Get Out and Vote

By Ann Schneider, Co-Chair Political Committee, Editor of this issue of the Loma Prieta Chapter

If you are like me, you are having a hard time caring about the election this fall. You may have already turned off the TV because even with a DVR you can still see all those election commercials, and the election is still months away. The news about the economy is bad, the environment has been hit by oil spills and Congress is unwilling to set a national green energy future, sadly unable to see the potential for running the United States into a powerhouse of green technology. Tea Party Candidates and the news tell us they have all the energy and enthusiasm while Obama’s voters are sitting at home.

Well, the anti-environmental coalitions are counting on our apathy and yours. They want us to stay at home and sit this election out.

You are part of a critical voting block. And while every election is important, it is especially important to get out and vote when you just don’t feel like it. We need you to vote for strong progressive candidates in the statewide races and we need you to support local green candidates. So when you get your vote-by-mail ballot please vote (more than 50% of voters on the Peninsula vote by mail and vote early!). Then call, email, tweet and nag your family and friends to vote. And, if you wait till Election Day, that’s OK as long as you get out and vote.

Top Priority Races

All races are important but there are several races that are absolutely critical for our health and the health of our natural and urban environments. Below are the Priority Races for the Sierra Club.

Jerry Brown for Governor, Barbara Boxer for U.S. Senate, Jerry McNerney for Congressional District 11, April Vargas for San Mateo Board of Supervisors, and NO on Proposition 23 - Stop Dirty Oil, make California the capital of clean green energy.

Please support the environment by voting yes for the candidates and a resounding NO for Prop 23 and, if you have time, volunteer with the Club to work on these races. Information on how you can give time, money, and corporations working to oppose Sierra Club positions on these issues are counting on progressive voter apathy, so grab your friends and family and VOTE!

Jerry Brown is the Environmental Choice for Governor

By Bill Magee, Director, Sierra Club California

The choices that Californians make in this November’s election will have critical impacts on our ability to develop a clean energy economy, live free of toxic harms, and preserve our precious parks. No vote will be more important to our future than the choice of our next Governor, and the clear choice for anyone who cares about our environment is Jerry Brown.

When one compares Brown to Meg Whitman on their records, commitment, and platforms, the Attorney General wins hands down in each category. While Whitman could rarely even be bothered to cast a vote until she decided she’d like to buy a term as Governor, Brown has a distinguished record of advancing clean technology, safeguarding our coastline, mountains, and deserts, and cracking down on pollution.

See Jerry Brown Page 2

Re-elect Sen. Barbara Boxer

By Virginia Brandon, Sierra Club California Political Committee member

Sen. Barbara Boxer is a true environmental hero who has been a staunch supporter of Sierra Club concerns throughout her 28 years in Congress.

As chair of the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee, Sen. Boxer is now setting the environmental agenda in Washington. She wrote the 2007 law requiring federal buildings to use technologies that reduce energy use and global-warming pollution, and is committed to the passage of long-overdue legislation to make the United States the world’s leader in carbon reduction. She consistently advocates for the creation of clean energy jobs.

For three decades—ever since her days as a Marin County supervisor—she has led the battle to protect the California coast from offshore oil drilling and to clean up toxic wastes, and as a senator she has been in the vanguard of preserving the pristine Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. Her sponsorship of the California Wild Heritage Wilderness Act has led to the designation of more than a million acres of federal land as wilderness.

Sen. Boxer has accomplished a great deal, and it is absolutely vital to keep her in the Senate fighting for the environment, combating climate change, preserving our natural wonders, and keeping pollution from ravaging our land, our water, and the health of our communities. In November’s election will have critical impacts on our ability to develop a clean energy economy, live free of toxic harms, and preserve our precious parks. No vote will be more important to our future than the choice of our next Governor, and the clear choice for anyone who cares about our environment is Jerry Brown.

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See Barbara Boxer Page 2

General Election Endorsement Issue 2010

The Newsletter of the Sierra Club Loma Prieta Chapter

San Benito, Santa Clara and San Mateo Counties

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Congressman Jerry McNerney, a clear choice for environmentalists

By Megan Norris, Organizer Green Car Campaign, Sierra Club California

One of the most impressive champions of the environment in Congress, Jerry McNerney, is now the number one target of Republicans in House races in California. His district, CD11, includes the southern part of our chapter, including Morgan Hill.

Many Sierra Club members will remember Jerry’s battle in 2006 against anti-environmentalist incumbent Richard Pombo. Jerry’s current opponent is cut from the same cloth: he supports abolishing the Department of Energy and has attacked Jerry for voting for the American Clean Energy and Security Act. The choice here for environmentalists could not be clearer.

An alternative energy expert, Jerry’s focus in his two terms in the House has been on clean and renewable energy. He is on the House Energy and Commerce Committee and has voted with the Sierra Club on all major environmental bills that we have supported.

Jerry McNerney

Bills that Jerry has sponsored include:

- HR 1730, the Vehicles for the Future Act;
- HR 3004 to expand geothermal research and development;
- HR 1774 to promote a “smart grid” and get utilities to reduce electricity usage during peak hours;
- HR 1775 to allocate $100 million in grants for job training in renewable energy;

Jerry supports investing in energy efficiency for buildings and appliances, and stands against drilling for oil off our coast.

Jerry has served on the House Transportation Committee and has worked hard to improve public transportation in the district.

He supports our parks and open spaces and cosponsored the Fair Elections Act, HR 1826 (backed by the Sierra Club).

Jerry will need your help in what will be a very tough fight. For more information or to contribute to or get involved in the campaign go to www.jerrymcnerney.org or call 925 833-0643.

Crush Proposition 23 – Stop dirty energy

By Megan Norris, Organizer Green Car Campaign, Sierra Club California

An item on this November’s ballot could be hazardous to our health. Proposition 23 would reverse California’s landmark 2006 clean energy and climate change solutions legislation, AB 32.

With Washington’s continued lack of action, California’s AB 32 is the country’s best model for addressing climate change and moving to a clean energy economy. Three of the nation’s most polluting oil companies are pouring in millions of dollars to kill AB32 and preserve their dirty energy profits at our expense.

Prop 23 threatens California in four key ways.

- It does not take into account the world’s growing demand for energy.
- It does not take into account that the first 15 years of AB32’s implementation will result in only 12% of the carbon emissions reductions that AB32 requires.
- It does not take into account that 20% of California’s energy is generated by the nuclear industry.
- It does not take into account that 70% of the energy that California uses is from non-renewable sources.

We need to do more than vote “no” on Proposition 23. We need to build local coalitions to oppose this ballot initiative.

What You Can Do to Defeat Prop 23

1. Sign up for campaign updates at www.stopdirtyenergyprop23.com

2. For more information, visit the following sites:
   - www.sierracalifornia.org
   - www.lomaprieta.sierraclub.org

3. Make sure you vote (Election Day is Nov 2, 2010); check your registration status or request an absentee ballot.

4. Sign up to host a phone banking event or attend a phone banking event. Contact your chapter for more information.

To act locally, consider hosting a house party. The campaign will provide full instructions, all you need is a location and a group of convivial friends. For more information, contact Victoria Brandon at: vbrandon@lakelive.info or Gayle Eads at: gayle.e.eads@gmail.com

Please be sure to vote for Barbara Boxer on Nov. 2, our state, our nation, and our planet depend on her.
 statewide races

Gavin Newsom for Lieutenant Governor
By Jim Metropolus, Senior Advocate, Sierra Club California

Sierra Club California has endorsed Gavin Newsom for Lieutenant Governor. As Attorney General, Newsom serves on several State Commissions that are important environmental decisions, including the State Senate, State Water Resources Commission, the Ocean Protection Council, and the Regents of the University of California and California State University systems.

Newsom has served as Mayor of San Francisco since 2006 and was a member of the San Francisco Board of Supervisors from 1997 to 2006. During this time, he has advanced numerous laws and policies to protect the environment that serve as templates in the city. He authored the strongest municipal green building standard in the nation for new construction and renovations of city buildings. Under his tenure, San Francisco became the first city to prohibit the usage of disposable plastic bags in large stores, the first to place a municipal usage of plastic water bottles and the first to require mandatory recycling and composting in all of the city’s buildings. As Mayor of Newsom, the city has achieved a 76% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2050, with a goal of reducing emissions by 20% by 2012.

Newsom is running against the current Lieutenant Governor, Abel Maldonado, who is from Santa Maria. Maldonado, formerly a State Senator, is in his current post this year by Governor Schwarzenegger. Over his last four years in the Legislature, between 2002 and 2006, Maldonado voted for only 11 of 41 top priority green bills.

If elected Lieutenant Governor, Newsom will advocate for the preservation of California’s coast and ocean. He opposes the expansion of offshore oil drilling. He has a good understanding of both the public trust doctrine and the California Constitution’s protection of the ‘Public General Welfare’ which provides the public’s right to a healthy and safe environment.

Kamala Harris for Attorney General
By Bill Magness, Directory Sierra Club California

Attorney General is the second most important statewide office in its impact on our environmental protection, exceeded only by the Governor. California has been fortunate over the last 12 years to have had two very effective AGs in Bill Lockyer and Jerry Brown. Both of them have been far better than any of their state predecessors.

Kamala Harris is by far the best choice to continue in that tradition of the AG’s offices to protect our air, water and natural resources.

As the San Francisco District Attorney, Harris created an Environmental Justice Unit to hold polluters accountable and protect the health of the community. The Environmental Justice Unit has prosecuted cases ranging from illegal dumping of hazardous waste to fraud in testing operations. As an elected board member of the California District Attorneys Association (CADA), Harris actively supported CADA’s Environmental Criminal Prosecution Project, and plans to build on that model with environmental attorneys from the A.G.’s office traveling around the state to lend expertise to local prosecutors handling environmental cases, assisting in trials and training D.A.s in the process.

Harris is campaigning on a platform that includes a pledge to vigorously enforce pollution statutes like AB 32, the Global Warming Solutions Act, the California Environmental Quality Act, and Proposition 65, the Safe Drinking Water and Toxic Enforcement Act. She also promises more vigorous use of California’s criminal laws in the fight against environmental law violators and providing fair and equitable environmental protection for all California citizens.

Harris’ main opponent, Steve Cooley, declined invitations to participate in our endorsement process and has been largely silent on environmental issues.

In a meeting with our interview team of environmental lawyers, District Attorney Harris expressed her desire for the public’s help in understanding both the public trust doctrine and the California Constitution’s protection of the ‘Public General Welfare’ which provides the public’s right to a healthy and safe environment.

As the San Francisco District Attorney, Harris successfully defended California’s landmark law to curb global warming emissions from cars and trucks, against a court challenge by automakers.

Harris is a dedicated advocate for programs that help provide clean energy solutions to low-income families, working to fight global warming and stimulate economic growth.

Sierra Club California enthusiastically endorses Kamala Harris for Attorney General.

For more information go to www.kamalaharris.org.

Dave Jones for Insurance Commissioner
By Jim Metropolus, Senior Advocate, Sierra Club California

Sierra Club California has endorsed Dave Jones for Insurance Commissioner. As the San Francisco District Attorney, Harris is working its way to the US Supreme Court.

Jones was appointed to the Assembly and as a matter of equity and fiscal prudence, resulting in a public nuisance lawsuit that was not consistent with California’s goals toward the use of general obligation bonds to fund vital public projects.

Also, in his campaign, Jones is a strong advocate for incorporating environmental risks and costs into insurance markets so insurability can be used as a vehicle to help change behavior toward more environmentally sound practices.

As an Assembly member, Jones authored a wide variety of environmental bills. This year, he authored AB 1011, which would expand insurance company investments to include “green investments” in the state’s existing tax credit program for private-sector investments in low-income communities. This would encourage investors to invest in projects that enhance clean energy and increase green technology. Jones authored legislation to include “green investments” in the state’s existing tax credit program for private-sector investments in low-income communities. This would encourage investors to invest in projects that enhance clean energy and increase green technology.

Jones has been a leader in the fight against offshore oil drilling. His campaign has consistently supported efforts to limit new drilling and to increase public access to our coast, air and water quality, and reducing radioactive waste. As Chair of the Senate Natur- al Resources Committee, Jones fought to protect the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) because he believes in the public environmental review process.

Jones fought for open government and better public access as well as a top priority public review of all voting devices -- and those that were not secure but were safe.

Bill Lockyer for State Treasurer
By Jim Metropolus, Senior Advocate, Sierra Club California

Sierra Club California has endorsed Bill Lockyer for a second term as State Treasurer. As State Treasurer, Lockyer is working to fight global warming and stimulating the California economy.

As a member of the State Lands Commission, Lockyer supported imposing new charges on oil companies to help the state's budget and reinvested the California Alternative Energy and Advanced Transportation Financing Authority within the Treasurer’s Office that provides financing for alternative energy. He sponsored the state’s landmark law to curb global warming emissions from cars and trucks, the first purchase by a U.S. investor. During last year’s debate over the $11.1 billion water bond, he argued against the use of general obligation bonds to fund water projects, instead, he recommended the use of general obligation bonds.

His campaign highlights his strong support for comprehensive measures to address the negative impacts of climate change and global warming.

Lockyer is running against Senate Minority Leader Mike Villines from Clovis. Over the last four years, Villines voted against many ground-breaking environmental laws, including the 1987 bill to create a Bay Trail, an eventual 500-mile hiking and cycling path that would entirely encircle San Francisco and San Pablo Bays, the Bay Trail. It will extend for a total of 293 miles so far open to hikers, bicyclists, joggers and walkers, some of whom even use it to commute to work or school.

Lockyer is running against Senate Minority Leader Mike Villines from Clovis and Senator Mark DeSaulnier from Contra Costa. Also, Villines voted for zero top priority green bills out of 25. Based on his long record of working to protect California’s environment, Lockyer deserves another four years as Treasurer.

John Chiang for State Controller
By Jim Metropolus, Senior Advocate, Sierra Club California

Sierra Club California has endorsed John Chiang for a second term as State Controller. Chiang’s campaign highlights his strong support for comprehensive measures to address the negative impacts of climate change and global warming.

As a member of the State Lands Commission, Chiang cast the deciding vote against what would have been the first offshore oil drilling lease in 40 years, on Tranquillon Ridge, based on the inability of the commission to enforce the lease’s provisions and his concern that a terminal would be set for increased federal oil leasing offshore California. He voted to deny Bill Lockyer’s request for a Natural Gas terminal off of the coast of Oxnard because the emissions from the tankers and the terminal would have impacted Ventura and Los Angeles County residents and because it was not consistent with California’s goals toward renewable energy sources.

Also, Chiang has worked to phase out the use of eco- logically destructive once-through cooling at coastal power plants while preserving needed capacity for electrical generation.

At both CalPERS and CalSTARS, two of the nation’s largest public pension funds, Chiang has championed the use of environmental risks as a means to strengthen the funds’ investments. He has advocated for increased diversification in CalPERS and CalSTARS of environmental risks associated with climate change and environmental regulations.

Chiang’s main challenger is Senator Tony Strickland from Simi Valley. In 2009, Strick- land voted for only two of our 15 top priority green bills, and by environmental voting record during his six years as an Assembly member was even worse.

John Chiang has shown himself to be an out- standing and environmentally oriented public official who deserves the endorsement and another term as Controller.

Superintendent of Schools

Sierra Club California (SCC) is conducting inter- views for California’s Superintendent of Schools. The endorsement will be posted on both SCC website and on the Loma Prieta Website.

Open House Saturday, October 16, 3pm-7pm
In the spirit of Oktoberfest, join us for pretzels, cheese, brats, and beer at annual Fall Open House and a raffle. With Sierra Club members and Chapter leaders. Come raise a glass with us and give us your comments and activities that you can be a part of.

Petaluma Community Center
9921 East Bayshore Road, Palo Alto
RSVP at lomaprieta.sierracclub.org or 650 390 8411
Help Preserve our State Parks System – Yes on Prop 21

By Jerry Meehl, National Wildlife Federation Boardmember

From the vast stretches of sandy beaches along California’s magnificent coastline to the towering redwoods and much needed recreational areas in our state’s thriving urban centers, California’s 278 state parks are priceless public assets. For our children and grandchildren.

But the state’s parks are in peril. Chronic underfunding is straining state parks, causing them to fall severely behind in needed maintenance and repairs. Twice in the past two years, state parks were on the brink of being shut down. Only last minute budget reptives kept them open. Last year, nearly 150 state parks were shut down part way or suffered deep service reductions because of budget cuts, and more park closures and budget cuts are expected this year. California’s parks are becoming less available to the public and are at serious risk of irreversible damage.

That is why Prop 21 will create the State Parks and Wildlife Conservation Trust Fund. The fund will provide a stable, reliable and adequate funding source for the state parks system, for wildlife conservation and for increased and equitable access to those resources for all Californians.

Prop 21 will give California vehicles free daily use admission to the state parks in exchange for a new $18 vehicle license fee, which will be specifically dedicated to state parks and wildlife conservation. This is a simple, fair and much needed source of funding for the California’s state parks, including monorails and recreational vehicles, and will be collected by the Department of Motor Vehicles as part of the annual vehicle license fee. It will not apply to larger commercial vehicles (those subject to the Commercial Vehicle Registration Act), mobile homes or permanent trailers.

In addition to the Sierra Club, supporters of Prop 21 include The Nature Conservancy, California Teachers Association, California Nurses Association, Public Health Institute, California Travel Industry Association, California Labor Federations, California Alliance for Retired Americans, ASCME California PEOPLE, Audubon California, California State Lifeguard Association, California Lodging Industry Association, Latino Health Access, California State Conference of the NAACP, and the California State Parks Foundation.

Proposition 23 Stop Dirty Energy
How You Can Get Involved to Defeat This Proposition
Announcing the Chapters’ No on 23 website: http://lomaprieta.sierraclub.org/stoppedenergy/prop23

If you’d like to volunteer for the No on 23 campaign, call Margaret Okuzumi at 650 697-6249 or email her at okuzumi@mast.com or Rafael Reyes at Rafael.reyes@sierraclub.org.

We’re working closely with CREDO to Stop 23 – visit campaign website http://stopstupidenergy.org.

Vote YES on Prop 25 to Ease Budget Gridlock and Curb Anti-Environmental Schemes
By Bill Magarey, Director, Sierra Club California

Sierra Club supports Proposition 25, which would allow state budgets to be passed by a simple majority of the House of the Legislature. Every year, budget gridlock and political games hurt schools, threaten vital services and cost taxpayers millions. Prop 25 reforms this broken system, thereby making all legislators accountable when they fail to pass the budget on time.

Prop 25 would move us closer to fiscally sanity and remove one avenue for anti-environmental legislative schemes. Prop 25 holds legislators accountable for failing to pass budgets. If the legislators fail to pass a budget on time, they don’t get paid, and they can’t pay themselves back later. Prop 25 also maintains the 2/3rd vote requirement for any tax increases.

The anti-democratic two-thirds requirement for passing budgets has created opportunities for anti-environmental mischief. Several of the most egregious examples came in 2007, when 14 Senate Republicans held the budget hostage to their demands to keep local air districts from enacting the California Environmental Quality Act’s application to global warming.

In addition, the budget gridlock that is in part caused by the two-thirds requirement has damaged our air districts. The employment of a minority of legislators has resulted in slashing funding for public transit, raiding recycling and clean-air funds, and starving important agencies like the Coastal Commission. Vote Yes on Prop 25.

It’s Back, the Polluter Protection Act, AKA Prop 26
By Bill Magarey, Director, Sierra Club California

Some bad ideas refuse to die. Ten years ago, California’s voters killed off the Polluter Protection Act, Prop 37. Big Oil and Big Tobacco have spent the decade since then looking for an opportunity to bring this Big Ugly Initiative back, and they’ve decided that this is the year to raid your wallet.

The core question raised by Prop 26 is: who pays? Who pays to clean up air pollution, spills and toxic waste? Who pays for the health consequences of tobacco and alcohol addiction and disease? Who pays when PCBs in Exxon, Phillips Morris and the other special interests behind Prop 26 want you, the taxpayers, to pay. They want you to get off the hook for mitigating the damage they do.

Prop 26 would reclassify many fees as taxes, so that they would require a two-thirds majority of both houses of the Legislature, or, at the local level, a two-thirds vote by the electorate. The oil, tobacco and liquor industries want to make it virtually impossible to require polluters and other creators of nuisances to pay to clean up their own messes. Their measure would overburden the responsible, who are paying the price. The Sierra Club’s campaign website, www.lomaprieta.sierraclub.org/politics/endorsements. Please don’t mess with our darn near perfect Representatives for Congress. Mark the box below on your ballot and you’ll get the 21 votes needed to pass, due to opposition from the loggers and chemical industries.

They were also among only seven (of 40) senate- tators who stood with the Sierra Club to vote against allowing $1.1 billion for new dams, water diversions and pork barrel projects. In both, votes, the senators were under great pres- sure to vote against the environment.

Leland Yee’s Senate District # 8 represents southwest San Francisco and northern San Mateo County. With 50 miles of coastline in his district, he responds to those asking him to protect this natural treasure. He helped pass anti-dumping legislation that bans large ships from releasing polluting materials into state waters, and to require all oil produced from offshore facilities to be brought ashore by pipeline instead of much more dangerous barges. Yee also supported the San Francisco charter amendment to require voter approval of large bay fill projects such as the airport expansion.

Ellen Corbett, who’s 800,000 -constituency district includes southern Alameda County and Milpitas, Newark and part of San Jose, Chairs the Senate Judiciary Committee and is a mem- ber of the Environmental Caucus. Among her bills, one proposal would require all new power plant water intakes that suck many fish, shellfish, their eggs and larvae into the plant’s cooling system. Others ban the use of toxic pesticides, or chemicals used to clean the cooling system. Again, Corbett took on powerful special inter- ests – in this case water districts, local govern- ment and utilities like PG&E in authorizing the legislation.

The Sierra Club has rated both senators 100% on their votes. If only the Legislature had more environmental champions like Yee and Corbett!
California Assembly

Vote for your incumbent CA Assembly Representative

By John Cordes, Co-Chair, Political Committee, Loma Prieta Chapter

As we reported in the June Primary endorsement issue, our Chapter is grateful to be represented by a strong set of environmentally proactive legislators. Our incumbents Jerry Hill (AD19), Paul Fong (AD22), Jim Beall (AD24) and Bill Monning (AD27) scored 80% or higher on Sierra Club California’s 2009 Legislative Scorecard [http://www.sierraclubcalifornia.org/ and pull up “Environmental Report Card.”]

They are endorsed by CA League of Conservation Voters as well as score high on their Annual Scorecard. In addition to supporting these incumbents, we endorsed Bob Wieckowski (AD8) and Rich Gordon (AD21) – see below. We don’t want short change our terrific Legislatures but to save trees, we have put more specific information about local environmental support by our Representatives on our Chapter website. To find more information and to find links to their websites go to http://lomaprieta.sierraclub.org/politics/endorsements.

Rich Gordon for Assembly District 21

By John Cordes, Team Leader AD21

The Sierra club is proud to endorse Rich Gordon for Assembly District 21. Rich has served on the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors since 1997 so he has a lot of experience on both sides of the fence. Rich led the effort to stop development at Mirada Surf. Forty-nine acres that would have been a residential subdivision was purchased as the first new county park in decades. Rich served as chair the Environmental Quality Sub-Committee of the Board of Supervisors. It initiated “Solar San Mateo,” which encourages the installation of residential solar and secured funding to install solar panels to power the county government center. Rich has also fought to protect the bay as a member of the Bay Conservation and Development Commission, the San Francisco Creek Joint Powers Authority, and the San Francisco Bay Estuary Project Advisory Committee. Please vote for Rich Gordon in Assembly District 21.

Sierra Club Endorses Bob Wieckowski in CA Assembly District 20

The Sierra Club proudly endorses Robert (Bob) Wieckowski for CA Assembly District 20, which our chapter shares with the Bay Chapter. Assembly District 20 includes southern parts of Alameda County and Milpitas. In announcing its endorsement Sierra Club is impressed by Bob commitment to the environment. Bob, currently vice-mayor of Fremont, introduced legislation to ban polystyrene packaging in Fremont. Before that Bob also served on the Fremont Planning commission and recreation commission. Bob currently is the president of the Urban Village Farmers Market.

Bob represents the region on the San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Management Agency where he has experience dealing with the challenges of improving public transportation and bay conservation.

In addition to our endorsement, Bob proudly carries the support of California League of Conservation Voters, Bay Area Leaders State Senate and Assembly Members Paul Fong, Nancy Skinner and Joan Buchanan. For more information, please visit his website http://bobwieckowski.com.

LOCAL RACES

San Mateo County

April Vargas for San Mateo County Board of Supervisors in Runoff Election for Seat 3

By Ann Schneider, SM/C/Club Team Leader

All San Mateo County voters have a chance to elect a long time environmental activist April Vargas to the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors. April is running against incumbent Doran Farnsworth for the Board seat that covers the coast and mid San Mateo County. Electing April, an almost 40 year coast side resident, will bring a coastal perspective and balance to the Board, as well as a new fresh voice to County politics.

April has worked tirelessly on coastal preservation issues including being a cure leader in getting the FWPT’s fight to save Paloma’s Slide nixed and approved rather than building a road through coastside parks. She has represented farming interests when serving on County Agricultural Committee, represented our region as an alternative to the Calif. Coastal Commission and worked on open space issues with the Committee for Green Footsteps. April has a deep grasp of what San Mateo County needs to do to combat climate change and a willingness to do the work to make significant reductions in greenhouse gas generation. Her position on the Carville housing situation in Redwood City (no housing in wetlands) makes her a close ally of the Club.

San Mateo County voters rarely get a chance to elect a candidate for an open seat. This decision is a chance to bring in an outsider. The Club endorses Mayor Richard Cline, Councilman Heyward Robinson and Planning Commissioner Kirsten Keith for election to the Menlo Park City Council.

These three candidates are viewed by the Club as being the most sympathetic to the Club’s environmental goals for Menlo Park and for other peninsula cities.

In addition to the interview process, the Club believes that incumbent Mayor Richard Cline and Councilman Heyward Robinson have shown environmental leadership on several challenging issues during their current terms on the City Council. The Club believes that Planning Commissioner Kirsten Keith has demonstrated that she can bring her legal talents to bear on environmental issues and to achieve better environmental outcomes.

In trying times – and these are trying times – it is all too tempting for local governments to put environmental issues to the side or even to backslide. There is, however, a long term cost to such decisions and the Sierra Club believes that Mayor Cline, Councilman Robinson and Commissioner Keith are made of sterner stuff and will keep Menlo Park’s future needs on an equal footing with current Menlo Park City Council deliberations.

For more information about our candidate go to: Heyward Robinson: www.voteforheyward.org/home; Kirsten Keith: at sites.google.com/site/kirstenforcitycouncil/; and Rich Cline: http://clineforcouncil.com

For Pacifica Council, Club Endorses Digne, Leon, Clifford and Vreeland

By Bill Callins, Pacifica Town Lead & Chair, Water Committee

Support a green Menlo Park – Vote Robinson, Cline and Keith for Council

By Michael Ferreris, Menlo Park Town Leader

After conducting an extensive questionnaire/interview process the Sierra Club has endorsed Mayor Richard Cline, Councilman Heyward Robinson and Planning Commissioner Kirsten Keith for election to the Menlo Park City Council.

Each of those we recommend have an established, commendable track record, either as experienced members of the City Council or members of the Planning Commission,” Col- linger added. “Several of the freshest candidates have a promising future and considerable energy and dedication. We encourage them to work with the City Council and continue dialogue with the Club,” he concluded.

Loma Prieta endorses Robert Bernardo and Sabrina Brennan for San Mateo County Harbor District

By Merrill Bobek, Co-Chair, Coastal Issues Committee

The Loma Prieta Chapter endorses Robert Bernardo and Sabrina Brennan for San Mateo County Harbor District where there are four candidates for two seats on the Harbor District Commission. The Harbor District is responsible for operating the Oyster Point and Pillar Point Harbors. The Oyster Point and Pillar Point Harbor resources are not only valuable economic resources but offer water transportation opportunities for the communities and agencies along the bay as well as our Coastal Trail and other trails. Our endorsed candidates have strong connections with the environment. Robert Bernardo makes decisions in his personal life, such as the food he eats to reduce the amount of paper he uses based on his belief in protecting our environment. In addition Robert would bring his experience as Manager of Media and Public Relations of the Port of Oakland to the member of the South San Francisco Container Commission although he would have to resign the latter position if elected. For more information go to www.robertbernardo2010.com

Sabrina Brennan has taken an active role in environmental issues locally on the San Mateo Peninsula as well as a former appointed member by the County Board of Supervisors to the Midcoast Container Commission, on the State level by both public comments before the Calif- ornia Coastal Commission, and nationally at a Gulf Oil Spill hearing on July 13, 2010. Sabrina would like to share her unique approach to dealing with issues such as pollution and sea level rise as it relates to the District’s harbors. Check out Sabrina Brennan’s website at www.sabinabrennan.com

Hey, PolCom My Town is Missing

By Ann Schneider, Tri-Chair PolCom

We had a unique experience this year, in some communities where we have historically intervened considerably. We have retained and returned questionnaires (our endorsement starting point). We hope that this was an anomaly and not a trend for Saratoga and Los Gatos. If you are a resident of either of these towns you may want to contact your elected officials and your candidates and let them know that you care about environmental issues and want them to keep Saratoga and Los Gatos going green.

Sadly for a couple of other communities, we would have liked to conduct endorsement actions but we fell short of volunteers. So sorry Dave and Colma, Palo Alto, Atherton, Hillsborough and Monte Sereno in Santa Clara County. If you live in one of these towns and are heartbroken that we were not able to evaluate the environmental positions and records of your candidates, then join PolCom, volunteer for a race next year and then be team leader for your town in two years.
Sierra Club endorses Low, Brennan, and Waterman for Campbell City Council

By John, Condé, Campbell Team Leader

The Sierra Club endorses Brian Low, current Los Altos Hills Green Certified and Commercial Green certified along with encouraging solar through incentives and cheaper permits. For more info: Barron4gilroy@gmail.com

Los Altos

Our interview team conducted interviews but while we liked the candidates, we didn’t think any of them have yet developed strong environmental leadership qualities. We encourage all candidates to support green issues and to learn more about environmental issues as they affect Los Altos and the region.

Joan Sherlock Will Make Los Altos Hills Greener

By Ann Schneider, Los Altos Hills Team Leader

Joan Sherlock has a keen understanding not just of the needs of the residents of Los Altos Hills (LAH), but also the role the Town plays in helping the larger Bay Area achieve environmental goals like reducing greenhouse gases. Joan will continue to support all the terrific green programs LAH has developed like solar on every home, protecting and expanding parks and trails while making roads safer for cyclists and drivers. She understands that the Town needs to do more on conserving water, implementing food and green waste composting programs to achieve zero waste and working together with other communities on transportation and housing issues.

Joan has served on the Board of Committee for Green Foothills and Sustainable Silicon Valley. She initiated the Eco-Responsibility and Recycling commision. On that commission, Evan voted in favor of eliminating single use bags. Campbell is a member of the Green Building Collaborative (GBC) initiative within the Santa Clara County Cities Association. Evan supports an approach to tackle the high environmental and business costs of unsustainable development through a collaborative effort of identifying, proposing and implementing sustainable technologies, materials, and business practices. Evan support our cool cities action in Campbell’s says John Cordes.

Richard Constantine for Morgan Hill City Council

Richard is quite knowledgeable, understands the environmental, and will help to implement Morgan Hill’s environmental agenda. He is passionate about preventing big changes in Morgan Hill so as to preserve its rural and agricultural background. Richard works to keep growth slow and to keep a focus on open space and farmland. He supports the Morgan Hill plan because it promotes walking, getting people out of cars and saving GRC’s. He is a strong supporter of bike trails as alternatives for people to drive less. He believes in increasing alternative (renewable) sources of energy and wants to expand the number of solar power facilities with solar. He also feels it is important to get recharging stations in Morgan Hill. For more info go to rich@mcnc新闻网.com

Vote for Strong Environmental Leaders for Mountain View, Vote for Margaret Abe-Koga and Ronit Bryant for City Council

By Ann Schneider, Team Leader Mountain View

The Sierra Club is very happy to endorse two outstanding environmental leaders for re-election to City Council. Both Margaret Abe-Koga and Ronit Bryant have shown real leadership on important green issues like supporting Stevens Creek Trail, protecting our natural resources in Mtn. View love the trail and want to expand it really hard. Leaders who make decisions of supporting high density housing on transit corridors when that housing will also be next to existing single family homes. It is not easy to balance the need for future generations for green transportation and the need to reduce vehicle miles traveled while being supportive of existing residents who are afraid of more cars and noise.

Carrasco & Bright Light for District 5, San Jose

By Terry Trumbull, San Jose Team Leader

Long time community activist, Madagelana Carrasco, has been running from district 7, San Jose in the last general election run-off. This time the candidate with the highest number of votes wins. Madagelana Carrasco & Bright Light for District 5, San Jose

Margadala Carrasco & Bright Light for District 5, San Jose

Margadala Carrasco & Bright Light for District 5, San Jose

Moving the city to conserve water and energy fitting in multifamily housing into the General Plan. The Sierra Club is very happy to endorse two outstanding environmental leaders for re-election to City Council. Both Margaret Abe-Koga and Ronit Bryant have shown real leadership on important green issues like supporting Stevens Creek Trail, protecting our natural resources in Mtn. View love the trail and want to expand it really hard. Leaders who make decisions of supporting high density housing on transit corridors when that housing will also be next to existing single family homes. It is not easy to balance the need for future generations for green transportation and the need to reduce vehicle miles traveled while being supportive of existing residents who are afraid of more cars and noise.

Margareta Ebe-Koga & Ronit Bryant for City Council

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Margaret Abe-Koga & Ronit Bryant for City Council
Help, we’re in debt

By John Cordes, PolCom tri-chair

In case you haven’t noticed, the Loma Prieta chapter has been supporting green building standards that reduce energy use and water use. Nguyen has also been successful in requiring all developments to contribute funding to creation of nearby parks.

Legislative Updates

By By Megan Fluke, Grassroots Organizer, Building Climate-Friendly Communities, Loma Prieta Chapter

If getting involved with endorsements does not fit your interests, but you still want to get involved with making your city greener, consider joining your local Cool Cities team. The Sierra Club’s Cool Cities Campaign is a grassroots effort to persuade local governments to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. We are bringing together people from all walks of life—people like you and me! We have a powerful team of volunteers across the country.

Help us communicate with your City Council on Green Issues.

By John Cordes, Santa Clara Lead

The Sierra club is proud to endorse Don Rocha for the San Jose City Council District 9.

In announcing the endorsement, Don Rocha, the candidate, was impressed by Don’s commitment to fully support the Sierra Club’s program plans to impact climate change by limiting greenhouse gas emissions. Don said, “San Jose must not only be a part of the problem, but a part of the solution.” Don is happy to support San Jose’s Green Vision Plan.

Help is needed! Communicate with your City Council on Green Issues.

By Karen Malik, Volunteers SCCAN Coordinator

During the last two weeks of the legislative season, John Collins of the California League of Conservation Voters (California Conservation Network) asked its volunteers to contact their legislators regarding bills three times. So much did the chamber members who took the time to make the call and let their voice be heard of our legislative process.

Here’s what happened during this session:

OPPOSE Assembly Bill 1581: STOP ATTACKS on local say in local land use decisions!

Great News! Special interests failed to press our issue on local say in local land use decisions! Special interests failed to press our issue on local say in local land use decisions! Special interests failed to press our issue on local say in local land use decisions! Special interests failed to press our issue on local say in local land use decisions! Special interests failed to press our issue on local say in local land use decisions! Special interests failed to press our issue on local say in local land use decisions! Special interests failed to press our issue on local say in local land use decisions! Special interests failed to press our issue on local say in local land use decisions! Special interests failed to press our issue on local say in local land use decisions!

We are very disappointed that AB 1998 did not pass the senate, as it would have eliminated approximately 19 billion plastic bags in California. The final vote was 14-40, with 21 “No” votes. Our lobbying effort was a last-ditch effort to pass AB 1998.

Although our SCCAN network is just starting up and is small, we sent a SCCAN alert to 24 volunteers and 19 responded—an unheard of 79% response rate. Thanks to these chapter members for calling their senators: Bill Collins, Gladwyn D’Suza, Peter Fairchild, Jim Feich-tl, Steve Ferda, Edelman Francisco, Ruth Storer Muzzin, Ann Schneider.

Note - these local ballot measures are in addition to the Club-endorsed Proposition 21, an $18 Annual Vehicle License Surcharge to Help Fund State Parks and Wildlife Programs and Governmental Provisions, and Proposition 16, Allowing Ballots to Sanctioned Vehicles. http://www.sos.ca.gov/elections/ballot-measures/qualified-ballotmeasures.htm

For more information, see SB/BS: Traffic congestion; motor vehicle registration fees http://leginfo.ca.gov/pub/09-10/bill/sen/ab0010-0104/ab0010ch_83_bill_20091011_chap.html

Great News! Special interests failed to press our issue on local say in local land use decisions! Special interests failed to press our issue on local say in local land use decisions! Special interests failed to press our issue on local say in local land use decisions! Special interests failed to press our issue on local say in local land use decisions! Special interests failed to press our issue on local say in local land use decisions! Special interests failed to press our issue on local say in local land use decisions! Special interests failed to press our issue on local say in local land use decisions! Special interests failed to press our issue on local say in local land use decisions! Special interests failed to press our issue on local say in local land use decisions!
Our Endorsement Process Relies on Volunteers

By Terry Trumbull, LP PolCom Member, Endorsement Chair, CLCV of Santa Clara County, PEB Environmental Studies Professor, San Jose State University

As with all of the Loma Prieta chapter’s activities, the Sierra Club’s prioritization for endorsing political candidates depends on volunteers.

It is surprising how much volunteer time goes into the process. For example, in local government races in Santa Clara County, the November 202 election involves 12 cities and three special districts. The Club has a volunteer city leader for each of these jurisdictions, and they are responsible for identifying and canvassing. Last year, about 90 candidates were sent questionnaires.

On August 7, the Sierra Club and its endorsement partner, the Santa Clara County chapter of the California League of Conservation Voters (CLCV), hosted an educational issues and position program for candidates in San Mateo, San Benito, and Santa Clara counties. Volunteers, Maddy McKenna and Jennifer Bedson, were responsible for identifying and inviting candidates to the event, even though the filing deadline was August 6 or 11. Jaclyn D’Ambrosio was responsible for putting on the 2019 candidates program.

At the August 7 forum, candidates were briefed on the endorsement process of both the Sierra Club (Ann Schneider) and CLCV (Terry Trumbull). Immediately thereafter, Julie Magalhaes, the Club’s Cool Cities program manager, briefed candidates on actions that local governments could take to reduce energy use and climate change emissions. Finally, the candidates were given the opportunity to ask questions and express their views.

For the June 2 election, the Sierra Club’s endorsement process involves about 90 candidates, many of whom were from the political candidates program. The candidates were provided with the Political Committee’s endorsement criteria, which includes a review of the candidates’ positions on key environmental issues, their past voting record on environmental legislation, and their overall environmental commitment. The candidates were also asked to provide information about their past experience and future goals in the area of environmental protection.

The Sierra Club’s endorsement process is designed to identify and support candidates who share the Club’s commitment to protecting the environment. The Club believes that by endorsing candidates who are committed to environmental protection, it can help to ensure that environmental issues are given the attention they deserve in the political process.

Our Endorsement Process Relies on Volunteers

By John Cordes, Tri-Chair, LP Political Committee

The Chapter’s Political Committee would like to thank its many volunteers for their dedication to our endorsement work. These volunteers are based at local, regional and state levels of government. Our volunteers’ efforts include researching endorsement issues, generating interview questions, reviewing the candidates’ responses to those questions, interviewing the candidates, deliberating on endorsement recommendations and for some composing the write-up presented to the Executive Committee for consideration.

Our 2019 team members were: Eileen Francisco, Gary Lanham, Jeff Diel, Mary Davy, Brian Schmidt, Brian Wourman, Sue Parkison, and Todd Bray. Thanks for getting involved.

Our returning 17 team members were: Beth Wyman, Bob Good, Bonnie McClure, Brendan Salier, Cecil Harris, Greg Perry, Jon Silver, Ken King, Louise Doux, Melissa Hupp, Mandy Latino, Patrick Gallagher, Rod Diridon Sr., Pat Showalter, Sholol Ballard, Susan McKendry, and the inestimable Tanya Wendel. Our special thanks to our invaluable team leaders for all the work they contributed. Our dedicated volunteer teams have been: Ann Schneider and Bill Collins, Diane Gleason, John Cordes, Merri Bobbele, Michael Ferreira, and Rob Rennie.

Our generous hosts were: Jerry Kennel, Kurt Wourman, Melissa Hupp, Mark Merrifield, Pat Showalter, Greg & Cindy Fischer, Rod Diridon Sr. and Susan McKahan.

My apologies if I missed any names. The Political Committee will have a “Thank you party” during the Election Night Nov 2nd, 6:30 p.m. At that occasion our 7 new team members will be recognized with a practical and beautiful Sierra Club water bottle. Congratulations to all those volunteers for your incredible work!

If you want to elect green candidates to support your environmental values, join us in future electoral endeavors by contacting John Cordes at john.cordes@lomaprieta.sierraclub.org or Ann Schneider at schneidermann@juno.com.