

Sierra Conservationist

NEWSLETTER OF THE PLACER GROUP SIERRA CLUB

October-December, 2016



Vote NO on half-cent Transportation Sales Tax

Seven MYTHS about Placer County's Measure M

Myth: *With Measure M we will take care of our own transportation needs.*

PCTPA says that our county actually has \$8 billion in transportation needs. \$1.6 billion Measure M will leverage more funds, but 83% would go to car travel. The fundamental flaw of Measure M is that it asks county voters to replace absent federal and state funding with a sales tax increase. The solution to this problem lies in Congress. We should not open this gate which would limit chances of developing alternative transportation needs during this 30-year tax.

Myth: *People in Placer County won't get out of their cars.*

Nearly all of us have no available alternative to cars for work, doctors, groceries, school, or any other destination. Across the nation and world people use transit, bikes, and walkways when it serves their needs and is safe. Public transit is heavily used wherever there is increasing congestion as we have here. Some people here do drive to busses to go to work in Sacramento but most have jobs closer to home, and Measure M will not help them.

Myth: *Measure M will fix congestion.*

Adding capacity to congested highways induces more congestion as vehicles move in to fill it. Shortly after new lanes or roads are opened, traffic increases to 10 to 50% of the new roadway capacity, and within three or more years total induced traffic rises to 50 to 100% of the roadway's new capacity. (National Center for Sustainable Transportation, Policy Brief, "Increasing Highway Capacity Unlikely to Relieve Traffic Congestion."). Twenty percent of I-80/SR 65 interchange traffic now diverts to other roads and will come back immediately with traffic from massive new housing along SR65 and Placer Parkway.

Myth: *Measure M will create jobs and build the county's economy.*

Most studies find no net increase in employment or other economic activity from new capacity. Reduction in roadway capacity actually tends to produce social and economic effects without worsening traffic congestion. (Policy Brief). New capacity does affect where developers build in a region. We would pay \$5 more in sales tax for every \$1,000 spent. Big and small shoppers will go elsewhere and diminish our economy. It's an unfair tax in that the lower a family's income the bigger percent they pay in terms of sales tax.

Myth: *Measure M's \$200 million cost of Early Financing of highway projects using sales taxes will be paid back later by developers.*

Developers should pay up front for projects that benefit them, and they will not be paying back the full amount. PCTPA has already financed

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MEASURE M... continued from page 1

and completed too many early funding projects such as the Sierra College Boulevard/I-80 Interchange and the Sunset Boulevard/SR 65 Interchange. Measure M allocates \$35 million of the sales tax to the 15-mile Placer Parkway which has a cost of over half a billion dollars, presumably also including the Early Funding source.

Myth: *Measure M is needed to repair our local roads.*

By eliminating freeway capacity increases, a ¼ sales tax measure would more than fund local road needs plus higher alternative transportation projects. Also misleading is that Measure M allows local government to change their Capital Improvement Plans to fund other purposes in the Expenditure plan. Measure M or a ¼ cent tax must mandate use of the funds only for the intended road repair purpose and would require lower tax allocation.

Myth: *Without Measure M people will sit in traffic making more pollution.*

Transportation is the biggest source of greenhouse gas emissions. Increases in GHG emissions attributable to capacity expansion are substantial. (Policy Brief)



Placer Group Sierra Club
P.O. Box 7167 • Auburn, CA 95604

<http://www.sierraclub.org/mother-lode/placer>

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Fundraising	Open

Public Relations/Newsletter: We invite your letters, comments and input. Our deadline is 15 days prior to publication, the first day of each quarter during the year. Our newsletter can also be accessed on our website.

The Sierra Conservationist is published quarterly: January, April, July online and printed in October by Placer Group Sierra Club, a nonprofit organization.

ON THE COVER: Late summer flows at Fordyce Creek
 (Photo by Cat Raymond)

MEMBERSHIP

The *Sierra Conservationist* comes with your Sierra Club membership. Donations from anyone to help defray newsletter costs are always appreciated. Write "newsletter" on your check.

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone (optional) _____

Email (optional) _____

Check enclosed Visa Mastercard

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Membership Categories:	INDIVIDUAL	JOINT	
Introductory	\$25	n/a	F94QW09101
Regular	\$39	\$47	Sierra Club
Supporting	\$75	\$100	P.O. Box 421041
Senior, Student	\$24	\$32	Palm Coast, FL 32142-6417
Contributing	\$150	\$175	
Life	\$1,000	\$1,250	

Contributions or gifts to the Sierra Club are not tax deductible as charitable contributions. Annual dues include subscription to *Sierra* (\$7.50) and chapter publications (\$1.00) and other member-only benefits.



SIERRA CLUB
 FOUNDED 1892

Placer Group's General Meeting Tuesday, October 11 at 7:00 pm

You are cordially invited to the Placer Group Sierra Club's General Meeting where informational items will be briefly presented followed by the showing of an award-winning documentary film, *EXPOSED: USDA's Secret War on Wildlife* (approximately 30 minutes).

This film was created by the nonprofit Predator Defense and sheds light on the little known USDA agency named "Wildlife Services," which is a totally separate agency from US Fish and Wildlife Service, although the two are often confused. Wildlife Services has been coming under scrutiny and has been heavily criticized by members of the public and wildlife conservation groups. For more information, contact Marilyn Jasper at marilyn.jasper@mlc.sierraclub.org. Free and open to the public.



SOLAR benefits your energy bill and Placer Group's bottom line.



Once again, the Sierra Club has made arrangements with Sungevity that will hopefully create a win-win for both the solar company and the Placer Group.

For a free solar quote, which will also help us with our conservation costs, please go to <http://content.sierraclub.org/solar/sungevity?ref=138>

All quotes and/or further installations from within Placer Group's boundaries will benefit the Placer Group (and the Mother Lode Chapter).

Getting started with solar is quick and easy. It takes less than three minutes. Request an iQuote from Sungevity to get started today at www.sierraclub.org/solarhomes or call (855) 438-7860 for more information.

GO SOLAR

GET A SPECIAL \$750 DISCOUNT THROUGH SIERRA CLUB

Migration in Motion: Website a must for Nature Lovers

From the Nature Conservancy comes an exquisite, dynamic, color-coded, moving visual of major migratory wildlife routes. Go to <http://maps.tnc.org/migrations-in-motion/#4/19.00/-78.00>. Be sure to click on the "Migration in Motion" links.

Most animal species will try to stay cool with climate change by migrating away from hotter spots. However, human population increases have created a multitude of obstacles that impact migratory options. The moving migration map shows where animals might shift their routes to survive. Why should we care? Because if those altered routes prove to be accurate, then efforts must begin now to preserve lands, open spaces, waterways, etc., to make certain wildlife animal journeys are successful.

Auburn Community Festival Stop by our booth and say Howdy!

The Sierra Club Placer Group will once again have a booth at the October 15 Auburn Community Festival. We will have informational handouts on wildlife and other environmental issues, and will be selling beautiful 2017 wall and desk calendars. This is a very popular fall event that draws families and visitors from across Placer County.

The 20th Annual Auburn Community Festival is Saturday, Oct. 15, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Auburn Recreation Park, 123 Recreation Drive. The event and parking are free. If you are a SCPG member and would like to volunteer for a two-hour shift in our booth, contact Marilyn Jasper at marilyn.jasper@mlc.sierraclub.org. Or just stop by and introduce yourself. We love to meet our members! The festival features a pumpkin-weighing contest, scarecrow contest, costume parade, live music, bounce houses, food booths and information booths from local organizations including the Auburn-based SCPG.

More information on the festival is available at <http://www.auburncommunityfestival.com>

Placer Group Executive Committee (ExCom) 2016 Election Notice

Once again it's time to elect three ExCom members for the Sierra Club's Placer Group. These are elected officers who attend monthly Member/ExCom meetings and vote on important issues. All members are invited and welcome to attend the monthly member meetings, but only the six elected officers (two-year terms) can vote on motions. Please show your support by voting and submitting your ballot before December 1, 2016. Candidates are listed in alphabetical order.

Mike Garabedian: County land use planning is off the environmental tracks. New land divisions destroy forests and create fire traps for residents and fire fighters. Farm and timber land protection laws are under attack. Secondary homes are ruining the character of our neighborhoods. Canyon rim structures are bringing visual blight to the Auburn State Recreation Area. Measure M's tax increase would create more traffic congestion and would delay walking, bike and transit projects we need. Event centers would undermine our rural way of life. We oppose Centennial Dam on the Bear River. Our Executive Committee is the only organization tackling each of these issues. Please support our candidates.

Carol Love: I am currently a member of the Executive Committee and the Chair of the Placer Group Sierra Club. If elected, I will continue to lead our group in making decisions to support our efforts to protect sensitive environmental areas in Placer County. I would appreciate your vote to give me another term to continue this work. Thank you.

Tony Rakocija: Current ExCom member and treasurer. Sierra Club member since 1976. Director, Clover Valley Foundation.

PLACER GROUP SIERRA CLUB EXCOM BALLOT

PLEASE RETURN BALLOT BY DECEMBER 1, 2016

- 1) Vote for up to three candidates. Joint memberships use both columns.
- 2) To validate your ballot, include your return address on the envelope
- 3) Write "Ballot" on envelope and mail it to P.O. Box 7167, Auburn, CA 95604.

<u>CANDIDATE</u>	<u>VOTE 1</u>	<u>VOTE 2</u>
Michael Garabedian	_____	_____
Carol Love	_____	_____
Tony Rakocija	_____	_____



PLACER GROUP EVENTS & OUTINGS CALENDAR



The events listed here include those of the Sierra Club and other local events of interest. Only starred () activities are sponsored and administered by the Sierra Club.*

October 5, November 2, December 7, 2016 and January 4, 2017*: ExCom Meetings

First Wednesdays at 7:00 pm, Placer Group ExCom meets for members only. Usual location is Denny's off I-80 at the Foresthill Exit. Contact any ExCom member listed in this newsletter to confirm meeting time and place.

October 5 (Wednesday): Lake Clementine Trail Hike with Canyon Keepers

Walk along a mostly level trail paralleling North Fork of American River from the Confluence to Lake Clementine Dam, approximately 5 miles. We will eat lunch as we watch the water (hopefully) spill over the dam. Bring lunch, water, and \$ for parking or state parking pass. Meet at 9:00 am at the Confluence Area, off Hwy 49 in Auburn, by shade shelter just before OLD (low) Foresthill Bridge. No dogs. Rain cancels. Leader Sheila Toner (530) 886-0673.

October 11 (Tuesday): Placer Group's General Meeting*

7:00 pm. Brief discussion of conservation and related issues followed by a showing of the award-winning documentary, "EXPOSED—USDA's Secret War on Wildlife." Free, open to the public.

October 20 (Thursday): Placer Land Trust's Conservator Fundraiser Dinner & Award Ceremony

Held at The Ridge Golf Club & Event Center in Auburn, 6-9:00 pm. Loren Clark will be honored for his many years of service, plus awards will be presented to a few outstanding volunteers. For ticket information, visit <http://www.placerlandtrust.org/october-20-placer-conservator-dinner-awards-live-auction/>

October 26 (Wednesday): Hike (1A) Olmstead Loop

We'll make an approximately 5 mile loop in the southern half of the Olmstead Loop area of ASRA in Cool. Our loop will take us among rolling oak woodlands and meadows and past a large pond on Knickerbocker Creek. Trail may be muddy in spots if recent rains. Meet at Burger King, on Lincoln way at Foresthill Exit off I-80 in Auburn at 9:00 am or at trailhead at 9:30 am. If meeting at trailhead, please call for exact meeting location in Cool. Bring lunch, water and essentials. No dogs. Rain cancels. Leader Sheila Toner, (530) 886-0673.

November 16 (Wednesday): American Canyon, Dead Truck, WST Loop with Canyon Keepers

This is a nice approximately 5 mile loop, with an elevation loss/gain of about 900 ft. These heavily forested trails offer a different feel than other hikes in the canyons around Auburn, and offer occasional brief views of the Middle Fork American River. We'll make a few creek crossings and a gold rush site along our route. Have lunch, water, and essentials. No dogs. Rain cancels. Meet in Auburn at Burger King, on Lincoln Way at Foresthill Exit off I-80 at 9:30 am. Leader Sheila Toner (530) 886-0673.

November 30 (Wednesday): Hike (1A) Greenwood Creek (senior section)*

Pretty, approximately 4 mile fairly level loop hike along the South Fork American River. We'll spend some time alongside and overlooking the South Fork. Plan on a long lunch break by the river. This short hike has it all, views, sandy beach, rocky beach, forested trails, open meadow, sun, & shade. Bring lunch, water and essentials. No dogs. Rain cancels. Meet at 9:30 am at Burger King on Lincoln Way in Auburn at Foresthill Exit off I-80 in Auburn. Leader Sheila Toner (530) 886-0673.

Placer Land Trust is still offering monthly docent led hikes. If you've been thinking about coming on a hike, check their event calendar: <http://www.placerlandtrust.org/calendar-2/>

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SIERRA CLUB
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Explore, enjoy and protect the planet

Buy, or help sell, breathtaking 2017 Calendars

Once again, the stunning Sierra Club 2016 Wilderness (wall) and Engagement (weekly-desk) calendars have arrived with magnificent images of nature for homes, offices, or for the perfect gift. Wilderness calendars have 12 large (11.25" x 12.75") color photographs above with monthly large date blocks below. Engagement calendars (6.5" x 9") have spectacular photographs opposite each weekly page.



Calendar sales are the primary fundraising source for our Placer Group. Proceeds help pay for our activities—materials, tabling/booth rents, environmental campaigns, legal expenses, etc.) that benefit Placer County’s region. Calendars can be purchased by completing the order form at right or call (916) 652-7005 or email marilyn.jasper@mlc.sierraclub.org. You can also purchase from our booth at upcoming farmers’ markets, festivals and events (save with no shipping).

Help us reach our goal to completely sell out before the end of the year.

CALENDAR ORDER FORM

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Telephone and/or Email _____

	QUANTITY	X	PRICE	+	*SHIPPING	=	TOTAL
Wilderness Calendars	_____	x	\$15	+	\$5 ea	=	_____
Engagement Calendars	_____	x	\$16	+	\$5 ea	=	_____
					Total Calendar Order		_____
					Additional Donation		_____
					Check Enclosed for Total Amount Due		_____

*No shipping charges if you pick up, or FREE delivery in Placer Group area for orders of 10 or more. Sales tax is included in the price.

Please make check payable to Sierra Club Placer Group and mail to P.O. Box 7167, Auburn, CA 95604. For more information or questions contact Marilyn Jasper at marilyn.jasper@mlc.sierraclub.org.

Thank you. Your support is greatly appreciated.