Thank You to our Political Endorsement Volunteers!

By John Cordes, Political Committee Co-Chair

The Chapter’s Political Committee thanks its many volunteers for their dedicated work in the fall 2009 general elections endorsements. We appreciate you all to identify and promote environmental candidates at local, city and regional levels of government. Our volunteers’ efforts include researching endorsement issues, generating interview questions, reading the candidates’ returned questionnaires, interviewing the candidates, deliberating on endorsement recommendations and for some composing the write-up presented to the Executive Committee for approval. All together, our volunteers covered over 15 races!

Our special thanks to our invaluable team leaders for all the work they contributed, to our veteran team members, to our new team members, to the interview hosts and to those who volunteered as interview team coordinators again this year. Special thanks to Ann Schneider for being the newsletter coordinator. In addition to all her work on the interviews, Ann took on the huge job of putting together this newsletter. Special thanks to Rob Rennie for being the endorsement team coordinator again this year.

The Political Committee will have a celebration and thank you party on Tuesday Nov 3rd, 2009. The Political Committee will have a celebration and thank you party on Tuesday Nov 3rd, 2009.

Our new endorsement team members were Bob & Carolyn Crow, Brian Foley, Brian Schmidt, Bruce Hodge, Bruce Paton, Catherine Con, Carl Wieck, Cecily Harrison, Dana Kemey, Fleta Franco, George, Hal Jahn, John Lynch, Laura Petersham, Marianna Raymond, Peter Fairchild, Robert Farbach, Ruth Foust and Sue Chow. Special thanks to our new activist Sue Chow who recruited high school students to serve on our interview teams for the first time. We hope to engage more young people each year. The student interviewers were Jesse Yu, Joseph Pak, and Dillon Rak. Our generous hosts were Ann Ng, Carol Weiss, Gladwyn d’Souza, John Lynch, Judy Kaufman, Ken King, and Stephanie Reyes. My apologies if we missed any names.

Special thanks to Mike Ferreita and Bill Collins for being our new team leaders this fall.

Our returning veteran team leaders were Ann Schneider, Deepak Gajaria, Diane Allen, Diane Gleason, Gladwyn d’Souza, John Cordes, Ken King, Melissa Huppard, Seamus Murphy and Stephanie Reyes. Special thanks to Mike Ferreita and Bill Collins for being our new team leaders this fall.

Our returning veteran team members are Ann Schneider, Ann Ng, Bonnie McClure, Cynthia Denner, Ginny Laibl, Ken King, Lisane Drouin, Mary Schneider, to the interview hosts and to those who volunteered as interview team coordinators again this year.

The Political Committee would love to interview candidates in every race held in San Benito, Santa Clara and San Mateo Counties but we have two main reasons why we can’t or won’t. The main reason is we can’t do every race. Endorsement decisions are made entirely by volunteers and we always need more Team Leaders than we have and more Team Members to fill out our endorsement teams. The second reason we don’t conduct our endorsement process is when an election is non-competitive. What does “non-competitive” mean? It means when number of candidates who qualified to run in that election are equal to or less than the number of seats in that election. Since we never have as many volunteers as we can use, we generally skip non-competitive races as the candidates are either going to win their election or will be appointed by the existing Council whether we like the candidate or not. If we had more volunteers, we would like to have a team meet with candidates to talk to them about what is important to our members. This is always a future goal for us.

So think about helping us next year. We will be starting early endorsements for incumbents with excellent environmental voting records in December. Contact us and we can help you get involved.
SANTA MATEO COUNTY

Belmont
Feierbach, Leberman and Warden for Belmont City Council

By Gladysn d’Somma

Coralin Feierbach has a proven environmental record over 30 years in Belmont primarily in open space protection. She actively supported Measure F and is currently trying to change zoning to protect open space. She has taken the lead to form a Green Committee and work in recommendations into the General Plan. Coralin continues to be a strong voice for recycling and conservation on the council. Our concern is in the area of graduate toward Transit Oriented Development and an aesthetic standard for compact development that borders on exclusion. Coralin’s ideas for slow streets, neighborhood electric vehicles, elimination of plastic bags, job based housing, etc. are all positive and frequently new and refreshing.

Warren Lieberman: He is an extraordinary strong voice for walkable communities and transit-oriented development. He favors a process approach for the Mayor’s Climate Protection Agreement (MCPA) and a true whole council. Unfortunately the process approach to a transit development plan is currently considering financial constraints for enacting low energy systems like grey water, zero waste, and complete streets. Normal govern- ment allows toxic services to have an unfair com- petitive advantage over low energy systems by externalizing the pollution cost. However Warren’s ideas for a compact walkable city with plazas and walkways is clearly a major low energy necessity for recent cities and this is the road we endorse him on.

Dave Warden has a proven environmental record as a Marin Public, recycling, hybridizing, and most important for sustain- ing a discussion of tier rate pricing for city services. He supports open space with Measure F. He was one of the first to take on REC rates to promote more conservation in garbage collection. Our concern is in the area of gradualism toward Transit Orient- ed Development and an aesthetic standard for compact development that borders on exclusion. Dave’s enthusiasm for Green Building standards, green incentives, water saving systems and support for the MCPA are all great and we look forward to working with him.

Burlingame
Burlingame Endorsements
By Stephanie Roey

The Sierra Club recommends three candidates for the three City Council seats in Burlingame: Ann Keighran, Cathy Baylock, and Michael Brownrigg.

Mayor Ann Keighran
brings a high level of knowledge about environ- mental issues to the Council. She has creative ideas for taking best practices in sustain- ability from other cities and applying them in Burlingame – for example, Berkeley’s solar power incentive program and Millbrae’s ban on Styrofoam food containers. She is committed to partnering with another local city to hire a part-time Sustainability Coordinator to manage environmental initiatives in Burlingame.

Endorsed by the Club in previous election cycles, incumbent Cathy Bay- lock has shown consis- tent support for sustain- able land-use planning, with a focus on bringing the Downtown Specific Plan to fruition. She is a passionate advocate for bicycle paths, bringing in more than $300,000 in bonds for bikeways in Burlingame. Most recently, she played an active role on the city’s Green Ribbon Task Force.

Planning Commissioner Michael Brownrigg is making sustainability a high- light of his campaign. He served as a founding member of Burlingame’s Green Ribbon Task Force and is considering promoting green building with his est political priority as a Council member. On the Plan- ning Commission, he championed mixed-use, higher density development for the city’s North End plan. If elected, he will bring a new level of environmental leadership to the Council.

Foster City
Linda Haskin Gologorsky for Council
By Diane Glose

In Foster City, there are two city council seats open for the election. The interview team voted to endorse Linda Haskin Gologorsky. Ms. Gologorsky has been very involved in Foster City at the grassroots level. Over the last 30 years, Linda has organized dis- tinctly improved sustainable living in Foster City. One was the protection of parks and open space; wild- life habitat, air and water quality. The other group focused on improvements in construction and building practices, facili- ties, and quality of life.

Ms. Gologorsky believes that higher densities are not an issue if planned well. When the city considers high-density projects it needs to consider the job and housing balance, transportation, ser- vices, shopping and recreation. Projects need to be done right, including landscaping, and transportation alternatives must be supported. Too often projects are approved in isolation with- out looking at it from a city-wide perspective.

San Mateo County is planning to address the use of toxic pesticides and Linda is looking for- ward to their action plan to reduce their use. Linda Haskin Gologorsky would bring a fresh perspective and an environmental voice to the Foster City council.

Half Moon Bay
Vote for Ruddock, Freer and Handler
By Ken King

Deborah Ruddock, a former three-term Half Moon Bay Council member works for the Coastal Conservancy and fully supports Sierra Club positions regarding climate change, green building, transportation and open space.

Ms. Ruddock stands for Half Moon Bay’s Measure D (1% annual growth limit) and Measure G (the bluff-top ban). With her environmental perspective and an environmental voice to the Foster City council.

Sofia Freer, a retired high school chemistry teacher, is a Cool Cit- ies team leader and Half Moon Bay Parks and Recreation Commis- sioner who passionately advocates for sustain- able practices and pres- ervation of open space within Half Moon Bay. Freer’s civic involve- ment and advocacy for parks and sustainable programs should make voters confident that she shares their concern for preserving their beautiful city.

Dan Handler is a Fruiter who believes in the exis- tence sustainability in his business (he even drives a hybrid vehicle and runs on used vegetable oil). His belief is that we should all live within our means. Given Half Moon Bay’s enormous debt, Dan is the kind of practical leader the city needs and it is to move ahead. Please vote for all three of these candidates.

Millbrae
Nadia Holober for Millbrae City Council
By John Corder

The Sierra Club is proud to endorse Nadia Holober for one of the two open seats on the
Millbrae city council. Nadia has a proven track record of working to promote the environment. Nadia served on the city council from 1999-2007. Before that, Nadia was on the city council in 2006 when the city began the 1st “waste grease” power plant in California. Nadia wants to continue to expand and improve the green initiatives, as part of reducing waste and promoting green energy sources. In another example of environmental leadership, Millbrae banned polyurethane to containing Nadias prior term, which only a few cites have done. Millbrae has eliminated disposable plastic water bottles from city use office as well. Millbrae is already at 67% waste diversion rates and aiming higher. While Nadia was mayor, Millbrae signed up to be a Cool City. Going forward, Nadia wants to help Millbrae implement its Climate Action Plan and supports increasing density and development near the new Caltrain Bart terminal center. Please vote for Nadia Holober.

Redwood City
No Strong Environmental Leaders running for Redwood City Council
By Melissa Hippsard
No endorsements were made in the Redwood City city council race this year. A team of five people who prepare the candidates running for council, including one incumbent. While all five clearly have a strong commitment to serving their community, none of the candidates demonstrated strong and consistent leadership on environmental issues. An endorsement from one or two of the five candidates is intended to send a clear message that the candidate has a record of environmental action and an agenda for positive environmental change. We appreciated each candidate’s thoughtful responses and unanimous support for transit-oriented development and strong position on this board and in the Granada Sanitary District. Columbia. The candidates really wanted to meet with us. The Board’s Environmental Team met with the candidates on September 29th, but the final approvals for endorsement recommendations could not be completed prior to the print date of this newsletter. Some members in South San Francisco, we are sorry, but we ask that you please visit our website so you can learn about the environmental positions of your candidates.

San Mateo
Gotte, Hansson and Lim for San Mateo
By John Cordes
The Sierra club is proud to endorse current Mayor and Sierra club member Brandt Gotte, council member and Sierra Club member Fred Hansson, and David Lim for San Mateo City Council. There are 5 open seats and these are the 3 candidates we want to win.

San Mateo has been making great strides in addressing global warming with Brandt and Fred on the City Council. San Mateo already implemented strong requirements for CO2 both as a community and for City facilities and operations. For City Operations, the near term aggressive, and the reduction CO2 emissions below the 2006 base year by the end of 2009. The San Mateo city council voted the Sustainable Initiative Plan and is working aggressively on implementation, education and surveys to achieve improvement for residential and commercial structures, and transportation to achieve it.

Brandt Gotte was the Chair and initiator (with assistance from the San Mateo Climate Action Committee) of the San Mateo Sustainability Committee. He was an active participant in the recent and ongoing negotiations and plans to transition to a new recycling and solid waste arrangement that will encourage greater recycling, including simultaneous roll-out of commercial and multi-family residential recycling in 2010/11.

Fred Hansson is currently on the city council after serving on the planning commission. Fred also contributed to the process the City has made in addressing global warming. In addition Fred is active as part of reducing waste and promoting green energy sources.

Fred Hansson

Granada Sanitary District
Best Choice Erickson, Lohman and Woren
By Mike Ferreira
Gael Erickson has been a staunch advocate for environmental policies fully consistent with the Sierra Club’s vision, and has been an innovator in terms of outreach to her constituents on environmental matters.

Ric Lohman has taken a strong leadership role in implementing tertiary water treatment on the Coastside through his Joint Power Board directorship at the Sewer Authority Mid-Coast (SAM).

Leonard Woren’s record on this board and others has shown consistent respect for environmental law and process, most notably the goals and policies of the California Coastal Act Local Coastal Program.

Please vote for Gael Erickson, Ric Lohman and Leonard Woren for the Granada Sanitary District.

Palo Alto
Klein, Holman, Price and Steen for Palo Alto
By Diane Allen
Larry Klein has advocated strongly on behalf of global warming initiatives during his four years on the Palo Alto City Council. Klein took the lead in making Palo Alto’s Green Building Ordinance mandatory. This ordinance sets a high standard for other cities. Klein also led in the creation of Palo Alto’s Climate Protection Plan and supported and voted for the Council’s recent ban on plastic bags. Klein is a leader in his work on further measures to reduce the city’s carbon footprint, such as reducing energy use in existing buildings, and substantially upgrading the city’s bike lanes. Klein represents Palo Alto on the Bay Area Water Supply and Conservation Agency (BAWSCA) and recognizes that water conservation is a priority. In fact, Palo Alto has been in the National League of Cities steering committee for Energy, Environment, and Natural Resources, Klein brings other cities’ “best practices” to Palo Alto as well as helping spread our green message nation wide. Klein was one of the 9 co-founders of the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District. For more information, see www.reelectlarryklein.com

Larry Klein

Special Districts:
Coastside Community Water District

San Mateo

Coastside Community Water District
Vote for James Johnson and Jerry Donovan
by Ken King
James Johnson was a member of the Coastside Community Water District board member and Trustee and a veteran environmental spokesperson before joining the El Granada 2 years ago. Johnson points to the local water use, which is increasing dependent on water supplied by San Francisco (PUC, (Hetch Hetchy), so that will only be increasingly expensive going further.

Jerry Donovan

SANTA CLARA COUNTY

Cupertino
Nahalani, Miller and Nguyen Best for Cupertino
By Diane Gleason
In Cupertino there are 3 city council seat open for the full election. Three of the 5 candidates interviewed are endorsed: Mahesh Nahalani, Marty Miller, and Daniel Nguyen.

Mahesh Nahalani has an outstanding record of collaborative initiative since moving to Cupertino 9 years ago, including 2 years on the Housing Commission where he supported increased housing supply. He is supportive of environmental action, and believes that we must pursue a smart-growth strategy, especially along major transit corridors, to prevent sprawl develop-ment in outlying areas. Mr. Nahalani states that protecting the environment is a crucial function of local government. He wants the city to encourage developments that increase dependence on the automobile. Mr. Nahalani supports the Mayor’s climate change pledge and the city’s Green Climate Action Plan to prevent greenhouse gas emissions. His key initiatives will be sustainable, bicycle/pedestrian access, ecological design values, and compatibility with surrounding uses.

Marty Miller’s special area is land use. He has been an active leader in opposing building restrictions that would freeze city density and Smart Growth. As a Planning Commissioner he has supported smart growth, green building (LEED and Bldg J), both new construction and remodeling, and the use of solar energy. He would work with Cupertino’s Green Coordinator and supports the efforts of Cool Cities. He wants to revalize the major commercial districts. Mr. Miller also wants to find ways to get people out of their cars. And, he has familiarity with grey water systems.

Daniel Nguyen is just out of college but is well informed and aware of Cupertino issues. He is on the Public Safety Commission and is working on the bike/walk to school program. He sees real problems that need action, especially on naturally environmentally aware and designed. He recommends educating residents about water use, providing incentives for rain gardens, and thus support that with single-use bags, we have reached a point where education and outreach is not enough, and finally supports fees on bags and would like to extend that to take-out food packaging as well. Mr. Nguyen believes that the city should lead by example, as in using recycled materials even though they may be more expensive.

The Cupertino interview team feels that these 3 candidates, especially together, would lead Cupertino into a progressive environmental future.

PALO ALTO
Karen Holman

Brian Steen

Karen Holman

Brian Steen

Christopher Moylan

Christopher Moylan

Gail Price

By Deepika Gajaria

The Sierra Club is pleased to endorse Christopher Moylan (Seat 1) for the Sunnyvale City Council. In his second term, Chris has a proven environmental record the past 4 years as a council member and has taken the lead to enforce tough LEED standards for commercial buildings around the city. Chris voted in favor of adopting the Mayors’ Climate Protection Agreement, and has supported a 40% reduction in residential solar permitting fees. He is also taking the lead to extend the Stevens Creek trail in Sunnyvale. He is currently on the VTA Policy Advisory Committee and the Low- er Peninsula Flood Control and Watershed Ad- visory Committee. He continues to be a strong vote for the environmental community on the council and committed to take a stance on controversial issues for the best interest of the City as a whole.

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James Griffith

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This issue of the Loma Prietan is all about the importance of the candidates who have good environmental track records and a strong desire to protect the environment.

However, our role doesn’t stop with electing environmentally minded officials. Public officials deal with policies that frequently need help determining how a particular piece of legislation will impact the environment. It’s also important for them to understand that we care about a particular bill and issue — and we are watching.

Recently, the chapter helped educate our state legislators and their staff about AB1066. This legislation would change the amount of time that the log- ging industry would have to log a timber harvest plan — making it more difficult and expensive for state agencies to monitor the impact of logging on our water, wildlife, and carbon sequestration.

Our approach included multiple fronts:
1. Keeping in close contact with our Sierra Club California lobby team in Sacramento to make sure we were accurately representing the Club’s position and providing him feedback about the bills.
2. Meeting with our legislators and their staff.
3. Sending a letter from the chapter to the legislative offices.

Karen Holman

By Deepika Gajaria

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