Sierra Club Club exec has worldwide experience

BY JOSEPH MAYTON
Daily Post Staff Writer

The Sierra Club Loma Prieta Chapter, which is based in Palo Alto, has hired James Eggers to be new chapter director.

He comes with more than 25 years of experience working on environmental issues in the United States, Israel, Egypt and over a dozen other countries over six continents.

“I have been aware of nature and the environment from a very young age,” he told the Post yesterday.

An affinity for nature

He said that he has always wanted to work in nature and for the environment, but it wasn’t until college that he realized that there were professional opportunities to do so.

That desire to work in nature took him to Israel, Egypt and North Africa for over a decade, working with conservation organizations and founding his own consultancy, Summit Consulting International, which is currently on hiatus while Eggers takes up his new position.

That international knowledge will help him understand the many points of view that exist in the area, says Gita Dev, a Land Use Committee member with the Sierra Club.

“He brings a breath of experience for the Sierra Club and has a can-do kind of attitude that is so good,” she told the Post, adding that he has been approachable and appears to be committed to the people and goals of the Sierra Club since he took over his new position on Feb. 15.

“He’s going to be great,” Dev added.

Upon returning to the U.S., Eggers took up residence in the Dallas area, but said he always wanted to live in California, “especially the Bay Area,” and jumped at the opportunity to be chapter director.

A goal

He said his main goal for the organization is to “improve our member engagement” and “strengthen the financial base.” To do that, Eggers said, he will “be doing a lot of listening and asking questions” to familiarize himself with the members, adding that much of the chapter’s efforts are determined by the volunteers.

“This is one of the most activities-oriented local groups I have seen for Sierra Club,” Eggers said, but added that despite the active nature of the group and over 10 committees focused on specific issues, “a lot of members I talk with sometimes don’t even know what exactly is going on,” adding to his call to improve how he and his team will engage with local members.

According to a press release on Eggers’ hiring, the current membership of the Loma Prieta Chapter stands at 33,000.

Educational background

Eggers has a Master of Science degree in conservation education as well as numerous diplomas and certificates in management, conservation science and communication.

“Our successes are based on our partnerships and building consensus,” Eggers said, adding that he hopes to identify who those potential new partners will be moving forward.

He has also received an honorary Doctorate of Science Education and the U.S. Forest Service’s Outstanding Conservation Partner Award.

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