EICDA would reduce U.S. carbon emissions by 40 percent in just 12 years, while growing the economy and improving the health and lives of millions of Americans. Come find out how a carbon fee and dividend would work, why it is co-sponsored by many Bay Area representatives, how it would benefit American families, how it would grow the green economy, and more.

Citizens’ Climate Lobby is a non-profit, nonpartisan, grassroots advocacy organization focused on national policies to address climate change.

Fri, Nov 8 — "Dispatches from a Wild and Secret Country"
Join Helen Stoltzfus for "Dispatches from a Wild and Secret Country: What My Mennonite Ancestors and the Gobi Bear Taught Me About Surviving the Climate Emergency." This combination performance piece/science talk/call to action weaves stories of Helen’s Mennonite ancestors and her trip to Mongolia to track the rare Gobi bear, and outlines specific acts we can take now to preserve our planet.

Helen is a climate activist and long-time Bay Area theatre director, playwright, and performer. She is co-artistic director of Black Swan Arts & Media, an Oakland-based organization that creates and produces original performance events.
S I E R R A C L U B Y O D E L E R

S A N F R A N C I S C O D I N N E R S

All Programs Meet: Grace Lutheran Church, 3201 Ulloa St. at 33rd Ave. for social hour at 6 pm, dinner at 7 pm (includes coffee and dessert), program at 8 pm. Cost: Send a check for $24 made out to “Sierra Club, S.F. Bay Chapter,” to Gerry Souzis at 1801 California St., #405, San Francisco, CA 94109. Please indicate the program date, number of guests, vegetarian meals requested, and your phone number. Non-members welcome. Checks must be received five days before event.

Thu, Oct 17 — Discover the Norte and Primitivo routes of the Camino de Santiago

Join Susan and Ralph Alcorn to travel through fascinating cities, artistic communities, fishing villages, quiet farmlands, and open countryside. While the most well known pilgrimage trail across northern Spain is the Francés, there are dozens of routes that are part of the Camino de Santiago. In 2015-16, our presenters hiked two of the less traveled routes—the Norte and Primitivo. Though both routes feature more difficult terrain and fewer accommodations, they make up for it with scenic beauty and cultural diversity.

In Basque County, marvel at the Guggenheim museum in Bilbao. In Cantabria, explore the Altamira caves with their Paleolithic paintings. In Asturias, watch the pouring of sidra (hard apple cider). In Galicia, walk atop the ancient Roman walls encircling Lugo.

Thu, Nov 21 — Cambodia and South Vietnam on the Mekong

Come see pictures and hear stories about a tour of the famous Mekong River Delta in a small craft down the river. Traveling this way can be refreshing and intimate, with plenty of time to just sit back or lounge watching the river take you past the scenic life of the fisher families.

Presenters Al Crowell and Pilar Mejia spent most nights of their early 2019 trip on a lovely small cruise boat. Side trips inland, on smaller ferry boats and bus, included Siem Reap, Ho Chi Minh City (Saigon), Phnom Penh, the Killing Fields area and museum, and tours of small towns and countryside.

E A S T B A Y D I N N E R S

All Programs Meet: Berkeley Yacht Club on the Berkeley Marina for no-host cocktails/social hour at 6 pm, dinner at 7 pm, program at 8 pm, intermission at 9 pm, and after-hours group discussion 9:15 - 11:00 pm. Directions: Take bus #81 service to Marina from Ashby BART. Cost: Dinner and program is $30, including tax and tip; $10 for program only. Reservations: Purchase tickets online at bit.ly/vegandinnerprogram (September), bit.ly/nepaldinnerprogram (October), or bit.ly/pacificadinnerprogram (December). Or, send a check, payable to “Sierra Club, S.F. Bay Chapter,” with your name, telephone number, and the names of your guests, to: Jane Barrett, 170 Vicente Road, Berkeley, CA 94705. With questions, call 510-845-8055. Attendance is limited to 115.

Thu, Sept 26 — Veganism: Healthy for people and planet

Why is the vegan movement the fastest-growing social justice movement in the world today? It is because veganism is the foundation of any credible solution to our myriad health and environmental crises. A whole-foods, plant-based vegan diet can mitigate and reverse 14 of the 15 leading causes of death in Western countries. A vegan world would free up one-third of the land area of the planet to be returned to forests, sequestering the excess carbon in the atmosphere while simultaneously restoring habitat for wildlife.

Join us as Dr. Sailesh Rao, Executive Director of Climate Healers, chronicles his vegan journey and explains why the vegan movement is catching fire all around the world. Learn about the Vegan World 2026! project, which aims to turn the whole world vegan within seven years. We will be serving a delicious and nutritious vegan dinner.

Reservation deadline is September 19.

Thu, Oct 24 — Journey to the heart of Nepal

Nepal is a mix of stunning geography, rich ecosystems and blend of cultures. Situated between India to the South and Tibet to the North, Nepal is a unique mix of Buddhist and Hindu cultures.

Possibility of "managed retreat" in the face. With a view to bringing and adaptation strategies for these threats and has begun to stare the Pacifica’s beautiful cliffs, damaging infrastructure and threatening the rise and increasing storm surges are intensifying the erosion of decades have protected and restored hillside, beach and creek habitat.

Today, however, there is trouble in this coastal paradise. Sea level rise and increasing storm surges are intensifying the erosion of Pacifica's beautiful cliffs, damaging infrastructure and threatening its low-lying areas with flooding. The city has undertaken planning and adaptation strategies for these threats and has begun to stare the possibility of "managed retreat" in the face. With a view to bringing the community together in positive, co-creative ways, the Sanchez Art Center, in partnership with San Mateo County and the City of Pacifica, has embarked upon a groundbreaking public arts engagement project to stimulate conversation, healing and creativity in the face of controversial changes to nature and the community.

Join us as Cindy Abbott leads us through an engaging presentation of the challenges and opportunities facing Pacifica. Cindy is Executive Director of Sanchez Art Center and President of Pacifica's Environmental Family.

Reservation deadline is November 28.

Thu, Dec 5 — Pacifica: Past, present and future

Pacifica is known to Californians and the world for its beautiful beaches, cliffs, and spectacular views of the Pacific Ocean. Pacifica also has a rich history, going back to the first nations tribes of the Ramaytush-Ohlone including the Aramai tribelet. Spanish explorers first sighted the San Francisco Bay 250 years ago atop what is now called Sweeney Ridge in Pacifica. Pacifica has a wide variety of terrestrial and aquatic wildlife and flora, and grassroots projects over the decades have protected and restored hillside, beach and creek habitat.

Today, however, there is trouble in this coastal paradise. Sea level rise and increasing storm surges are intensifying the erosion of Pacifica’s beautiful cliffs, damaging infrastructure and threatening its low-lying areas with flooding. The city has undertaken planning and adaptation strategies for these threats and has begun to stare the possibility of "managed retreat" in the face. With a view to bringing the community together in positive, co-creative ways, the Sanchez Art Center, in partnership with San Mateo County and the City of Pacifica, has embarked upon a groundbreaking public arts engagement project to stimulate conversation, healing and creativity in the face of controversial changes to nature and the community.

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Reservation deadline is October 17.

OUTDOOR EDUCATION

WILDERNESS FIRST AID

Sat, Sept 21, 8 am - 5 pm and Sun, Sept 22, 9 am - 5 pm
Bay Chapter office, 2530 San Pablo Ave, Suite I, Berkeley

Two options: Take the two-day class for WFA certification ($80 for members/$100 for non-members); or the one-day class for Basic WFA certification ($50/$60). These are practical courses that prepare you to recognize and avoid wilderness hazards, and do first aid outdoors with whatever equipment you have or can improvise. The two-day class adds many more hands-on skills and role-playing scenarios to help you put your skills together.

Textbook by Steve Donelan, available on Amazon: Wilderness Emergency Care, Third Edition Revised (which has everything) or Wilderness First Aid (which has just what’s taught in WFA). You can use the old edition of Steve’s WEC book if you have it.

REGISTRATION:

Current chapter outings leaders should call (510)848-0800 or email firstaid@sfbaysc.org. Then mail a $50 deposit check to the chapter office (it will be returned in class). The chapter pays for both days. All others should email Steve Donelan (donelan@sonic.net) and pay him in class (cash or check).

Steve’s website is: www.wildernessemergencycare.com.
Finding art in nature on a Sierra Club hike among the redwood forests of Sam McDonald and Pescadero Creek County Parks, led by Bob Solotar in June. Photo by Galina Angarova. For a chance to see your snapshot to be featured in the next issue of the Yodeler, share pictures on Twitter, Instagram, or Facebook with hashtag #SierraSnapshots, or email photos to yodedit@sfbaysc.org. Please tell us where and when it was taken and include the names of anyone in the photo.

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SIERRACLUB.ORG/SFBAY
Our website is home to helpful information and resources including:
• The Yodeler blog, updated regularly
• Our full events and activities calendar
• Group information and leadership roster

ANNOUNCEMENTS
• Worldwide #ClimateStrike on 9/20 (p. 3)
• Don’t miss our 2019 David Brower Dinner fundraiser and awards party on 9/21 (p. 3)
• Consider running for chapter office (p. 2)
• November 2019 election endorsements (p. 5)
• New solar partnership with SunPower (p. 17)
• New outings leaders needed now (p. 17)

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