Move to Amend / Corporate Personhood & Money
By Brian Carr, Loma Prieta Lead on Campaign Finance Reform

On August 7th, the Campbell City Council joined Mountain View and Los Altos Hills by passing a resolution supporting a constitutional amendment to overturn the Citizens United decision and declare that only people entitled to constitutional rights. Four of the five council members agreed that the Citizens United ruling allowing corporations to spend unlimited funds to influence elections at all levels is clearly a local issue and deserved local action. The Sierra Club has endorsed the efforts of the group Move to Amend to overturn Citizens United because the Koch Brothers, the Oil and Gas industry, and other groups with no concern for the environment are using this decision to quiet the voices of people who care. The resolution states "Move to Amend will move on to other cities, including San Jose and Palo Alto to build support for the national movement.

Loma Prieta members are encouraged to become involved. You can contact the LP liaison by calling Brian Carr at (408) 237-2231. We will be putting together a list of volunteers to engage," said Bob Bingaman, the National Sierra Club Political Team leader and volunteer for the Obama campaign and the Sierra Club endorsed Congressional and state legislative candidates. Whether you can contribute a whole month or just an hour a week, volunteer help will make a big difference.

For those Club members who are able to travel to other locations to help with efforts on the ground, or for members in target states who are able to be housed out-of-town volunteers, please visit: http://action.sierraclub.org/site/PageNavigator/Obama2008

Endorsement Election Issue October 2012

The Newsletter of the Sierra Club Loma Prieta Chapter
San Benito, San Clara and San Mateo Counties
Your Vote is not Enough

By Ann Schneider, Co-Chair, Loma Prieta Political Committee

OK, here are the facts. The majority of vot- ers living in the Loma Prieta Chapter are pro- gressive voters. This means that our region is going to vote for Barack Obama. We are going to re-elect our Congressional Representatives and our incumbent Assembly People. While we have a couple of competitive local Senate races and of course we have many competitive city council and one board of supervisor race, in general we are considered a safe region for electing progressive candidates.

So yes of our course my vote, your vote for President Obama counts. But if we really want to push the envelope and do more then just fill out our ballots.

1. Register to Vote. Get your like-minded friends and family to register. Get your voting age children to register. Then make sure they vote. If they live in another part of the State or country, refer then to the Sierra Club website for local environmental endorsements.

2. Make sure you get your vote-by-mail ballot, fill it out and mail it or bring it to City Hall right away. Why, because then all the decisions about the local and national ballot are made by you and your phone calls, can mark you off the list and con- centrate on occasional voters or all the voters that came out for the first time in 2008 and may stay home this time. The additional ben- efits of early voting, you won’t get most of those returns.

3. If you don’t get a vote-by-ballot contact- your Registrar of Voters, find an early vot- ing location and go down and vote either vote via paper ballot or by electronic voting machine. But do it now even though you might miss some late breaking news on an issue.

4. Get all your friends and family to vote early, and for Obama and all the other candi- dates the Sierra Club has voted as supporting renewable energy.

5. Volunteer. one hour, half a day, a day or more to go to one of the many local offices and help the desk volunteers answer voter questions and provide them with phone calls, can mark you off the list and con- centrate on occasional voters or all the voters that came out for the first time in 2008 and may stay home this time. The additional ben- efits of early voting, you won’t get most of those returns.

11. Finally, really, truly vote. As newspapers report after every election, a significant num- ber of Americans who could register to vote did not. It is a significant number of Americans who can vote don’t. We used to think that Si- erra Club members vote more frequently than the average registered voter but a survey done a few years ago showed this. We now know, less change in statistics and prove that this elec- tion is about the environment and VOTE!

Loma Prieta Election Insight

By Ann Schneider, Co-Chair, Loma Prieta Political Committee

The League of Conservation Voters compares actual votes on a card of environmental votes of our US Congress. You can download the most recent report card – 2011 at http://www.lcv.org/scorecard/ scorecardweb.pdf. The report ex- plains the bills chosen and then ranks every Senator and Represen- tative based on their votes and if they missed any votes. Here is our delegation data for 2011: Ann Eshoo 94% Sam Farr 97% Mike Honda 100% Zoe Lofgren 94% Jerry McNerney 94% Jackie Speier 94% At first I would say wow; they all didn’t hit 100%! Several of the lower scores were due to missing a vote or three. But the real message is any legislator in the 90 percentile or the 80 percentile in the US House is an incredible fighter for the environment. And we have 3 out of 5. We need you, if you want to make it 4 in 2013, then let the Chap- ter PolCom know you would like to join our team of members who try to meet with our Represen- tatives every year here in the District. We hate to say it but we were so busy this year that we never held a single constituent meeting with any of our Congress people. And if we want them to care about the environment we need to meet and talk about our critical issues. We also know that this Congress has been very hard on leaders who care about the environment and we can help to thank them. Delegation for standing strong to the frankly anti- environment House Leadership.

Statewide Races

Vote NO on Proposition 31

By Margaret Ohazumi, Sierra Club California Executive Committee.

Please vote NO on Prop 31. While this well- intentioned measure tours its devotion to re- form, transparency and oversight, this flawed initiative actually creates a more complex and unmanageable governance system and under- mines environmental laws. Prop 31 contains a dangerous provision allowing local govern- ments to override environmental laws, including envi- ronmental laws. Under Prop 31, if local gov- ernments decided compliance was too costly and “unfavorable to local goals,” they would be freed to circumvent state laws and regulations such as ones pertaining to municipal drinking water quality, air quality; protection of coastal lands, reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, miti- gation for endangered species, and hazardous waste remediation, to name some examples. Prop 31 would increase the time state review- ing programs and reduce the time state workers

Be sure to share your Loma Prieta —Reuse then Recycle
Battleground Races: Take Back the House Help Needed in the Central Valley

Ami Bera, Jose Hernandez, Jerry McNerney for Congress

by Mary McVey Gill, Loma Prieta Post/ComLead on Congressional Battleground Races

If you are frustrated by the current deadlocks over issues in Congress - the House of Representatives and want to make a difference at a national level, there is something you can do. Our chapter is close to three Congressional districts in which there are critical races in play. One of these has an incumbent who is a proven friend of the environment, Jerry McNerney, and the other two are districts in which a pro-environmental candidate has a strong chance of defeating an anti-environmental incumbent. All three candidates need our help to win, and we urge our members to vote No on Proposition 32.

Right to Know Our Food - Vote Yes on Prop. 37

By Andrew Christie, Director, Santa Lucia Chapter

Sierra Club California endorses Proposition 37, the California Right to Know Genetically Engineered Food Act, because it mandates the disclosure of genetically modified organisms (GMOs). Polls show that more than 90 percent of California voters want to know if their food was produced by genetic engineering - a process that has nothing to do with traditional farming and breeding and which breaks every barrier to produce potatoes altered with synthetic genes, enzymes altered to produce pesticide, “super” pigs altered with human growth genes, tomatoes altered with fish genes, fish altered with cattle growth genes, etc.

The initiative gives Californians the right to choose what we put in our bodies and feed to our children. Fifty-four countries, including China, Japan, Europe, and 26 U.S. states and territories, have banned or criminalized genetically engineered foods. The United States continues to allow GMOs to be sold unlabeled, with no requirements that companies provide safety testing or a process for people to be able to see the entire list of ingredients on the market — essentially the largest ongoing science experiment in history, conducted without the consent of the experimental subjects and without the ability to track possible health effects. Concerns are growing about the dramatic increase in pesticide use since genetically engineered crops were introduced.

The California ballot initiative gives voters a way to vote on the ballot initiative that is being supported by a range of interests, including environmental and environmental justice organizations, labor, and progressive business organizations, such as the Los Angeles Business Council and the U.S. Green Chamber of Commerce. Its most noteworthy backer is Tom Steyer, a Bay Area-based investor who has funded initiatives that have defeated efforts to roll back California’s global warming policies two years ago.

So to help accelerate California’s clean energy transition, and to reduce energy waste, vote Yes on Proposition 37.

Yes on Prop 39: Faire Corparate Taxes to Fund Energy Efficiency and Education

By Kathryn Phillips, Director, Sierra Club California

Smart policy works around California must be sweeping as they read Prop 39 on the November ballot. This measure would help increase solar and other alternative energy supply while reducing energy demand at schools and other government buildings.

Overall, Proposition 39 would simultaneously fund an unfair corporate tax loophole; generate billions of dollars in new funds for schools, and for key reforms to job-creating energy efficiency and alternative energy projects at schools and other public buildings.

The deadline to be registered to vote in the November 6, 2012 Presidential Election is October 22nd. You must be 18 years or older on Election Day to vote. If you have a semester with a break between now and November 6th, then they can vote but they have to register. If you have moved, you have 30 days to re-register to vote. This is especially important if you have moved to a new county or from another state. Make sure your vote will count and re-register if you moved or recently changed your name.

You can find a handy Vote Registration form at any library and at City Hall. This form must be postmarked by the 22nd. And now you can register on line at the California Secretary of State’s New Register To Vote Online website. Go to https://tre.sos.ca.gov/elections/register-to-vote/. Either way, after you have been able to cast your vote, help make sure that your registration was processed correctly. You can check your status at http://www.sos.ca.gov/elections/elections_vr.htm.
Residents of Daly City, Colma, South San Francisco and Unincorporated Broadmoor — You will have a new Senator in your new Senate District 11 — Vote for Mark Leno for new SD11

By Kathryn Phillips, Director, Sierra Club California

Senator Mark Leno is one of the most relied-upon and thoughtful environmental votes in the legislature. This year, he carried SB 1222, which will remove a fee hurdle to repopulate solar installation. He also chairs the Senate Budget Committee and he and his staff have helped us in many ways behind the scenes to help advance a clean and healthy environment. He has carried bills to reduce toxicity in consumer products, quality assure renewable energy and worker safety. Welcome this environmental leader to San Mateo County by voting for Mr. Leno for Senator. For more information on the current Senate District http://sd11.senate.ca.gov/

Senate District 13 a Choice Between Two Great Leaders

Redistricting merged most of San Mateo County and northern Santa Clara County into the new Senate District 13. Two good friends of the Environment, both Democrats will be running to fill this seat. Former Assemblywoman Sally Lieber (old AD24) will be running against Democratic Assemblyman Jim Beall. Both Lieber and Beall have been a good voice and vote for the environment.

Sally Lieber’s Environmental Successes

Sally served in the Assembly from 2002 to 2008. She served as the Speaker pro Tempore, only the third woman to hold this second in command position in the Assembly. Environmental laws authored by Assm. Lieber and signed into law include: AB9, the landmark Global Warming law, ban on cancer causing flame retardants, AB206, requiring cell phone retailers to take back used phones for re-use, recycling and proper disposal, the California Ocean Protection Act, requiring that retailers can only sell lead free plumbing materials, requiring developers to offer solar power in homes in new developments and the Million Solar roof, establish the San Francisco Bay restoration Authority to raise funds to protect and restore bay habitats, and many more. Members may remember her famous smog bill that made national attention on the Tonight Show. Sally took on Jay Leno and won.

Sally’s environmental goals should she be elected include: expanding energy and water conservation programs, controlling and reducing toxic chemicals, habitat protection, implementing sustainable land use policies and practices, supporting mass transit and implementing zero waste programs across the state. Sally came out early against the Salworks development in Redwood City. Sally isn’t afraid to take a strong stand and fight the hard fights. She earned her 100% lifetime green voting record. To learn more about Sally go to www.sallylieber.org

Jerry Hill’s Environmental Successes

Jerry is considered one of the hardest work- ers in Sacramento. He has a long record both at the local government level and in Sacramento for working for a better environment. He has championed strong air pollution control ac- tions, clean transit, open space and parks. As an assemblyman he has helped reduce the number of publicly owned solar farms, has signed into law, most of the communities in our chapter are moving to eliminate this pack- aging that so often ends up littering our streets and creeks and finding their way to the ocean and beaches. We thank Jerry for his leadership in so many areas.

If elected Jerry’s main environmental goals include developing plans and policies to pre- pare for sea level rise including wetland preser- vation, preserving marine and supporting green jobs. His lifetime environmental score from the Calif. League of Conservation Voters is 96%. Jerry is a true fighter for the envi- ronment. He has served us well. To learn more about Jerry go to www.jerryhillforsenate.com. We are fortunate to have two superb candi-dates who work with us and have fought hard in Sacramento for the environment. We only wish we could send them both back to Sacramento.

Jim Beall for SD 15

By Charles Schafer, LP ExCom Member

Beall has been an important voice in the as- sembly with a very high environmental voting record. Jim has worked for many decades to improve our transportation system, support re- newable energy technology, and crack down on polluters. For example, he served on the Guadalupe Corridor Powers Board responsible for the development of the Guadalupe Corridor Line in Santa Clara County, with City and County leaders to build the 22-mile light rail system. He also founded the Santa Clara Open Space Authority to protect and enhance open space let it be lost with the disappear- ance of agricultural land; and with worked with our water district, environmental organizations and government agencies to ensure a safe and dependable water supply. He has also led the county parks ballot measure multiple times. Jim’s long history as a planner has trained him to be a strategic thinker. He is proud to have been a champion of the environment; ap- plying his strategic thinking to protecting our natural resources and minimizing the long-term impacts of his work on the environment. Jim’s understanding of the environmental issues in our area coupled with his ability to fund envi- ronmental priorities in a tough budget climate will allow him to be an important voice for solutions for the environment in Sacramento. Let’s send him back to Sacramento to continue his good work in the state Senate

Bill Morning for Senate 17

By Bruce san Albin, Ventura Chapter (Santa Cruz and Monterey Counties)

Bill Morning (D-Carmel) has earned en- dorsement from the Club for his candidacy for the 17th Senate Dis- trict, which includes coastal communities in Monterey County, all of Santa Cruz and San Luis Obispo Counties, and southern Santa Clara County. The Sier- ra Club has given Morning, a high score on its 2011 California Legislative Report Card for his work in the State Assembly. To learn more about Bill Morning’s work in the legislature refer to http://democrats.as- sembly.ca.gov/members/id27/. To help with his campaign contact: http://www.billmorning.com/

The full article on Bill Morning can be found on our website

SENATE RACES

Phil Ting for Assembly District 19

By Don Forman, Editor, The Yoder, San Fran- cisco Bay Chapter

The Sierra Club supports Phil Ting for state Assembly because Ting is right on California’s environmental issues, in particular on green energy and protecting the coast. Currently San Francisco assessor, Ting thinks outside the box of his position. He came up with the idea of the successful GlobalSFReb program, which has quadrupled the amount of solar power installed in San Francisco. He is a filmmaker of the San Francisco Solar Task Force, and sits on the governing board of the San Francisco Bay Restoration Authority. Ting supports raising revenue to keep state parks Open and to expand public transit. He also advocates for closing the corporate loophole in Proposition 13.

Vote for Kevin Mullin for Assembly District 22

By Ann Schneider, Early Endorsement Team Leader AD22

Kevin Mullin has a strong record of support for protecting environmen- tal issues while serving in Sacramento. Mullin represents the Peninsula of San Mateo County. He will be a strong ad- vocate on transit oriented development, transpor- tation issues and on climate change issues as demonstrated by his work on the Grand Bluff project and on Metropolitan Transportation Commission. He wants to work to make the state budget and budget process more transpar- ent and work with lawmakers from across the state to bring attention to the issues that Californians expect their leaders to accomplish. For more information on Kevin Mullin go to http://kevinmullin.com/site/

Support Rich Gordon for the new AD24

By Ruth Stoker Mazin, Early Endorsement Team Lead & PolCom Member

Rich Gordon has consistently fought to pro- tect environmental issues in the Assembly. He is a co-author of AB 587, a bill to allow volunteer work on pub- lic projects, compatible with the Club’s habitat protection efforts. He is in favor of continuing a program for tax credits for open and protected space that is held by non-profit land trusts. In an interesting inter- section of economy and environment, as part of what his program chairing the budget subcommittee that oversees resource agencies, recent budget restraint allowed Assembly member Gordon and to Collins to cut some state agency staffing so as to effectively eliminate highly destruc- tive suction dredge mining for gold in the streams in the Sierra foothills, providing much- needed relief to local fish populations. He also supported AB612, which was signed into law, increasing the borrowing authority of the Mid- peninsular Regional Open Space District with- out raising taxes.

For the full article see our June Primary En- dorsement Issue on the LP website.

ASSEMBLY RACES

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Elect Assm. Bob Wickowski to the new AD25

By Anne Schneider, Early Endorsement Leader for AD25

He was first elected to the Assembly in 2010 and in his first year in office achieved an 82% voting record.* He is the Chair of the Committee on Environmental Safety and Toxic Materials overseeing hazardous materials, drinking water and pesticides. He introduced the Made in California Jobs Initiative that in- cludes the Solar Energy Act and the Renewable Energy Act. He also introduced the Assembly Joint Resolution 22 to push the US Congress to overturn the U.S. Supreme Court Citizens United Decision. For more information visit http://bobwickowski.com/

Sierra Club Endorses Nora Campos in CA Assembly District 27

By John Groves, PolCom Tri-chair

The Sierra Club again endorses Assem- bly member Nora Cam- pos for CA Assembly District 27. Assembly district 27 includes the eastern portions of San
Shelly Masur

For the full article please go to our website.

http://friendsofmarkstone.org/endorsements

By Rita Dalavia, Ventana Chapter Political Committee Member

Mark Stone has been a strong advocate of climate-friendly built environments that will encourage biking/walking/using mass transit. We predict that, given his record, Harvey will continue to support aspects of both the trees and the forest in that he has been adept at integrating important community concerns

...
Rich joined Pacifica’s planning commis- sion in 2007, and immediately after his ap- pointment was instrumental in getting large commercial enterprises (Walgreens, McDon- ald’s) to re-site and re-orient their buildings to meet LEED standards. Subsequently, Rich participated in the Green Building Task Force and supported the Green Building Ordinance. Since then he has consistently advocated incorporating citywide rain-harvesting techniques to bolster emergency supplies in the event of drought.

Both Parravano and Campbell for council because he is the only candidate who fairly rejects the controversial 6-lane Calera Parkway, a road widening on Highway 1, long opposed by our chapter as well as most Paci- ficans, but approved by the city council. Rich believes that working with the school district in utilizing the Calera Parkway as a bike path would alleviate Highway 1’s chronic congestion during commute hours, saving more than $50 mil- lion, and the public untold aggravation during the four–five-year construction period.

Loma Prieta also endorses Rich because he is a strong believer in public transportation and a BART rider to San Francisco himself. As a council member, he will undertake measures to encourage SamTrans to reestablish a direct ex- press bus service to San Francisco. Rich has two children in Pacifica schools and cares deeply about the surroundings where he and his family reside. He is a member of the Harbor Council to ensure that it preserves the protections and caring planning and zoning require- ments give to its beaches and open spaces that make Pacifica so special.

Sea Level Rises for San Mateo County Harbor
District Race: Vote Brennan & Parravano
By Merrill Bobele, Co-Chair Coastal Issues Committee & Ruth Stanmore, PuCom Member

In the past it has been must. We will continue to acquire land but will also focus on restoring the land and providing appropriate public access and recreation. We must also maintain the land, we must keep ahead of invasive nonnative plants and animals as well as rehabilitate land that has been damaged by oil wells, mining, and many other disturbances, and ensure it is protected for an open space preserve. We must also provide public access but must balance use versus over-use.” And this is why the Sierra Club is working with many different agencies to meet LEED goals.

In the next term she hopes to help finalize the San Mateo County Climate Action Plan and work to address the pressing issue of stormwater pollution from paved surfaces which pollutes our creeks and our bay.

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Yes on San Mateo County Measure B
By Michael Ferreira, Chair, Loma Prieta Con- servation Committee

Consistent with prior positions taken by the Chapter we are recommending a Yes vote on San Mateo County’s Measure B changing the method of electing supervisors to district elections from the current countywide election method. In doing so we reaffirm of traditions that the current planning and zoning require- ments give to its beaches and open spaces that make Pacifica so special.

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In the past it has been much business as usual for San Mateo County Harbor District. A few years ago it was for Board of Supervisors. In County- wide voting for Commissions, as for Supervi- sors, the incumbents are usually re-elected, including appointees who then run as incumbents! But in the 2010 election the Loma Prieta Chapter endorsed two challenger can-

didates for the Harbor District Commissions and one of our endorsed candidates, Robert Ber- nstein, won. In 2012, we again endorse chal- lenger Sabrina Brennan, who has demonstrated her ability to bring forward innovative ideas and to serve the very best talent that we can elect. We recommend a vote for Brennan and Brennan for Harbor District Commissioners.

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Berman, Burt, Kniss, Schmid for Palo Alto City Council

By Mary C'ygg Call, Palo Alto Endorsement Team Leader

There are four open seats on the Palo Alto City Council, and the Loma Prieta chapter of the Sierra Club has endorsed four candidates to fill them: Marc Berman, Pat Burt, Liz Kniss, and Greg Schmid. Liz Kniss was on the council before 1989-93 on the Palo Alto School Board and was elected to the council in 2008. On the council he has been the Chair of the Finance and Housing Mandate Committees. He has advocated for park expansion, bike-pedestrian paths, and flood protection.

Re-elect Rose Herrera for San Jose Seat 8

By David Porschel, Endorsement Team Leader

The Loma Prieta Chapter of the Sierra Club endorsed incumbent San Jose City Councilmember Rose Herrera in the November 8 election for San Jose District 8. District 8 includes the neighborhoods of Evergreen and Silver Creek.

Herrera has been a long time San Jose City Club supporter and has a sophisticated grasp of the issues. She is a member of the club's Political Committee. She’s led the fight to fund the Capitola to Eastside Light Rail project and has a long record of protecting the environment – everything from encouraging water conservation to supporting the plastic bag ordinance.” Phase 1 of the rail project is under construction and will result in much-needed bike and pedestrian lanes.

Community member Herrera looks forward to working with the Sierra Club to get the message out that protecting open space and the environment free home and business audits and double piping for new construction. For more information or to volunteer for Mohammed’s campaign, please go to MohammedNaheem.com. Teresa O’Neill is running for Seat 7. Teresa has been very active supporting the environment. She is one of the founding members of Santa Clara’s Green Action Team. She should be elected to have someone in the city council who cares about the environment.

Elect Robert Braunstein for San Jose Seat 10

By David Porschel, PolCom Member

The Loma Prieta Chapter of the Sierra Club endorsed Robert Braunstein in the November 6 election for San Jose City Council, District 10. District 10 includes Almaden Valley and much of the Blossom Hill neighborhood in southwest San Jose. Mr. Braunstein is well known as the likeable and engaging host of Cal-Hi Sports, which he produces with his own business, Annabelle Productions. The candidate has valuable business experience and has shown leadership in the community working with youth through his business and charity work.

In this last run for public office, he has shown remarkable speed learning the technical details of the environmental challenges facing the city council. Mr. Braunstein wants to work with the Sierra Club and other environmental leaders to solve the problems facing the city in the most environmentally responsible ways,” said Jason Spitzer of the club’s endorsement team.

The Sierra club is proud to endorse Mohammed Naheem in the Seat 3 race and Teresa O’Neill in Seat 7 race for Santa Clara city council members. Not all of them have been elected before, but both have a strong presence in the community.

Dr. Mohammed Naheem is running for Seat 3. Dr. Naheem is a strong advocate for extending recycle water pipeline throughout Santa Clara. He also supports increasing conservation efforts including grants for wastewater plants, reimbursement for homescale and business audits and double piping for new construction. For more information or to volunteer for Mohammed’s campaign, please go to MohammedNaheem.com. Teresa O’Neill is running for Seat 7. Teresa has been very active supporting the environment. She is one of the founding members of Santa Clara’s Green Action Team. She should be elected to have someone in the city council who cares about the environment.

Elect Garnetta Annable for Santa Clara City Council

By John Corder, Co-Chair Political Committee

The Santa Clara City Council is faced with many successes the city has achieved. She and the other Board members have worked with other agencies and non-profit foundations such as Pachet Foundation, Moore Foundation, The Nature Conservancy, Peninsula Open Space Land Trust, and the Bay Area Ridge Trail Council, to preserve over 15,000 acres of watershed, scenic view sheds, natural wildlife lands, and, working ranches and agricultural lands. Garnetta would be honored to continue serving you.

Vote for David Ginsborg and Nai Hseuh for Santa Clara Valley Water District (SCVWD)

By Diane Glasson, SCVWD Endorsement Team Leader

David Ginsborg is running for District 2 of the Santa Clara Valley Water District Board of Directors. For the past ten years he has served on the SCVWD’s Clean Water’s Board of Directors. For the past ten years he has served on the Board of Directors to work with other key groups to agree upon specific quantifiable and practical indicators to measure project outcomes.

David has also advocated for helpful and passed legislation that exempts properties that preserve habitat and provide open space. He campaigned for Brian Schmidt and Linda L’Zotte when they ran for office, now current Board of Directors and Sierra Club Endorsees. David recognizes that the SCVWD has many fragmented policies, and his goal will be to harmonize those and make sure the policies are in line with priorities. His priorities for the Board include a more integrated approach to managing our water supply, flood control and environmental restoration projects, and they are in harmony with and complement each other. For more information or to volunteer for David’s campaign, please go to www.voterightnow.com.
Loma Prieta Chapter Volunteers Go To Capitol to Lobby for the Environment

By Irvin Dawid, Members of Sustainable Land Use & Transportation Committees & Ann Schneider

Loma Prieta chapter first time volunteers Lauren McClure, Anna Jacobs and Janet Ghirlarducci joined returning LP activists, John Cordes, Ann Schneider, Rob Means and me, and over fifty other Sierra Club volunteers from throughout California to participate in another successful Sierra Club California Lobby Day on August 20.

We lobbied for seven bills and against any last minute CEQA bills. Conservation issues we lobbied for were three on solar energy, one on parks, one on hunting and bears and two on the use of dogs to “hound” and tree bears and bobcats for hunters.

Local Zero Waste Chair, Ann Schneider and her team, also met with key legislators to kill a bad “got and amended” bill, Fina Máx AB845 which would allow large commercial trash transporters of garbage over the vote of the local people to start waste from coming into their county. AB845 was defeated by the Governor on September 26.

This bad bill was assisted with affirmative votes by several of our local legislators: Senator Joe Simitian and Assembly people Nora Campos, Laila Alti and of course Fiona Ma. Sadly this bill will lead to a loss of over a million dollars per year for San Jose alone. That money helps pay for recycling programs in San Jose.

Bills we lobbied for that have been signed into law:


2. SB1221 (Lieu) is now a law that outlaws the use of dogs to “hound” and tree bears and bobcats for hunters.

3. San Rafael Assemblyman Jared Huffman’s bill for solar energy permits, authored by SB 1801 authored by Nora Campos.

4. AB 1801 authored by Nora Campos. This bill was based on the request of Loma Prieta chapter activists Kurt Nwikk & the California Clark & Energy Committee’s study of permit fees on solar installations throughout the state including the SF Bay cities.

The Committee found that these fees varied so widely that it was clear that cities were charging more than necessary to cover their costs, and thus some cities were creating unnecessary obstacles for their residents to install solar panels. The legislative analysis for SB 1222 states, “This bill provides that a city, county, city and county, or charter city shall not charge a residential permit fee that exceeds the estimated reasonable cost of providing the service for which the fee is charged.” Congratulations to Kurt and the Clark and Energy Committee.

5. AB 1801 authored by Nora Campos, this bill did not pass the Senate. The Assembly was one of two legislators honored during our Sierra Club Lobby Day by the Byron Sher Award for outstanding environmental legislation and dedication, the highest award given by Sierra Club California. Jerrod Huffman received the other Byron Sher Award.

6. SB 483 (Lois Wolk – Davis) – Commu-
nity Solar was also killed by the big utilities as it would have made solar more affordable for rooftop solar by among other actions allow the California Independent Monitoring Committee overseeing CSC 2000, a parcel tax that will otherwise expire in 2016. The parcel tax is expected to raise approximately $548 between now and 2016. The measure was therefore endorsed by the Sierra Club and the Environmental Protection Agency.

7. While Assemblyman Fong’s bill did not pass the Assembly, the Assembly was one of two legislators honored during our Sierra Club Lobby Day by the Byron Sher Award for outstanding environmental legislation and dedication, the highest award given by Sierra Club California. Jerrod Huffman received the other Byron Sher Award.

The SCW program also allocates $80.2M for “Planning, Financing, and Undesignated Contingency,” and $123.5M to complete projects from CSC 2000.

Reasons to Vote YES

Measure B has a number of strengths:

1. The measure includes over $154 million to restore wildlife habitat and to reduce toxins and contaminants. One quarter of the program funds are allocated to habitat and open space, compared to less than 2% in CSC 2000.

2. If this measure fails, funding for many environmental programs could be lost. Two other opportunities to renew the tax will come in November 2014 and June 2016, but lower turnout in these elections is predicted to lower the chances of passing a tax measure.

3. The measure includes “Key Performance Indicators” (KPIs) to identify beneficial proj-

ets. These KPIs promise to fund 52 illegal encampment clean-ups, develop five Stream Corridor Priority Plans, and revitalize at least 21 acres by creating or enhancing wetland and riparian habitat and restoring native invasive species, and planting native species.

Reasons to Vote NO

Measure B has its problems:

1. If the measure fails, the Santa Clara Water District may learn from this and, with more citizen input and more rigorous environmental goals and commitments, develop a better measure for next time.

2. Despite recommendations from the independent monitoring committee overseeing CSC 2000, the district took most of $16 million out of reserves from CSC 2000 habitat, fisheries and wildlife projects and moved it to the contingenc-