New Senate 13 Pits Two Environmental He-

By Ann Schneider, Co-Chair Political Committee & Endorsement Team Leader for SD13

New Senate Districts, New Primary Rules

By Margaret Okuzumi and Ann Schneider, Co-Chair Political Committee & Endorsement Team Leader for SD13

This election voters will see many unfamiliar names on the ballot. A massive overhaul of district boundaries means that many current legislators are running in districts that include unfamiliar territory. New lines were drawn in 2011 based on the 2010 census and under the direction of Proposition 11, the Voters First Act, which changed the way redistricting is done in California. All district boundaries for Congress, State Senate, Assembly and Board of Equalization have changed, as have the district numbers. Generally speaking, because population in our area did not grow as fast as it did other areas of the state, the geographic area of our districts increased and their boundaries shifted southward. Redistricting attempted to keep communities with similar concerns in the same district and encourage diverse representation within the new districts. The other big change to our elections is the result of Proposition 14. For state constitutional offices, U.S. Congress, and state legislative offices, the top two primary vote getters, regardless of political party, will move to the general election in November. Help elect candidates that will fight for the environment and for all of us. Look for “Get Involved” opportunities interspersed in this newsletter.

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 current AD19 Assemblyman Jerry Hill. Both Lieber and Hill have been a good voice and vote for the environment. This race is probably the most competitive race our chapter will face in the primary and the general election.

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 Asm. Lieber and signed into law include: AB32 our landmark Global Warming law, ban on cancer causing flame retardants, requiring cell phone retailers to take back used phones for reuse, 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 and for all of us. Look for “Get Involved” opportunities interspersed in this newsletter.

The official California Citizen Redistricting Commission map is at http://redistricting.ca.gov/maps-final-drafts.html. Click on the statewide map to get a better view of your District number then scroll down to find the specific cities within the new Districts. To see the new Districts using the name of incumbent office holders go to www.redistricting-partners.com. A fun curiosity for Northern San Mateo County residents: we will have 2 Senators. For the next 2 years we will be represented by Sen. Leland Yee, whose term expires in 2014, and through 2012 by Sen. Joe Simitian, who is termed out of the legislature. This year we’re voting for a new state senator for the new District 13, which includes most of San Mateo County, but Senator Yee will continue to represent his current district, which overlaps with the new District 13, through 2014.

November 2012 General Election

(I) Incumbent, (O) Open Seat

Assembly Districts (AD)
AD 19 Phil Ting – Open Seat
AD 22 Kevin Mullin – Open Seat
AD 24 Rich Gordon (I)
AD 25 Bob Wieckowski (I)
AD 27 Nora Campos (I)
AD 28 Paul Fong (I)
AD 29 Mark Stone – Open Seat
AD 30 Pending

State Propositions – At press time, no positions had been taken, please go to http://sierraclubcalifornia.org/ca-elections/ for any recent actions.

San Mateo County
Board of Supervisors
District 1 Dave Pine (I)
District 4 Kirsten Keith and Shelly Masur – dual endorsement – Open Seat
District 5 pending – Adrienne Trissler (I)

Santa Clara County
Board of Supervisors
District 5 Joe Simitian Open Seat
City of San Jose
District 2 Ash Kalra (I)
District 4 Kansen Chu (I)
District 6 Bob Weckowski (I)
District 7 Annette Cortes Oliverio (I)
District 8 Rose Herrera (I)
District 10 Edesa Bitbidal – Open Seat

Primary Endorsement Election Issue 2012

The Newsletter of the Sierra Club Loma Prieta Chapter
San Benito, Santa Clara and San Mateo Counties

If you’ve voted, please pass this to a friend or family member who hasn’t voted yet.

For post print deadline additions go to the Loma Prieta Political Page at http://bp.sierraclub.org/politics/

US Congress
Santa Clara County
City of San Jose

SD 13 Jerry Hill and Sally Lieber – dual endorsements – Open Seat
SD 15 Jim Beall – Open Seat
SD 17 Bill Monning – Open Seat

SD 1 District 6 Pierluigi Oliverio (I)
SD 7 District 6 Kansen Chu (I)
SD 8 District 8 Rose Herrera (I)
SD 10 District 10 Edesa Bitbidal – Open Seat

District 1 Dave Pine (I)
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District 8 Rose Herrera (I)
District 10 Edesa Bitbidal – Open Seat
Jerry Hill’s Environmental Successes

Jerry is considered one of the hardest workers 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 actions, supported mass transit, open space and parks. As an assembly member since 2009, he has gone above and beyond to protect and enhance open space least it be compromised by bad development decisions.

If elected Jerry’s main environmental goals include developing plans and policies to prepare for sea level rise, including wetland preservation, preserving mass transit and supporting green jobs. His lifetime environmental score from the Calif. League of Conservation Voters is 96%. Jerry is a pragmatic fighter for the environment. He has served us well. To learn more about Jerry go to www.jerryhillforsenate.com

Most likely Lieber and Hill will receive the top two votes cast and move on to the general election in the fall. The Sierra Club strongly encourages our members to learn more about Sally and Jerry. We are fortunate to have two superb candidates who work with us and have fought hard in Sacramento for the environment. We only wish we could send them both back to Sacramento.

Loma Prieta Endorses Jim Beall for Senate District 15

By Bob Renne, Political Committee Co-chair

Jim Beall has been an important voice in the assembly for many years. His work led to the approval of the 100% pollution absorption system and thus reduction pollution from cars.

Jim was a leader in our Sierra Club future expansions. He founded the Santa Clara Open Space Authority to protect and enhance open space it be lost with the disappearing agriculture land. He also has led the county parks ballot measure multiple times.

Jim’s long history as a planner has trained him to be a strategic thinker. He also applies his knowledge of how to protect our natural resources and the long term impacts our decisions have on the environment. Jim’s understanding of the environmental issues in our area coupled with the understanding of how to fund environmental priorities in a tough budget climate will allow him to be an important voice for solutions to the environmental issues in Sacramento. Let’s send him back to Sacramento to continue his good work in the state Senate.

Get Involved

Senate District 13 Host a House Party of Walk a Precinct

We know that a dual endorsement can cause confusion to our members who count on the Club analysis of environmental records and actions to provide the vote for the environment.

We will endorse a candidate and/or member of our Sierra Club who can stand and work for that candidate using the Club’s name in their affiliation. A dual endorsement allows members who feel strongly for Sally or for Jerry to precinct walk or host house parties to help the candidate meet the electorate. If you want to help your candidate, and are unsure of what the dual endorsement means, please contact Ann Schneider at 650-697-6249 or Ann.Schneider@sierraclub.org and she can help you with process concerns.

What does it mean to be a “good friend of the environment”?

This is a term used to describe an elected official who not only voted to support a wide range of environmental actions but also took leadership positions and went above and beyond to get good environmental laws and regulations passed. This could mean sponsoring good environmental bills and working hard to build the votes for that bill. It can mean finding funding for things like supporting our local parks. It also means that the elected official is open to meeting with the environmental community and asks us for help in finding the best solution to an environmental problem.

Elect Bill Monning for Senate 17

By Bruce van Allen, Ventana Chapter (Santa Cruz and Monterey Counties)

Bill Monning (D-Carmel) has earned endorsement by the Club for his candidacy for the 17th Senate District, which includes coastal communities in Monterey County, Santa Cruz and San Luis Obispo Counties, and southern Santa Clara County. The Sierra Club has given Monning a high score on its 2011 Legislative Report Card for his work in the State Assembly.

Monning said: “I am honored to be one of the members of the Legislature to be selected for endorsement by the Sierra Club. Ultimately, our stewardship of our region, state, and planet will determine the rate and impacts of climate change. Waste management, recycling, reduction of plastics, water conservation, and sound forest management are all areas where we can make a difference through education and advocacy. I look forward to our continued collaboration to protect our coast, habitat, and species while promoting green jobs, green tech, and green lifestyles. The quality of life of all Californians is intimately tied to how we define and practice our relationship with nature.”

In the Assembly, Monning has worked to ensure a long term safe and reliable food supply for the California condor, while also fostering additional collaboration with the Department of Fish and Game to recover this species to the wild and within the protection of the government entities working to save this amazing bird.

Assemblymember Monning has also worked to protect public health and the environment by requiring the disclosure of ingredients in pesticides. He has placed a local leading role in the resistance to adoption of Methyl Iodide in California’s fields.

“Americans have no idea what chemical ingredients are being exposed to since elements that are deemed ‘inert’ or inactive never show up on the ingredient label. Not only do consumers have the right to know the complete list of ingredients that are put on their food and end up in their drinking water, but in the case of an emergency, it is critical for our health care professionals to have access to the full ingredient list of pesticides so they can properly treat anyone who was exposed to them,” he said.

To learn more about Bill Monning’s work in the legislature refer to http://democrats.assembly.ca.gov/members/277. To get in touch with his campaign contact: http://www.billmonning.org/

Support Rich Gordon for the new AD24

By Ruth Steiner Mazzi, Early Endorsement Team Lead & Pelosi Member

Assembly member Rich Gordon is currently representing the 21st Assembly District. He was elected in November, 2010 with the Chapter’s endorsement. Previously, he served for 13 years on the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors. Redistricting places Rich Gordon in AD 24, an open seat in 2012. Since his election for AD21, he has maintained his strong co-sponsor of AD32 Cali- fornia Global Warning Act and he wants to make sure that real changes are made statewide to fight climate change.

For more information on Kevin Mullin go to http://kevinmullin.com/site/.
A renewable-energy engineer and Ph.D. in mathematics, Jerry McNeney has been a champions for environmental groups in the House of Representatives. Many Loma Prieta has contributed time and money to help elect Jerry when in budgets and deliberations for the economic Richard Pombo in 2006 and has supported him ever since. In the 2010 election, Jerry managed to win by a slim margin. Once again, he will have to work hard at maintaining the seat. Jerry has fought tirelessly for the issues we care about: clean and renewable energy, the trickle-down effect, clean air and water, and public transportation. He has sponsored many bills related to issues that欧冠 three terms in office, including bills to:

- secure funding for training in renewable energy jobs
- infrastructure for electric vehicles and help local support of manufacturers
- expand geothermal research
- promote a “smart grid”
- help improve air quality in the Central Valley
- promote water conservation and recycling
- improve the Altamont Corridor rail line

Jerry is on the House Science, Space, and Technology Committee, and the subcommittee on Energy and Environment. He supports investing in energy efficiency for buildings and appliances, and stands against drilling for oil off our coast. He recently was very outspoken in support of earmarking funds for energy research (sponsored by Republican Devin Nunos) as a “brazen move by the water contractors and their allies who want to steal water from the Delta.”

In addition, Jerry has worked hard to help homeowners facing foreclosure and for veterans’ care and benefits.

Jerry has two Republican challenges, one of whom is a wealthy family and has raised very little sums of money. The new district, CD 9, is centered in the Stockton area and runs to south Mountain House and Lathrop and east to Brentwood and Antioch. The National Republican Congressional Committee has already been targeting Jerry in TV ads in this district, and this is a seat they will try hard to win.

In this day of limited political contributions and few Congressional districts in play in California, Jerry will need our help. For more information on how you can contribute or get involved, go to www.jerrymcneney.com or call (209) 910-4172.

Sierra Club Endorses Nora Campos in Ca Assembly District 27

The Sierra Club again endorse Assembly member Nora Campos in Ca Assembly District 27. Assembly district 27 includes the eastern portion of San Jose. Nora Campos was endorsed when she was on the San Jose city council and we are glad she has continued to earn our endorsement in the state assembly. John Cordes, Loma Prieta political committee tri-chair.

In announcing its endorsement, the Sierra Club was impressed by Nora Campos’s commitment to support our environmental goals. In her 1st 2 years in the assembly, Nora Campos has a 2011 Sierra Club California favorable voting score of 91% and a clean energy score of 88%. We were happy Nora voted for some of our key bills this year, including SB 132, the renewable portfolio energy standard, AB 576, the ban banning the loma prieta tri-chair, “@sierrclub.org, the Electricity community Choice Law” said John.

In addition to our endorsement, Nora proudly carries the support of California League of Conservation Voters. For more information about Nora, please visit her website: http://assemblymembercampos.com

We are looking for members who live in AD27 to represent the Chapter in constituent meetings and phone trees. If you have a couple of hours a year and care about how your Assembly person votes, please contact us at Politcal@sierraprieta.org.

Continued on next page

The Chapter is considering going to a paperless, all electronic Loma Prieta. This could be an easy way to save trees and a way to reduce the amount of paper that is used. An electronic newsletter can contain precious c4 dollars (money from non tax deductible donations). If you support the Chapter’s endowment work please do two things: 1) make a non-tax deductible donation to the chapter for future Endorsement issues, and 2) make sure the Chapter has a working email address for you and your family. If you get regular email from “Loma Prieta Chap- ter, Sierra Club” then we have your email. If not, don’t send your name, address and email to lomaterraprieta@sbcglobal.net, put “my email” in the subject line. Thanks!
Vote for Paul Fong in CA Assembly District 28

By John Cordes, Polanco Tri-Chair & Margaret Ohkuma, Exec. Comm. Member

Assembly member Paul Fong has provided environmental leadership in the current 22nd Assembly District and the Sierra Club is proud to endorse him for the new state Assembly District 28. Assembly District 28 includes the cities of Capitola, Santa Cruz and Scotts Valley, Los Gatos, Monte Sereno, Campbell, and southwestern parts of San Jose.

“Paul Fong tackled some tough bills to protect our ocean and water. He succeeded in passing AB576, banning the sale of shark fins in California, which will help protect sharks from going extinct and our ocean ecosystem from collapsing,” said John Cordes, Loma Prieta political committee tri-chair. Fong also authored AB19, which would have required new multi-unit residential and apartment buildings to install water meters for individual units. Paul Fong is proud to be a Sierra Club member and keeps the Club’s positions at heart when deciding how to vote on bills.

In addition to our endorsement, Paul proudly carries the support of the California League of Conservation Voters, US Congress members Mike Honda, Anna Eshoo, Zoe Lofgren, and John Garamendi, Bay Area State Senators Ellen Corbett, Elaine Alquist, Joe Simitian, and former Senator Byron Sher. For more information about Paul, please visit his website.

Elect Environmental Leader Mark Stone for Assembly District 29

By Rita Dalelos, Ventura Chapter Political Committee Member

The new AD29 is predominantly a coastal district including Santa Cruz County, and is largely unincorporated Santa Clara County and the City of San Jose bordered by 3 freeways - east of 17, south of 85 and west of 101.

Mark Stone, Santa Cruz Supervisor, will now be representing the northeastern corner of the Cali­fornia Coastal Commission for over two years. Stone currently serves as Vice Chair.

During his short term he has shown a strong advocate for protection of coastal resources. Mark voted against the proposed massive Monterey Bay Shores “Eco-Resort” that would have harmed sensitive dune habitat near Monterey and en­sured that the Commission would not give in to blessing that still stands well below the more thorough review of the controversial development proposal in Monterey County. Mark’s thoughtful, law- and science-based ap­proach to land use decisions has made him a well-respected leader on the Commission.

Mark is an avid open water swimmer, hav­ing conquered the English Channel in 2009. He lives in Scotts Valley with his wife, Kathy and their two children. http://friendsofmarkstone.com/endorsements

Assembly District 30

The new AD30 comprises Morgan Hill, San Martin and Gilroy in Santa Clara County as well as southern unincorporated Santa Clara County and the entire County of San Benito (Aromas, San Juan Bautista, Hollister, Ridgemark, Tres Pinos, Paicines, San Benito, Bernallee, and Pancho) and continues down into Monterey County.

The Loma Prieta Political Committee is looking for members in the AD30 to help us get more active in your communities. All Po­litical Committee members are volunteers and the more members we have in an area the more we can do. Please join us, contact political@lomaprieta.sierrclub.org or call John Cordes.

The Club’s decision came in after we went to print. Please visit http://lomaprieta.sierrclub.org/ politi­cal to see who we’ve voted to endorse.

San Mateo County Board of Supervisor

San Mateo County Supervisor District 4

By Melissa Hippeard, Team Leader SB50s District 4, Co-Chair, Exec.

The Sierra Club is pleased to endorse Dave Pine for San Mateo County Supervisor District 4. Dave Pine, elected in 2011 Pine has demonstrated the leadership qualities that caused the Sierra Club to endorse him in that election. He noted the effort to redesign San Mateo County’s Energy Upgrade Program to provide up to $8,000 in rebates for residents who make their homes more energy efficient. The new program significantly increased the number of homeowners who completed energy upgrade programs and was one of the most successful in the state. Pine also strongly advocated banning broadcast spraying of herbicides along roads leading to the ban adopted by the Board of Supervisors on March 13, 2012. Pine has brought focus and attention to the poor con­ditions of our county parks and is actively pursuing both short-term solutions and a long term park funding options. He also supported the County’s efforts to work with the cities to pass a uniform ordinance that would ban plastic bags.

Dave Pine serves on several key environ­mental boards and commissions, including Environmental Quality for San Mateo County, the Bay Conservation and Development Commission (BCDC), the Peninsula Traffic Congestion Relief Alliance and the Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG). ABAG is leading the charge to reduce greenhouse gas emission by focusing growth in downtowns. Dave’s commitment to smart planning and sustainable protection makes him a critical voice on ABAG. BCDC is responsible for protecting the baylands that ring San Francisco Bay. Should the proposed Salworks project in Redwood City be approved by the city it will need BCDC’s approval as well. We can count on Dave to uphold the strictest test of environmental health and community well being.

Masur and Keith for San Mateo County Supervisorial District 4

By Melissa Hippeard, Environment Team Leader SB50sD4

San Mateo County is fortunate to have many strong candidates running for this open seat. The Club has viewed 6 of the 8 candidates and determined that Kirsten Keith and Shelly Masur were the most highly qualified and committed to put­ting the environment at the top of their priority list. As a board member of Sierra Club, Shelly Masur has worked to lessen the district’s environmental impact by reducing energy use, decreasing paper use, and changing purchasing processes. As Mayor of Menlo Park Keith has recommended distribution of single use carryout plastic bags and charge a fee for single use carryout paper bags. As a board member, Keith has strongly advocated breaking the city prohibition against use of single use carryout plastic bags and charge a fee for single use carryout paper bags.

Tissier for District 5

By Gladwyn d’Soza, Chair, Loma Prieta Transportation Committee

The chapter is pleased to endorse Adrienne Tissier re-election to the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors in 2012. Adrienne is currently President of the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors. She has represented District 5, which comprises the communities of Daly City, Colma, Brisbane, unincorporated portions as well as South San Francisco and Redwood City, since 2005. Adrienne was elected President of the Board of Supervisors in 2008 and 2012. As Supervisor, Adrienne implemented the nation’s first environmentally friendly dispensary disposal program, developed a driving safety seminar for seniors, hosted San Mateo’s annual Earth Preparation Day, and organized an annual educational workshop for struggling homeowners.

As Chairperson of the Metropolitan Transportation Commission, Chair of the Caltrain board, and a member of the San Mateo County Transportation District (SanTrans) board, Adrienne puts an enormous amount of focus and energy into improving public transit on the Peninsula. She helped create SamTrans Senior Mobility Action Plan. In her capacity as chair of Caltrain, Adrienne has worked to find a long term source of funding for future electrification. She has championed chapter position on Affordable Housing, Parks, Caltrain funding, Roadside Herbicide Ban and Transit Oriented Development. We look forward to working with Adrienne on the Climate Action Plan, Sustainable Community Strategy under SB375, trails, and the future of our county parks.

City of San Jose

Re-elect Ash Kalra in San Jose Seat 2

By David Pieschel, Endorsement team leader

The Loma Prieta Chapter of the Sierra Club is delighted to endorse incumbent San Jose City Councilmember Ash Kalra for re-election to the San Jose City Council District 2. District 2 includes the neighborhoods of Edin­vale and Santa Teresa.

"Talking to Ash about the environmental concerns of the City is like drinking from a fire hose,” said Dave Pieschel, member of the club’s Political Committee. “He’s got a great record on the environment and he’s eager to do much more.”

Kalra has been outspoken about preserving Coyote Valley and worked for a praised state-funded program in the General Plan, which is likely to protect Coyote Valley for the foreseeable future. Kalra also strove to protect the Guadalupe Creek from the encroachment of development even under tough circumstances. He is now working to clarify the City’s riparian...
Sierra Club endorses Edesa Bittabdal for Open Seat 10
By John Cordes, Polcom Tri-Chair

The Loma Prieta Chapter of the Sierra Club endorsed Edesa Bittabdal in the June 5 election for San Jose City Council, District 10. District 10 includes the south west part of the San Jose, primarily encompassing Almaden Valley.

In announcing the endorsement, the Sierra Club cited the Edesa's support for the environment and commitment to public service. Edesa is Vice-Chair for the City of San Jose Planning Commission and long-term community volunteer, working with organizations such as Our City Forest. "Edesa has the background and commitment to be strong environmental voice on San Jose's City Council," said John Cordes, Loma Prieta Political committee Tri-Chair.

"As a Planning Commission member, Edesa has demonstrated a commitment to protect the riparian environment by rigorously enforcing the 100 foot setback riparian policy," said John. Edesa states that the newly approved "Envision San Jose 2040 General Plan" will be an effective instrument to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and be instrumental in bring San Jose in compliance with SB375. As City Council member, Ede-sa plans to pursue implementation of a new construction "water efficient landscaping" ordinance as a priority. In addition, she plans to promote innovative concepts such as "bike share" and be a facilitator for "Green Building," transit use, mix use housing, walking and biking. Finally, "Edesa has committed to dialogue with the Sierra Club before taking positions which affect our local environment" said John.

For more information about Edesa, please visit her website www.edesabittabdal2012.com

Get Involved
Sierra Club Endorses Barack Obama for President

The Loma Prieta Chapter has a history helping other Chapters work on Presidential elections. Since our region is rarely in play (California typically goes to the Democratic Party candidate) our Chapter phone banks to members in swing states and we send members to swing states to precinct walk. If you would like to help our Chapter continue this proud legacy, please contact POLITICAL@lomaprieta.sierraclub.org or call Ann Schneider at 650-697-6249. We are looking for a team leader for this effort.

Sierra Club Fundraising Trip
Island Hopping in Channel Islands National Park
3-Day, Live-Aboard, Multi-Island Cruises
July 8-10; September 9-11

Explore the wild, windswept islands of Chan-nel Islands National Park of the coast of Santa Barbara.
• Frolicking sea otters and seals.
• Rare sea and land birds.
• Trails bordered by blankets of wildflowers and plants found in no other place on earth.
• Pristine waters for kayaking or snorkeling.
• Relaxation

You get an assigned bunk aboard the 60-foot tall ship, all meals, snacks, beverages, and a ranger/naturalist who will present evening programs, lead hikes, and point out the sights. Fee: $590. Proceeds benefit Sierra Club California political programs.
To reserve, mail a $100 deposit check, payable to the Sierra Club to trip leader Joan Jones Holtz, 11286 The Why Street, El Monte, CA 91732. For more information, contact the leader (626-443-0706, holtzh@in3.edu)
Thank You, Thank You, to our Endorsement Volunteers!

By John Condes, Palo Alto Co-chair

The Chapter’s Political Committee would like to thank all volunteers for their dedication to the endorsement process. The endorsement teamidentifies and supports local candidates who have previously demonstrated commitment to their endorsement goals. Our volunteers include researchers, writers, and individuals who actively support our candidates. Each Cool Cities team has worked with numerous cities in the Bay Area to create Cool Cities teams who work on promoting climate change solutions on a local level. A short update on the endorsement team members is as follows:

- Jennifer Zaldivar, Sierra Club volunteer writer
- Cecily Harris, Gary Latshaw, Bob Schneider, Terry Trumbull, Gladwyn d’Souza, John Cordes, and Melissa Hippard.

The Sierra Club is supportive of Palo Alto and Cupertino Cool Cities teams. The team is currently working towards promoting solar energy use in the area. The team is also working on climate change solutions and educating a greater number of people.

Endorsement Team Training

The Loma Prieta Chapter will be offering two training sessions, one for first-time endorsement team members and the second for members who have volunteered in previous years. The purpose of this training is to familiarize the team with the Sierra Club endorsement process; to help identify environmental issues pertinent to specific races, customize the voting guidelines, and to ensure that all endorsement team members are familiar with the endorsement process.

Political Committee New Member Orientation

May 10, 2012 7:00 – 7:30 pm
Sierra Club Office, Peninsula Conservation Center, Palo Alto

New volunteers are invited to come to Orientation where they will learn about the function of the Political Committee (PaCom), the current projects, and how a new volunteer can get involved. Please RSVP to John Condes, at 650-288-9645 or political@lomaprieta.sierraclub.org. New members are welcome to stay for the regular PolCom meeting from 7:30-9:00 pm in the same location.

Get Involved — Volunteer Opportunities

Political Committee Secretary

This is a critical function that helps the Political Committee keep track of members of endorsement teams and ensure that the Sierra Club endorsement process is followed. You can help by providing computer access and conference call into meetings so need not drive to Chapter offices for meetings. Time commitment, one 90-minute meeting a month and maybe 2 hours more to complete minutes and post to listserve. Contact John Condes at political@lomaprieta.sierraclub.org.

Political Action Around the Chapter — Cool Cities help chapter achieve political goals

By Jennifer Zaldivar, Sierra Club volunteer writer

In 2005, the Sierra Club initiated a nation-wide effort to persuade the state of reducing greenhouse gas emissions at the local level. The Sierra Club Loma Prieta Chapter has been actively involved with the Bay Area Cool Cities. The team works with mayors and city councils to adopt better land-use planning strategies, increase access to public transit, and become a more pedestrian-friendly society. Local Sierra Club endorsement teams are working on climate change solutions and educating a greater number of people.

- Loma Prieta: May 2012 page 6
- www.lomaprieta.sierraclub.org

The Redwood City Cool Cities team is part of the newly re-organized Peninsula Regions Group. Currently the team is working to start the Carpool & DMB’s Salworks project proposal to fill in salt ponds that were targeted for restoration to wetlands in a small town of 30,000 residents and office space for 10,000 workers. The Loma Prieta Chapter would like to thank its volunteers for their dedication to the endorsement process. The endorsement teamidentifies and supports local candidates who have previously demonstrated commitment to their endorsement goals. Our volunteers include researchers, writers, and individuals who actively support our candidates. Each Cool Cities team has worked with numerous cities in the Bay Area to create Cool Cities teams who work on promoting climate change solutions on a local level. A short update on the endorsement team members is as follows:

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- Cecily Harris, Gary Latshaw, Bob Schneider, Terry Trumbull, Gladwyn d’Souza, John Cordes, and Melissa Hippard.

The Sierra Club is supportive of Palo Alto and Cupertino Cool Cities teams. The team is currently working towards promoting solar energy use in the area. The team is also working on climate change solutions and educating a greater number of people.
WHAT HAPPENED? Whether you were friend, foe or neutral to Hillary Rodham Clinton’s 2008 presidential campaign, you may still be wondering about the Citizens United case — over the U.S. Supreme Court’s lengthy decision on January 21, 2010 in Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission. In a 5-4 opinion authored by Justice Anthony Kennedy, the Court found that a certain narrow type of restriction on corporate election spending enacted by Congress was unconstitutional. The US Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit had said the grant of review “will give the Court an opportunity to consider whether or not the Court’s decision on January 21, 2010 in Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission right, and that responsibility comes along with the rights of corporate citizenship. This can affect the government’s ability to enforce laws and impose penalties for unlawful corporate behavior. To me, that’s the strong Supreme Court’s 1976 Buckley decision. It would answer the question whether or not the proposition that money equals speech, which has strong roots in the Supreme Court’s 1976 Buckley decision, should continue to shape our nation’s political discourse. IMHO: It is in my humble opinion — internet slang.

Get Involved
Why does the Sierra Club care about Citizen’s United?

The Sierra Club lobbies at local, state and federal levels of government. Unlike trade associations, corporations and even unions, we rarely give money to candidates. We can’t afford costly television advertisements supporting or attacking candidates or issues. So the huge sums of money that Corporations can spend because of Citizens United puts the Club and the environmental issues we support and the candidates who support our issues at an even greater disadvantage. Mountain View and Los Altos Hills have recently passed municipal resolutions in support of a U.S. Constitutional amendment abolishing corporate personhood. When asked why local governments should take a stand on Citizen’s United, Mayor Mike Kasperkaz of Mtn View said “The effects of Citizens United will have far reaching implications for elections and campaigns at all levels of government. Furthermore, just the influence on national politics can have broad ramifications for how federal funds are spent locally.”

RESolutions are pending in Menlo Park, Palo Alto, Los Altos, Santa Clara (City and County), Milpitas, Campbell and San Jose. For more information go to Move to Amend, http://movetoamend.org/resolutions-map. You can sign their petition or better yet, ask your City Council to adopt the resolution. We are looking for a Sierra Club member who can be our contact person for this action. If that person is you, email us at PublicInfo@sierracal.org.

Citizens United — what it means and why does it matter to the environment.

By Ruth Stoner Muzzin, Esq.

Citizens United’s precedent will give the Court an opportunity to consider whether or not the Court’s decision on January 21, 2010 in Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission right, and that responsibility comes along with the rights of corporate citizenship. This can affect the government’s ability to enforce laws and impose penalties for unlawful corporate behavior. To me, that’s the strong Supreme Court’s 1976 Buckley decision. It would answer the question whether or not the proposition that money equals speech, which has strong roots in the Supreme Court’s 1976 Buckley decision, should continue to shape our nation’s political discourse. IMHO: It is in my humble opinion — internet slang.

CITY OF MOUNTAIN VIEW
RESOLUTION NO. 17674 SERIES 2012
A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF A U.S. CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT TO ABOLISH CORPORATE PERSONHOOD

WHEREAS, government of, by, and for the people has long been a cherished American value, and We The People’s fundamental and inalienable right to self-govern, and, thereby, secure rights to life, liberty, property and the pursuit of happiness is guaranteed in the U.S. Constitution and the Declaration of Independence; and

WHEREAS, free and fair elections are essential to democracy; effective self-governance; and

WHEREAS, persons are rightfully recognized as human beings whose essential needs include clean air, clean water, safe and secure food; and

WHEREAS, corporations are entirely human-made legal fictions created by express permission of We The People and our government; and

WHEREAS, corporations can exist in perpetuity, can exist simultaneously in many nations at once, need only profit for survival and exist solely through the legal charter imposed by the government of We The People; and

WHEREAS, in addition to those advantages, the great wealth of large corporations allows them to wield coercive force of law to overpower human beings and communities, thus denying We The People’s exercise of our Constitutional rights; and

WHEREAS, corporations are not mentioned in the Constitution, and The People have never granted constitutional rights to corporations. [emphasis added] By the Court’s decision to strike down campaign finance reform, The People are being deprived of the right to maintain a democratic government responsive to the will of the people while avoiding conflicts of interest. To be clear, We The People are not corporations.

WHEREAS, interpretation of the U.S. Constitution by appointed Supreme Court justices to include corporations in the term ‘persons’ has long denied We The People’s exercise of self-governance by allowing corporations to use Constitutional protections intended for We The People; and

WHEREAS, the illegitimate judicial bestowal of civil and political rights upon corporations usurps basic human and Constitutional rights guaranteed to human persons, and also empowers corporations to sue municipal and state governments for adopting laws that violate ‘corporate rights’ even when those laws serve to protect and defend the rights of human persons and communities; and

WHEREAS, corporations are not and have never been human beings and, therefore, are rightfully subject to human rights and governments as our legal creations; and

WHEREAS, large corporations’ profits and survival are often in direct conflict with the essential needs and rights of human beings; and

WHEREAS, the recent Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission Supreme Court decision that rolled back the legal limits on corporate spending in the electoral process creates an unequal playing field and allows unlimited corporate spending to influence elections, candidate selection, policy decisions and sway votes, and forces

elected officials to divert their attention from the People’s businesses, or even vote against the interest of their human constituents, in order to ensure competitive campaign funds for their own reelection; and

WHEREAS, large corporations own most of America’s mass media and use that media as a megaphone to express loudly their political agenda and to convince Americans that their primary role is that of consumers, rather than sovereign citizens with rights and responsibilities within our democracy, and this forces citizens to tune to the truth behind headlines and election campaigning; and

WHEREAS, tens of thousands of people and municipalities across the nation are joining with the Move to Amend campaign to call for an Amendment to the U.S. Constitution to Abolish Corporate Personhood;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City of Mountain View, California hereby calls on our Country, State and National elected officials to join the tens of thousands of citizens, grassroots organizations and local governments across the country in the Move to Amend campaign to call for an Amendment to the Constitution to Abolish Corporate Personhood and return our democracy, our elections and our communities back to America’s human persons, and to thus reclaim our sovereign right to self-governance.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City of Mountain View, California calls on other communities and jurisdictions to join with us in this action by passing similar resolutions.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City of Mountain View, California supports education to increase public awareness of the threats to our democracy posed by corporate personhood, and encourages lively discussion to build understanding and consensus to take appropriate community and municipal actions to democratically respond to these threats.

The foregoing Resolution was regularly introduced and adopted at a Special Meeting of the City Council of the City of Mountain View, duly held on the 20th day of March, 2012, by the following vote:

AYES: Councilmember Abe-Koga, Bryant, Macias, Siegel and Mayor Kasperkaz
NOES: Vice Mayor Linkes
ABSENT: None
NOT VOTING: Councilmember Means
Our Lobbyists: an update on what is going on in Sacramento

Sadly, budget cuts hit our Lobby staff very hard, resulting in layoffs and changes in how much money we have to spend on lobbying activities, what we call our "com" money. That said even with reduced staff our team in Sacramento has a very aggressive workplan for 2012. They will:

- Participate in the legislative attacks. We will watchdog and eliminate those bills that threaten to roll back hard-earned environmental protections, encourage and help pass the public's access to clean water or clean air, or destroy the state's natural heritage, from Sierra forests to undeveloped ocean waters.
- Cut California's dependence on polluting fuels. We are advancing policies that will make passenger cars and the freight system pollutant-free, stop the burning of fossil fuels, and help California become a leader in reducing our reliance on the climate-wrecking oil industry.

More Comprehensive Reform. Our staff and volunteers are Leaders are leading efforts to improve water conservation by updating water metering policies. We are also bringing our strong voice for renewable energy from solar and wind power.

To learn more about Sierra Club California visit our website http://sierracalifornia.org, our publications/capitol voice or sign up to receive alerts on fast moving legislation at http://sierracalifornia.org/ca-legislation/. And if you appreciate what we do, consider a donation to Sierra Club California.

Sierra Club California works closely with the 13 Sierra Club chapters to ensure that issues of local concern are addressed at the State Capitol. The office also provides grass-roots training at our annual lobby day; provides chapter newsletters with articles and legislative updates, and works with the membership to bring grass roots supporter to lobbying efforts in Sacramento.

Sierra Club California is committed to enlisting the support of key elected officials in addressing the environmental issues that affect our state. Each year we issue a report card which reflects the voting record of elected officials on environmental issues of importance to our members. The report card is available on our website at http://sierracalifornia.org.

Campaign readiness –

1. How will you vote on the $11.1 billion water bond that will be up for voter approval on the November 2012 ballot?
2. How will you vote on the Safe Drinking Water Act?
3. Do you support the one-time only fee being charged to California taxpayers as a "sustain fee" to support water quality programs?
4. Do you support the permanent fee being charged to California taxpayers as a "sustain fee" to support water quality programs?
5. Do you support the one-time only fee being charged to California taxpayers as a "sustain fee" to support water quality programs?
6. Do you support the permanent fee being charged to California taxpayers as a "sustain fee" to support water quality programs?
7. How would you ensure that knowledgeable, committed citizens are appointed to serve on Commissions?
8. The Board of Supervisors plays a large role in transportation policy-making bodies such as SaMtR anS, Caltrain, the bay area Tolling Strategies, the bay area Tolling Strategies, the bay area Tolling Strategies, the bay area Tolling Strategies, the bay area Tolling Strategies, the bay area Tolling Strategies.
9. Resilient Habitats is a Sierra Club priority campaign. What will you do to ensure that our diverse habitats, from salmon to the bay, are protected and enhanced?
10. How would you ensure that land use decisions take into account the needs of wildlife, including healthy riparian corridors?
11. How would you as a Supervisor ensure that knowledgeable, committed citizens are appointed to serve on Commissions?
12. How will you ensure that state and regional water quality programs are supported?
13. How will you ensure that state and regional water quality programs are supported?
14. Are you aware of the current levee system in San Mateo County and its potential for failure?
15. Favor district elections? Have you advocated the changes you favor? How?
16. What changes, if any, do you favor in the County Charter, which directs how Supervisors are elected? Specifically, do you favor district elections or submeters for each individual unit?
17. Do you support a tax on oil extraction/refining? California is the only oil state without this tax. Would you support legislation that would allow local entities to place a local tax on gas tax increase on the ballot to support transit?
18. Would you support legislation that would allow local entities to place a local tax on gas tax increase on the ballot to support transit?
19. Would you support legislation that would allow local entities to place a local tax on gas tax increase on the ballot to support transit?
20. If you supported legislation that would allow local entities to place a local tax on gas tax increase on the ballot to support transit, would you support the measure that would allow more tolling on local and state roads if collected toll revenue was dedicated to transit improvements?

Candidate Questionnaire for San Mateo Board of Supervisors, District 4

OVERVIEW QUESTIONS

1. Historically, the club considers your past record as the best indicator of your future concern for the environment. What have you done to protect natural resources and the environment?
2. What will be your priorities for the Board of Supervisors?
3. How would you encourage your colleagues to work more collaboratively with the Sierra Club?
4. Do you have any ideas about how the Board of Supervisors could develop a process whereby projects that are inconsistent with the Club's priorities are prevented from moving forward?
5. What legislation do you propose to take to address them?
6. What will be the three most important environmental issues you will face if elected, and what actions will you take to address them?
7. How would you as a Supervisor ensure that knowledgeable, committed citizens are appointed to serve on Commissions?
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