SIERRA CLUB CALIFORNIA
STATE/LOCAL CANDIDATE APPROVAL FORM

Include the candidate’s name and office for which they are running (including the district) in the subject line of the email transmitting the form.

Section A (complete for all candidates)

From (your name and chapter):

Action needed by (date):

Name of candidate:

Party (even if it is a non-partisan race):

Office sought (incl. district number):

How many seats are to be filled?

Date of election:

Candidate's campaign address & phone number:

FPPC number (if known):

Candidate's campaign manager (if known):

Chapter approvals:

[Note: A proposed endorsement must be approved by a two-thirds vote of the executive committee members present and voting, provided that the number supporting the action is more than 50% of the members eligible to vote (total membership excluding vacancies and those who cannot vote because of conflict of interest or government-imposed restrictions). An abstention for other reasons has the same effect as not voting. If there are any abstentions, list the reason(s) for them. For example, a membership held by a member who for reasons of conflict of interest or government-imposed restrictions declines to participate or abstains from voting is not counted for purposes of determining the total number of voting memberships. If the endorsement requires the approval of the executive committees of more than one chapter (because each has 25% or more of the Sierra Club members in the district) please indicate the vote of each chapter.]

Date of ExComm approval: _______________

Vote tally: Yes ____ No ____ Abstain ____ Absent ____ Vacant positions ____

Total number of executive committee members eligible to vote ____
If a member has been excluded from the total number of members eligible to vote, provide a rationale:

Chapter PolComm vote on (date): ____________
Vote tally: Yes ___ No ___ Abstain ___ Absent ___

___________ Group ExComm on (date):
Vote tally: Yes ___ No ___ Abstain ___ Absent ___

Is this race for an office representing an area that includes portions of more than one chapter? Yes ___ No ___

If yes, what were the results of consultation with the other affected chapter or chapters? [Note: Any chapter that includes a portion of the district should be consulted; endorsement requires approval by all chapters that include 25% or more of the Sierra Club members in the district]

Is this recommendation for an incumbent? Yes ___ No ___ If yes, please complete Section B below. If no, skip Section B and go on to Section C. “Incumbent” is defined as a sitting officeholder running for reelection to the office they currently hold.

Section B (for incumbents)

Candidate's present office:

In a sentence or two, summarize the candidate’s environmental record in his or her current office. If available, include Sierra Club California report cards, found at http://www.sierraclubcalifornia.org/report-cards.html.

Describe any negative effects that may result from this endorsement.

Does this endorsement involve any circumstances identified by the Sierra Club Political Team Compliance Guidelines as unusual or problematic, such as multiple endorsements supporting more candidates than there are seats up for election, or endorsement of a candidate who does not have a reasonably good prospect of winning the election? Yes ___ No ___

If yes, please explain the chapter's rationale for recommending endorsement.

Go on to Section D
Section C (for non-incumbents)

Candidate's present office (if any):

Other major candidates (list names, party, & whether they are incumbents):

Compare the candidate to his or her opponents based on their environmental records, positions and experience. Include at least some discussion of each candidate who has a substantial chance of winning. If available, include Sierra Club California report cards, found at http://www.sierraclubcalifornia.org/report-cards.html.

Chapter research process included--
__ Questionnaires (always recommended for non-incumbents).
__ Interviews (list interviewers, if fewer than 3):
__ Other (describe):

Were ALL candidates given an opportunity to submit a questionnaire or be interviewed? Yes___ No ___

If no, please explain. If contact could not be made with any candidate, explain what efforts were made to contact them.
[Note: except where the Sierra Club is endorsing a pro-environment incumbent, all candidates with a significant chance of winning should be given an opportunity to respond to a questionnaire or be interviewed.]

What is the probability of candidate's election?
  Basis for estimate:

Describe the candidate's general strategy for winning the campaign.

Describe the campaign's organizational and financial capacity to effectively implement the strategy.

Is the candidate a Sierra Club member?
  (Membership is not required.)

If elected, why do you believe the candidate will work with the Sierra Club?

Are environmental issues important to the candidate? Explain.

Are they important in the election? Explain.

Is Club political action important to the candidate?
Is it important in the election?

Describe the Chapter's past involvement with this candidate:
Who else has endorsed this candidate (persons, organizations, etc.)? Link to a website is sufficient.

If the candidate opposes the Club on any issue, explain briefly.

Describe any negative effects that may result from this endorsement.

Does this endorsement involve any circumstances identified by the Sierra Club Political Team Compliance Guidelines as unusual or problematic, such as multiple endorsements supporting more candidates than there are seats up for election or endorsement of a candidate who does not have a reasonably good prospect of winning the election? Yes ___ No ___

If yes, please explain the chapter's rationale for recommending endorsement.

Section D (complete for all candidates)

Our chapter requests approval to begin the following activities--
__ Endorsement of candidate and other activities listed below
__ Club communication to Club members (newsletter, mail, phone)
__ Candidate communication to Club members (mail or phone)
__ Use of Club leader name and title for identification purposes only
__ Club communication to the general public**
__ Press Conference
__ Literature**
__ Paid Advertisement**
__ TV/Radio**
__ Other (describe):

OR

__ “Activities Short of Endorsement” listed below
__ Candidate communication to Club members (mail or phone)
__ Other (describe):

[Note: ** PAC funds are required for all direct and in-kind contributions to candidates.]

Sierra Club member who will maintain contact with the campaign:
Name:
email address:
Phone:

Expected campaign activity by Club members (describe briefly):

Sierra Club member who will prepare publicity materials (newsletter articles, blurbs, photos etc.) in support of the candidate:
Name:
email address:

Chapter Compliance officer:
  Name:
  email address:
  Phone:

Date of Chapter ExComm’s most recent approval to changes to Chapter Political Standing Rules: _____________________

[Note: Sec 1-151 of the national Political Compliance Guidelines states: “NO STATE OR LOCAL POLITICAL ACTIVITY MAY BE UNDERTAKEN BY A SIERRA CLUB ENTITY WITHOUT A CHAPTER COMPLIANCE OFFICER whose contact information is listed in the national leadership database”, and Sec. 2-604 states: “Before beginning the endorsement process, chapters must adopt additional written rules to supplement these guidelines.”]

After all necessary chapter approvals are complete, send copies of this request to:

EITHER

the Northern California Candidate Review Committee--
  Andy Sawyer (chair): AndySawyer@aol.com
  Pat Piras: patpiras@sonic.net
  Chance Cutrano: ccutrano@gmail.com
  Victoria Brandon [alt.]: vbrandon95457@gmail.com
  Fran Farina [alt.]: fran@farinalaw.net

OR

the Southern California Review Committee--
  Howard Strauss (chair): htstrauss@aol.com
  Joan Jones Holtz: jholtzhln@aol.com
  David Gold: davidgold4@aol.com
  Peter Andersen [alt.]: westone47@gmail.com
  Mark Rush [alt.]: markrushart@gmail.com

and IF this is a state legislative candidate, also send it to:
  Patricia Jones (CLC liaison): pvjones10@gmail.com)
Request submitted by--
Name:
Club position:
email address:
Phone:
[You will be notified of state committee’s action.]

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State Committee and CLC action--
   ___ Approved
   ___ Disapproved
   ___ Modified (describe):
   Chapter notified (date):
   Sacramento staff notified (date):

Sierra Club California Candidate Review Form Adopted August 2019; revised 11/28/19;
revised 12/7/19; revised 2/6/20; revised 2/18/20; revised 2/25/20