



Find us online at theyodeler.org and sierraclub.org/sfbay

Expanded Peninsula Watershed docent program will increase public access, protect vital water supply

The Peninsula Watershed in central San Mateo County has the highest concentration of rare, threatened, and endangered species in the nine-county Bay Area — a truly remarkable fact considering the area's proximity to highly developed urban areas. The 23,000 acres of the watershed lands are protected and managed by the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission (PUC) with the primary purpose of production, collection, and storage of the highest-quality water for the City and County of San Francisco and its suburban customers. In order to protect this precious water supply in an era of longer and more severe droughts, access to much of the area is restricted to a handful of well-used trails, except under the auspices of a docent program.

Under the docent program, volunteer guides lead hikers, bicyclists, and equestrians into watershed lands three days a week (you can sign up for a trip at <http://sfwater.org/cfapps/trail/available.cfm> — as of this printing the vast majority of available dates had multiple openings). The docent program has increased public awareness and support for the watershed's diverse natural habitats and wildlife while at the same time helping to prevent unauthorized off-trail use and trespassing. That in turn reduces the potential for catastrophic wildfires (the area has been designated a "hazardous fire area" by the California Department of Forestry) and degradation of water quality in the four reservoirs.

Mountain bicycle and other advocates are lobbying the PUC to consider opening remote areas of the Peninsula Watershed lands to unrestricted access — not only along the unpaved and unfenced service road on Fifield-Cahill Ridge, but also on numerous other interconnecting service roads and trails. Unfortunately, unrestricted access increases the likelihood of public health impacts, including fire risk and degraded water quality, as well as harm to habitats and wildlife.

Allowing uncontrolled access to the watershed's remote areas would tremendously increase costs to taxpayers, as people will inevitably trespass into protected, sensitive areas. Fencing to prevent access would interrupt established wildlife migration



The Crystal Springs Reservoir is part of the Peninsula Watershed, a vital water source for San Francisco and suburban water districts. Photo by Chris Sagedy, <http://chris.sagedy.com>.

corridors and would not deter all trespassers.

Rather than opening the area to unrestricted access and the risks associated with it, the Sierra Club and other environmental groups are calling for the successful, existing docent program to be expanded and upgraded. An excellent model for a well-managed and effective docent program is at Jasper Ridge Biological Preserve on Stanford University lands south of Crystal Springs. A similar program could be instituted for the Watershed.

A number of Peninsula Watershed trails are already open every day to unrestricted access. The popular 16-mile Crystal Springs trail east of the reservoirs near Highway 280 serves over 325,000 people each year.

This is not the first time the San Francisco PUC has considered allowing unrestricted access in the watershed lands. In 2002, the PUC considered and ultimately rejected the idea due to serious concerns raised by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, California Fish and Wildlife, California Department of Health Services, and many environmental groups over water quality, fire, and wildlife. The docent program was created at that time to respond to the call for more public access. Now the docent program should be expanded and upgraded.

The San Francisco Board of Supervisors should pass a resolution affirming that the primary function of the watershed is protection of our water supply and preservation of natural resources, while allowing increased public access through an expanded docent program rather than uncontrolled access. The Sierra Club, Golden Gate and Sequoia Audubon Societies,

California Native Plant Society's Yerba Buena and Santa Clara County Chapters, and the Committee for Green Foothills all support this approach.

Lennie Roberts, San Mateo County legislative advocate, Committee for Green Foothills; Mike Ferreira, chair, Sierra Club Loma Prieta Chapter; Arthur Feinstein, Executive Committee member, Sierra Club San Francisco Bay Chapter



Go Solar in May and get a special \$1,000 discount!

Spring is here! With more daylight to burn, rooftop solar panels around the country are generating lots of clean energy and powering hundreds of thousands of homes.

When you sign up to go solar with the Sierra Club and Sungevity in the month of May you will receive a special \$1,000 discount and the Bay Chapter will receive \$750 to continue to protect the environment.

Getting started with solar is quick and easy. Request an iQuote from Sungevity today at SC.org/SolarPrint or call (844)815-5614 for more information.

Take advantage of these sun-filled hours by finding out if solar energy is right for your home. Go solar today!

Find the fullest and most up-to-date coverage at theYodeler.org.

West Contra Costa Group holds special election — New leaders encouraged to apply!

The West Contra Costa group is holding a special election this spring to fill two vacancies on our Executive Committee. If you want to get more involved in the Club's work in West Contra Costa County — from refinery regulations to open space conservation, from promoting clean energy to hosting activities and events — consider running for a position on the group Executive Committee.

This election is on an accelerated timeline,

so the process of running is quicker and easier than ever! Candidates must complete their application by April 25th. Check out www.sierraclub.org/sfbay/wcccgroupselection for details about the election process and timeline.

Many other positions within the group are not necessarily filled by elected members. If you might be interested in upping your involvement without running for election, this webpage has information for you as well.

Vacancy on Marin Group ExCom

The Bay Chapter's Marin Group is currently in the process of filling a vacancy on its 11-member Executive Committee. If you wish to learn more or be considered, please contact group chair Max Perrey at mperrey@sfbaysc.org. All Club members who live in Marin County are members of the Marin Group and

are eligible to serve on the ExCom.

The Marin Group ExCom meets on the second Tuesday of each month. It oversees essential functions of the Marin Group, which consists of approximately 4,700 Sierra Club members who live in Marin County. Read more about the group at www.sc.org/sfbay/marin.

Celebrate Earth Day 2016 with us!

While the Sierra Club honors the earth year round, each April and May we join others in celebrating Earth Day. We participate in many events around the Bay Area to share information about the Club and our work to protect the environment. Please join us at one (or more!) of the following free festivals. Find Earth Day work parties and other special events in the Activities Calendar (pages 5-7) and Group section (page 9).

Can you help out? We need volunteers for each of these events to set up our booth one hour before the event, table/talk with attendees in two-hour shifts during the event, and take down our booth for a half hour after the event. Previous experience is not necessary. Other help may be requested at specific events. To volunteer, please contact Joanne Drabek at joanne1892@gmail.com or (510)530-5216.



Oakland Earth Expo

www.oaklandearthexpo.org
Wednesday, April 6th, 10 am to 2 pm
Frank Ogawa Plaza, 14th and Broadway

Berkeley Bay Festival

www.ci.berkeley.ca.us/BayFestival
Saturday, April 16th, 11 am to 4 pm
Shorebird Park at Berkeley Marina

John Muir Birthday / Earth Day Celebration in Martinez

<http://tinyurl.com/muir178th>
Saturday, April 23rd, 10 am to 4 pm
John Muir House, 4202 Alhambra Ave.
To volunteer, please contact Janess Hanson at janesshanson@att.net or (925)458-0860.

Alameda Earth Day Festival




alamedaca.gov/recreation/earth-day-festival
Saturday, April 23rd, 11 am to 4 pm
Washington Park, 740 Central Ave.

Albany Arts and Green Fair

<http://tinyurl.com/artsandgreen2016>
Sunday, May 1st, 11 am to 4 pm
Memorial Park, 1325 Portland Ave.

The Bay Chapter Online

Follow us on social media!

-  [SierraClubSFBayChapter](https://www.facebook.com/SierraClubSFBayChapter)
-  [@SFBaySierraClub](https://twitter.com/SFBaySierraClub)
-  [SierraClub_SFBay](https://www.instagram.com/SierraClub_SFBay)

Explore our website!

The Bay Chapter website, online at sierraclub.org/sfbay, is home to all sorts of helpful information and resources, including:

- Issue briefs
- Group info and leadership roster
- Full events and activities calendar
- Volunteer opportunities

Nominations now open for several Bay Chapter awards and honors

Please submit nominations by April 1st for inspiring, impactful local environmental champions or youth leaders at <http://tinyurl.com/dbdwards>.

Email awards@sfbaysc.org for more information on award opportunities and criteria.

2016 Elections: Speak out for a healthy environment!

The Bay Area needs your help to ensure that the 2016 elections pass strong environmental protections and get environmental champions into office. Join the Bay Chapter for two special political action committee fundraisers this spring to build support for our critical political organizing:

SF House Party

Saturday, May 7th, 1 to 3pm
Special guests to be announced soon

East Bay House Party, Kensington

Sunday, May 15th, 1 to 3pm
Special guests to be announced soon

Contribution levels are: \$50 (Supporter), \$100 (Friend), \$250 (Advocate), \$500 (Partner), \$750 (Champion), \$1,000 (Guardian).

Space is limited! Venue addresses provided upon RSVP. Please mail your check made payable to "SF Bay Candidates PAC" to 2530 San Pablo Ave., Ste. I, Berkeley, CA 94702, along with a note containing your address, employer, and occupation, in order to comply with California campaign finance law, and a phone number or email we can contact you at if we have any questions.

Contributions to the Sierra Club SF Bay Chapter PAC are not tax-deductible.

More details online at sierraclub.org/sfbay/2016pacparties.

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To find out more, contact the editor at yodedit@sierraclub.org or (510)848-0800.



A note to our members:

You may have received a mailing challenging the Sierra Club's position on vegetation management for fire safety in the East Bay hills. While we respect and encourage a vigorous discussion of issues, we take issue with a number of statements in that mailing. We sent a detailed response to the mailing as an insert in the last issue of the Yodeler. If you missed it, we hope you will visit www.sierraclub.org/sfbay/hillsfacts to find much more information on the issue.

Please be assured that no one was given your personal information. The mailing list was sent to a professional mail house — not to any individual or organization — for one-time use because the sender had submitted a formal request that we were legally obliged to accommodate. We apologize for the concern this has caused some members.

Updates on the campaign to stop coal exports through Oakland

The developers of an export terminal on City-owned land on the Oakland waterfront have solicited a partnership with four Utah counties to export up to ten million tons of coal through Oakland each year. The plan would make Oakland the largest coal-export facility on the West Coast, and would increase national coal exports by a whopping 19 percent. It would mean long, dusty coal trains coming through our communities, compromising public health, worker safety, and climate security. Here's an update on our campaign to stop the dirty deal.

Poll reveals over 75% of Oakland voters oppose coal exports

The Sierra Club recently released the results of a new survey of Oakland voters' attitudes toward the coal-export proposal. The survey, which was conducted by the California-based polling firm Fairbank, Maslin, Maullin, Metz & Associates, found overwhelming public opposition to transporting coal by rail through Oakland to this terminal for export overseas.

After hearing a brief and balanced debate on the issue — including a strong argument from supporters — more than three-quarters of Oakland voters (76%) say they oppose the coal-export proposal. This includes 57% who say they are “strongly” opposed. This suggests the more that people hear about the proposal, the more they agree it is an unnecessary and risky part of an otherwise important plan to build a new export terminal in West Oakland.

The survey also suggests that Oakland City Councilmembers who oppose this proposal will enjoy greater support from voters. By a nearly three-to-one margin, voters say they would be more likely to vote for a member of the city council who opposed the coal-export proposal.

Bay Chapter organizer Brittany King summed up the survey results: “This poll clearly demonstrates what we've learned from our conversations on the ground with Oakland residents: they do not want dirty coal.”

So where does the coal-export proposal stand?

The Oakland City Council has the authority to block coal exports at the army base redevelopment given the serious health and safety risks it poses. On February 16th, the city council was scheduled to approve spending nearly \$250,000 to hire consultants from Environmental Science Associates (ESA) to review information gathered at a September hearing on public health and safety impacts of coal exports, and produce findings. However, prior to the February council meeting, Oakland Mayor Libby Schaaf released a statement urging the council to postpone contracting with ESA in order to evaluate more options. She also stated that she “remains strongly opposed to the transport of coal and crude oil through our city and committed to upholding our city policy.” The item was pulled from the agenda with council agreeing to revisit the coal issue in April.

State & national leaders weigh in

In late February, State Senator Loni Hancock introduced four bills to restrict the export and transportation of coal in California. However, Senator Hancock made it clear that the bills are not retroactive (they couldn't stop coal exports from the project in question) and urged the Oakland City Council to use its authority to protect its community and prohibit coal exports from the army base redevelopment.

Van Jones, a political commentator for CNN and the president and founder of the “Green For All” campaign, shared his opposition to the proposal in the *San Francisco Chronicle*, stating that “coal is a dying industry, and it shouldn't be allowed to take the people of West Oakland down with it.”

City must act soon

While the city council continues to delay action, the developers and coal interests are



Local leaders from diverse faith communities came together at the February 16th city council meeting to oppose the proposal to export coal through Oakland. They called on the council to protect their communities by standing up to out-of-state coal companies.

working behind the scenes to get the project started. Earlier this month, the Utah state legislature passed a bill that invests 53 million taxpayer dollars in the project. This Utah government funding puts the project developers one step closer to being able to push this risky deal through.

The Oakland City Council must act quickly and use their legal authority to ban coal exports, making it clear that they stand with the growing list of elected officials, community leaders, and the 76% of Oakland voters who oppose coal exports in Oakland.

Rather than invest in dirty fuels, Oakland should invest in clean-energy solutions that will bring good jobs, cleaner air and water, and a more secure economic future to the people of Oakland.

Want to get involved? Contact brittany.king@sierraclub.org or (510)848-0800.

Brittany King

Help us plant 1,500 trees in the next three years

The Sierra Club Tree Team recently received a CAL FIRE grant to plant street trees throughout the East Oakland Flatlands in Districts 2, 5, 6, and 7 — transforming concrete into greenspace in neighborhoods deemed environmentally disadvantaged.

As the new trees grow, they will take in carbon dioxide, helping to combat climate change and provide a number of social and environmental benefits to the surrounding community, including: cleaner air, cooler temperatures (and lower energy bills!), reduced stormwater flooding, wildlife habitat, and increased property values.

Use the map at bit.ly/FreeTreesforOaklandFlatlands to see if your property falls within our free-tree zone. If your property falls outside the free zone:

- You can join our waiting list to get free trees (dependent upon our pool of outside donations and grants), or
- We can plant the trees for you for a small fee-for-service of about \$100 per tree.

You can find the tree request form at sc.org/sfbay/tree-planting.

We rely on volunteers to dig the holes and plant 15-20 trees each week during planting season. Plantings usually occur on Saturday mornings between November and May. You can participate as often as you like. We provide the shovels and our experienced team leaders will teach you all you need to know. To get involved, find upcoming tree-planting and tree-pruning events at www.meetup.com/sanfranciscobay, or email SCTreePlanting@gmail.com.

Hetty Chin

Submit your picks for outstanding outings leaders by April 19

Now is the time to nominate outings leaders for this year's Dave and Pat Michener Outings Leadership Award. The Bay Chapter established the award in 2001 to commemorate the many years of volunteer service performed by the Micheners as editors of the Chapter Schedule (the predecessor of the activities calendar) and to recognize superior leadership by Chapter outing leaders.

If you know of an outstanding leader, send in a nomination. Leadership criteria include concern for individual participants; activities skill and knowledge combined with a penchant for sharing them; the ability to forge links between the Club's activities and its conservation

values; the number and variety of outings; the educational content of their outings; and

their involvement in recruiting, training, or mentoring new leaders. To qualify, nominees must be leaders who list outings in the Chapter Events and Activities calendar. Each nomination may include up to two letters of support.

Send nominations and supporting letters by Tuesday, April 19th, to Steve Bakaley, chair of the Chapter Activities Committee, at:

slbakaley@lbl.gov (preferred), or:
12 Calvin Court
Walnut Creek, CA 94595.

The winner will be selected at the May 2nd Activities Committee meeting and announced in the June-July 2016 Yodeler.

Steve Bakaley for the Activities Committee



2015 Michener Award recipient Ronald Ucovich (center) leads a hike. Photo by Barbara Hebert.

Balancing recreation and conservation at the Golden Gate National Recreation Area

Proposed rule would accommodate dog walking while protecting sensitive natural resources

Last year, over 15 million people visited the Golden Gate National Recreation Area (GGNRA), making it the most visited National Park in the U.S. GGNRA's stunning landscapes offer more than 100 forms of recreation, from surfing to dog walking. Visitors share GGNRA with 1,273 plant and animal species, 35 of which are rare, threatened, or endangered — that's more at-risk species more than Yosemite, Yellowstone, and Sequoia & Kings Canyon National Parks combined! The area also protects important cultural resources including American coastal fortifications and Native American artifacts.

As you can imagine, protecting GGNRA's natural, cultural, and scenic resources while accommodating so many visitors is no small feat.

To achieve a balance between conservation and recreation, the park service has proposed a new plan to accommodate off-leash dog walking — a unique opportunity offered at no other national park site in the U.S. Parts of the GGNRA have been open to dogs since before the area's acquisition by the park service in 1972, and the new plan would accommodate this precedent by allowing dog walking in 22 locations, 7 of them for off-leash use.

What's in the rule?

The rule will create zones for off-leash, on-leash, and dog-free uses (see the map of proposed zones at <http://tinyurl.com/ggnrarulemaps>). All park visitors will benefit from having clarity about where they can go within the park to enjoy a variety of recreation experiences. For example, school groups and other activity leaders will know where they can take students to explore and learn without interruptions from off-leash dogs. And dog owners can choose to prevent their leashed pets from interacting with off-leash pets.

Why do we need restrictions on where dogs can go?

GGNRA was established to preserve outstanding natural, cultural, and scenic resources, as well as provide recreational and educational opportunities for all visitors. Many visitors are children, the elderly, and the infirm. People come for many other reasons than to walk or play with a dog, including hiking, strolling, running, bird watching, photography, and sightseeing. All park uses should be respected, and not all uses are compatible with off-leash dogs.

Off-leash dogs can damage sensitive wildlife habitat, disturb park-goers, and leave waste. It's the park service's responsibility to protect the natural resources under its care "unimpaired" for all Americans and future generations. It only makes sense to allow off-leash dogs only in designated areas.

Why is this happening now?

The rule has been in the works for over 15 years, and over 11,400 members of the

public have participated in the comment process to help shape it. The proposal couldn't come at a better time; Increased visitation and use means that GGNRA's sensitive natural resources are under greater pressure than ever before. And the fast-growing population of the Bay Area means visitorship will continue to increase in coming years.

Without a balanced rule in place, the park's landscape has been badly affected in recent years. At Fort Funston, for example, areas were degraded by overuse and required restoration of coastal native scrub dune habitat. Cliff erosion required increased restriction for public safety. Under the proposed rule, dogs would stay off of cliffs and steep vegetation, but would be allowed off- and on-leash access to 45 percent (or 35 acres) of Fort Funston's usable land, including the full length of the beach area.

At Ocean Beach, off-leash dogs have disturbed threatened snowy plovers, upsetting nests, frightening away protective parents, and leaving eggs and chicks exposed to the cold and to predators. Only 2,100 birds remain on the entire Pacific coast, and Ocean Beach is the plover's most important nesting



The proposed rule will protect habitat for threatened species such as the western snowy plover, shown here at the GGNRA. Photo by Jessica Weinberg McClosky.

site in San Francisco. The proposed rules would allow off-leash dogs on a full mile of the northern portion of Ocean Beach while protecting important nesting grounds for the threatened species.

WhatYouCanDo

The Sierra Club supports GGNRA's well-considered plan for public use of public land. It strikes a reasonable balance among recreational uses while fulfilling the park's responsibility to protect habitats and wildlife. If you agree, go to <http://tinyurl.com/protectggnra> and send a message in support of the proposed

rule. If you have the time, send letters of support for the rule by mail:

*General Superintendent
Christine Lehnertz
Golden Gate National Parks
Building 201, Fort Mason
San Francisco, CA 94123*

*Senator Dianne Feinstein
One Post Street, Suite 2450
San Francisco, CA 94104*

*Congresswoman Nancy
Pelosi
90 7th Street, Suite 2-800
San Francisco, CA 94103*

*Congresswoman Jackie
Speier
155 Bovet Road, Suite 780
San Mateo, CA 94402*

*Congressman Jared Huffman
999 Fifth Ave., Suite 290
San Rafael, CA 94901*

*Mayor Edwin M. Lee
City Hall, Room 200
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place
San Francisco, CA 94102*

*Clerk, Marin County Board of Supervisors
3501 Civic Center Drive, Suite 329
San Rafael, CA 94903*

Editorial staff

Two steps forward, one step back in effort to close polluting gun range

The East Bay Regional Park District board made a welcome decision on March 1st to shut down the Chabot Gun Club, which has been leaching toxic lead into the watershed of Lake Chabot. But the board, apparently trying to placate gun owners, gave the club a full year to shut down — six months more than was recommended by park district staff, and far more time than is necessary.

"It's a sign of progress that the gun range's days are now finally numbered," said Cindy Margulis, director of the Golden Gate Audubon Society, which has advocated alongside the Sierra Club for the cleanup and closure of the range. "However, it's regrettable that the District's Board is effectively allowing this public health menace to continue for an entire year."

The gun range's lease expired in January 2015 and the EBRPD board granted it an extension until January 2016, then another extension through the end of March 2016. With the board's March 1 vote, the range can continue operating through March 2017 but then must close.

Park neighbors, park users, and conservation groups have been urging the district to

close the range because of its toxic lead pollution and noise issues. It was unfortunate that the issue of noise abatement was not formally condemned by the board or included in the staff discussion as another major reason for shutting down the gun range operations.

Lead was not commonly seen as a health danger when the range opened in 1963, but today it is well documented as causing anemia, brain damage, neurological disorders, kidney damage, reproductive disorders in humans as well as wildlife. In addition to being a popular site for hiking and picnicking, and a home to many wild species including Bald Eagles, Lake Chabot is an emergency drinking water source for the East Bay.

The cost of cleaning up past lead pollution from the gun range is estimated at between \$2 million and \$20 million. Each additional year of shooting will cost at least \$200,000 to clean up — costs that will fall upon the park district and the East Bay taxpayers who support it.

"Those previous extensions provided plenty of time for the club to make plans for closure," said Norman La Force, chair of the Bay Chapter's East Bay Public Lands Committee. "The

longer it goes on, the greater the cost and the greater the harm. Lead will have more time to leach deeper into the soil and further down in the watershed."

A number of Sierra Club members testified at the March 1st meeting, and many more emailed the park district board pressing for a final and speedy closure so that cleanup can begin.

But hundreds of Gun Club members turned out at the hearing, urging the board to overrule park district staff and keep the range open. The lease extension gives gun-range advocates another full year to pressure the board to reconsider their decision and keep the facility open.

"I am very concerned that eight or nine months from now the gun range will come back and ask for yet another extension of the lease," said La Force. "We could end up with the Park District giving annual one-year extensions for another 50 years. This fight is not over and we who love our parks will have to remain vigilant to make sure this gun range is actually shut down for good."

Ilana DeBare, Golden Gate Audubon Society, and Norman La Force, chair, East Bay Public Lands Committee



Events & Activities

of the SAN FRANCISCO BAY CHAPTER

APRIL-MAY
2016

Our outings are open to all. They are designed to educate participants about the great outdoors through direct experience and contact with nature, and to cultivate an appreciation of nature and the local environment.

About this calendar

This calendar includes many Sierra Club Bay Chapter events and outings, but the most extensive calendar is found on the Chapter website at:

sierraclub.org/sfbay/activities.

The Calendar website may include changes, cancellations, or outings that were submitted after the print deadline. Many of our activity sections place additional information and more outings in section newsletters, or on section websites, which are found at the above URL.

Hike and backpack ratings

Hike ratings are based on distance and elevation gain (the sum of all gains in elevation per day):

- | | |
|------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. up to 6 miles | A. under 1,000 feet |
| 2. 6 - 10 miles | B. 1,000 - 2,000 feet |
| 3. 10 - 15 miles | C. 2,000 - 3,000 feet |
| 4. 15 - 20 miles | D. over 3,000 feet |
| 5. over 20 miles | E. over 3,500 feet |

Backpack ratings include a third digit for travel:

- T.** trail
1. limited/easy crosscountry
 2. moderate crosscountry
 3. strenuous/difficult crosscountry.

What to bring

For day hikes always bring lunch and enough water. Consider layered clothing, sunscreen, good hiking boots with treads, and hiking poles. Non-service dogs are allowed only if specified in the listing; canine hikers should bring leashes, litter bags, and water for their dogs.

Liabilities

To participate on a Sierra Club outing, you will need to sign a liability waiver. To read a copy of the waiver form, visit <http://tinyurl.com/outingswaiver> or call (415)977-5630.

Problem resolution

If you have an outing-related concern that you are not able to address via the outing's leader, please contact the chair of the sponsoring section or group. If that is not sufficient, you can call the Activities Committee ombudsman, Rob Postar, at (510)551-4979 or rpostar@gmail.com, or the Chapter office at (510)848-0800.

Carpooling

Carpooling helps the environment and allows folks without cars to participate. If you are driving to a hike, please stop by the carpool point to pick up others. If you're a rider, pay a share of expenses.

Many activities are listed on the Chapter's Meetup site a couple weeks in advance of the event. Join the Meetup group and post a comment requesting or offering a ride at:

www.meetup.com/sanfranciscobay.

Tuesdays

Lake Chabot Reservoir 1A hike. Optional dinner afterward. **Meet:** 4 pm at boathouse. **Leader:** Dolores Gruenewald, (510)351-6247 or doloresgru@aol.com. (Solo Sierrans)

Wednesdays

Lafayette Reservoir 1A hike. Optional dinner afterward. **Meet:** 4 pm in parking lot (takes five quarters or annual pass). **Leader:** Lee Cowden, (925)934-6357. (Solo Sierrans)

First and Second Saturdays

San Bruno Mountain 1B hike. April 2 and 16, May 7 and 21. Explore two of San Bruno Mountain's less-traveled canyons and learn about the history and ecology of this "Island of Biodiversity." Narrow footpaths surrounded by coastal scrub, riparian woodland, and coastal grassland. Includes Ohlone shellmound visit. Moderate pace with many stops. Heavy rain cancels. **Meet:** 10 am at 44 Visitacion Avenue #206, Brisbane. **Ends:** 1:30 pm. **Leader:** Paul Bouscal, (415)467-6631 or sanbruno@mountainwatch.org. (Hiking and San Bruno Mountain Watch)

April 2 • Sat

Diablo death march 4E hike. We'll take a fast pace over the five 'peaks' of Diablo (Twin, Eagle, Diablo, North, and Mount Olympia), dodging poison oak and squinting through sweat at the myriad wildflowers. This hike is not suitable for any but strong hikers. Email leader for approval. Heavy rain cancels. **Meet:** 8:30 am at Mitchell Canyon trailhead. **Cost:** \$8 parking fee (it goes to a good cause), bring exact change. **Leaders:** Morgan Evans and David Gibson, (510)529-8643 or frankenfreddie@yahoo.com. (Hiking)

Mount Tam ramble 2/3C hike. A moderate to strenuous loop along Troop 80, Sierra, Bootjack, Matt Davis, and Hoo Koo E Koo trails featuring Bay views, waterfalls, creeks, and wildflowers. Lunch at the Mountain theater and afternoon lemonade or tea at West Point Inn. **Meet:** 9 am at Mountain Home. **Ends:** around 3 pm. **Leader:** Lucy Zhang, (415)816-1850 or lucyzhang2@hotmail.com. (Sierra Singles)

Calistoga Palisades 3C hike. Hike the historic Oat Hill Mine Road to view spectacular cliffs in one of the most geologically unique sites in the Bay Area. Some steep and rocky terrain. Any rain cancels. **Meet:** 9:45 am at corner of Highway 29 and Lake Street in Calistoga, directly across from Oat Hill Mine Road trailhead. **Ends:** 6:30 pm. **Carpool:** Via Meetup, or contact the leader if you need or can offer a ride. **Leader:** Bob Solotar, (510)525-2110 or bob_solotar@hotmail.com. (Hiking)

Glen Park Canyon 1A hike. This is a new hike through Glen Park Canyon taking some of its new trails and stairways with scenic views from above and below the canyon. Any rain cancels. **Meet:** 10:30 am at Glen Park BART. **Ends:** 3 pm. **Leader:** Gloria Navarra, (415)731-6144. (Hiking)

Coastal Botany walk. Rescheduled due to rain, we'll join a Wild Equity Institute walk to explore the habitat of the rare Franciscan Manzanita. Learn what the National Park Service and other conservationists are doing to protect this magnificent species. Hike along the bluffs to the Golden Gate Bridge and back. Bring a reusable cup to join in a celebratory toast to the future of the Franciscan Manzanita! Limited space, please RSVP to the leader. **Meet:** 10:45 am at the north parking lot of Baker Beach. **Ends:** 1:15 pm. **Leader:** Pamela LoPinto, (415)641-0644 or pamlo@att.net. (Gay & Lesbian)

April 3 • Sun

Mount Diablo Back Canyon & Diablo Falls 2C hike. Early April is an ideal time to see wildflowers and water on the rugged north side of Mount Diablo State Park. Our route will first take us up Back Canyon to Murchio Gap. After keeping our elevation for a bit, we'll descend the lovely Middle Trail until we meet the Falls Trail, which we'll take for some close-up viewing of the falls and cataracts of upper Donner Canyon nestled just below imposing North Peak. Caution: parts of the route are on very steep trail with loose rock. Steady relaxed pace. Be prepared for mud and poison oak. Steady rain cancels. **Meet:** 9:30 am at Mitchell Canyon trailhead. **Cost:** \$6 per vehicle. **Leader:** Jake Van Akkeren, (925)933-3486 or jvanakkeren@comcast.net (preferred). (Mount Diablo Group & Save Mount Diablo)

Las Trampas / Devils Hole 2C hike. The rugged and remote Las Trampas Regional Wilderness area provides an escape from urban hustle and bustle. Our route is Elderberry trail, Rocky Ridge View, lunch on Devils Hole trail, Loop trail, Rocky Ridge View trail, and Cuesta trail to return to cars. Highlights are the Bay views and soaring raptors. We may see wildflowers and an off-trail seasonal waterfall. Moderate pace with some steep areas. Rain or shine; may be altered due to inclement weather. **Meet:** 9:40 am at Las Trampas parking lot (hike starts at 10 am sharp). **Leader:** Ernest Castiaux, (510)909-3301 or ecastiaux@hotmail.com (preferred). (Mount Diablo Group)

Emeryville Marina 1A hike. Walk for an hour along the boardwalk and through the marina in Emeryville. Enjoy the evening views of San Francisco and the Golden Gate Bridge. The walk is flat, easy, and wheelchair friendly. Optional early dinner afterwards at the Emery Bay Market food court, where you can choose from many styles of ethnic cuisine. Rain cancels. **Meet:** 4 pm at the back of Chevy's Restaurant by the picnic tables. **Leader:** Vera Lis, (510)234-8949. (Solo Sierrans)

April 8 • Fri

Mount Diablo Windy Point/Riggs Canyon/Black Hills 3D hike. Taking Knobcone Point Road past Balancing Rock, we'll make our way to the Windy Point area before turning onto the Tassajara Creek Trail to Bob's Pond for lunch. Then descend lovely Riggs Canyon to an abandoned ranch house before we climb into the Black Hills on the Oyster Point Trail. Back via ups and downs into and out of Sycamore Canyon. Wildflowers should be prolific. Steady rain cancels. **Cost:** \$10 per vehicle. **Meet:** 8:30 am at Park Curry Canyon trailhead on South Gate Rd. **Leader:** Jake Van Akkeren, (925)933-3486 or jvanakkeren@comcast.net (preferred). (Mount Diablo Group & Save Mount Diablo)

April 9 • Sat

Mount Diablo Summit 3C hike. Moderately paced hike up to Mount Diablo. Most of it on Summit and Juniper trails. Rain or muddy trails cancel. **Meet:** 8:45 am at soccer field parking, Blackhawk Road. **Leader:** Lutz Heinrich, (925)216-8672 or ltz_hnrch@yahoo.com. (Hiking)

Earth Day road-work party. Join the Delta Group for a spring clean-up along their one-mile adopted park-entrance road on Frederickson Lane, Contra Loma Park, Antioch. Benefits include fresh air, exercise, sociability, and a cleaner corner of Planet Earth. Rain postpones. **Meet:** 10 am at the trailhead parking area at the sharp bend in Frederickson Lane, just before Park entrance. **Ends:** noon **Leader:** Tim Donahue, (925)754-8801 or timothy-donahue@sbcglobal.net. (Delta Regional Group)

Continued on following page.

Fuller versions of many of these listings can be found at www.sierraclub.org/sfbay/activities.

April 9 • Sat

Paul Hallowell 1A memorial hike & picnic at Crab Cove in Alameda. Paul Hallowell — member of Solo Sierrans since 1979 and famous for his 30 annual outings to Angel Island, camping trips to Calaveras Big Trees, and hikes on Bay Farm Island — passed away at the age of 88 on February 10th. In honor of Paul, we will begin with a leisurely walk along the Bay Trail followed by a picnic. **Bring:** lunch and memories of Paul. **Meet:** 11 am at Crab Cove Visitor Center, 1252 McKay Ave., Alameda. **Leader:** Elyse Dukatz, (510)530-6402. (Solo Sierrans)

April 10 • Sun

Mount Burdell 3C hike. We'll start near San Marin High School and head up to Mount Burdell to enjoy the splendid views. We then drop down to explore the area on our way back to the trailhead. Any rain cancels. **Meet:** 9 am. **Directions:** Get off at the San Marin exit in Novato and follow it for several miles. When you reach the high school, turn right on Novato Boulevard and park on the right side a few hundred yards after turning. **Leader:** Tom Post, (415)690-6572 or tpost123@hotmail.com. (Hiking)

Morgan Territory ridgetops 2B hike. Celebrate the green hills of spring and explore Bob Walker and Highland Ridges during wildflower season. Moderate pace; not for speed demons or gazelles. Any rain cancels. **Meet:** 10:30 am at Morgan Territory Preserve main parking lot. **Ends:** 5:30 pm. **Leader:** Bob Solotar, (510)525-2110 or bob_solotar@hotmail.com. (Mount Diablo Group)

April 11 • Tue

Golden Gate Park 1A hike. This is a new hike through the western end of the Golden Gate Park which will include the botanical gardens. Rain cancels hike. **Meet:** 10:30 am at 9th and Irving, northeast corner. **Ends:** 2:30 pm. **Leader:** Gloria Navarra, (415)731-6144. (Hiking)

April 15 • Fri

Mount Diablo Pine Canyon 2B hike. Our route will dip in and out of Pine Canyon until climbing into verdant meadows before returning to the trailhead. Highlights include the spectacular Castle Rock cliffs, gentle flowing Pine Creek, Little Pine Canyon, Buckle Point, Little Yosemite, and China Wall. Wildflowers should be abundant. Steady relaxed pace. Steady rain cancels. **Meet:** 9:30 am at Old Borges Ranch staging area in Shell Ridge Open Space in Walnut Creek. **Leader:** Jake Van Akkeren, (925)933-3486 or jvanakkeren@comcast.net (preferred). (Mount Diablo Group & Save Mount Diablo)

April 16 • Sat

Stewartville Valley Black Diamond Mines 2B hike. Find impressive views in historic coal-mining area. Lots of historical information about the mines. Some steep trails. Any rain cancels. **Cost:** \$5 per car. **Bring:** flashlight for mine tunnel and food to eat and share at post-hike barbecue/potluck in park. **Meet:** 10 am at last parking lot in Black Diamond Mines Regional Park. **Ends:** 4:30 pm. **Leader:** Guy Mayes, (510)522-1590. (Hiking)

April 16 • Sat

Tomales Bluff 2B hike. The bells toll as bay meets sea at land's end on a leisurely paced hike along the moors of the northern tip of Point Reyes. Mellow hikers welcomed. Any rain cancels. **Meet:** 11 am at McClure's Beach lower parking lot. **Ends:** 5 pm. **Leader:** Steve Bakaley, (925)945-8205 or slbakaley@lbl.gov. (Hiking and Sierra Singles)

April 17 • Sun

Mitchell Canyon wildflower walk. Leisurely loop walk to enjoy spring wildflowers in a scenic canyon. After hike, optional stop nearby for refreshments and sociability. Rain cancels. **Cost:** \$6 per car. **Meet:** 2 am at interpretive center parking area, Mitchell Canyon, Mount Diablo State Park, Clayton. **Ends:** 4 pm. **Leader:** Lucy Henderson, (925)254-2898 or hndsrnlucy@gmail.com. (Delta Regional Group)

Marin Headlands 2B hike. Expect spring wildflowers and scenic views on this moderately paced loop on the Coastal, Bobcat, and SCA trails. Any rain cancels. **Meet:** 9:30 am at the Morning Sun trailhead at the Highway 101 Spencer exit commuter parking area. **Leader:** Paul F Glodis, (510)326-9008 or pglodis@gmail.com. (Marin Group)

April 20 • Wed

Mount Tam northside ramble 3C hike. Full day hike, back about 4 pm. **Meet:** 8:45 am at Fairfax Parkade across from movie theater for carpools to trailhead. **Leader:** William H. Mayers, (415)785-3516 (home), (415)302-4802 (cell), or whmayers@gmail.com. (Hiking)

April 22 • Fri

Mount Diablo-Mount Olympia & Mitchell Canyon 3D hike. After making our way over to Donner Canyon, we'll climb to the rocky perch of Mount Olympia where great views abound. We'll swing over to Prospectors Gap and descend via Bald Ridge, Deer Flat, and Mitchell Canyon. Wildflowers should be abundant. Parts of the route are steep with loose rock. **Cost:** \$6 per vehicle. **Meet:** 9 am in front of visitors center at Mitchell Canyon trailhead. **Leader:** Jake Van Akkeren, (925)933-3486 or jvanakkeren@comcast.net (preferred). (Mount Diablo Group & Save Mount Diablo)

April 23 • Sat

Slide Ranch and Split Rock, South Beach 3C loop hike. Magnificent views of rock chimneys, coastal cliffs, and the Pacific. Route follows the Dias Ridge to Miwok, Redwood Creek, Heather Cutoff, Coast View, and Owl Trail down to Slide Ranch, an environmental education area. Return by the Owl Trail to Muir Beach Overlook and hike up Dias Ridge Trail to our cars. Moderate pace. Shorter option available. Any rain cancels. **Meet:** 9 am sharp to depart Dias Ridge trailhead. **Ends:** 4:30 pm. **Carpool:** Departs 8:15 am sharp from CVS Pharmacy, 2151 Meeker Ave, Richmond. Make sure to email leader first. **Leader:** Katy Christie, (510)277-5386 or kathyhike@gmail.com (preferred). (Hiking)

April 23 • Sat

Muir Woods 2B loop hike. Enjoy this loop through and above Muir Woods — great in the spring when the waterfalls are running. We may see some baby salmon. **Meet:** 9:30 am at Miller and Locust Ave. in Mill Valley (in front of the 7-Eleven store). We will carpool to Muir Woods parking lot to start. **Carpool:** Meet 8:30 am at the North Berkeley BART station (outside the front gate) to drive over to Mill Valley. **Cost:** Fee to enter the park (or a permit that lets the whole car in). **Leader:** James Bonsey, (510)527-5345 or jlbj3@netzero.net. (Marin Group)

Alamere Falls 3B hike. Located in the southern section of Point Reyes National Seashore, Alamere Falls is a rare 'tidefall', a waterfall that flows directly into the ocean. We will hike out to the falls from the Palomarin trailhead on Coast Trail through a variety of terrains, including woods and beach, with a stop at Bass Lake. This 12-mile hike involves some steep climbs and is for strong and experienced hikers only. Heavy rain cancels. **Meet:** 10:30 am at Palomarin trailhead, Bolinas. **Leader:** Jeffrey Sanchez, (510)599-5238 or amagi@pacbell.net. (Sierra Singles)

April 24 • Sun

Point Reyes tour 3C hike. We'll start at the Laguna Youth Hostel and work our way down the Coast Trail to enjoy lunch at Kelham Beach. We then head up the Sky Trail and wind our way back to the trailhead. Any rain cancels. **Meet:** 9 am at the Fairfax Parkade, 19 Broadway Boulevard, Fairfax, to carpool to the trailhead. **Leader:** Thomas L Post, (415)690-6572 or tpost123@hotmail.com. (Hiking)

Telegraph Hill and Coit Tower 1A hike. Walk up Telegraph Hill — enjoying human creation and natural beauty as well as spectacular views of San Francisco Bay and the East Bay hills — to Coit Tower, where you can enjoy the world-famous Depression-era murals. On the way down enjoy Grace Marchand's lush gardens. And, if you're lucky, you may see the famous parrots of Telegraph Hill. Optional late lunch at the Ferry Building. Rain cancels. **Bring:** Binoculars for a spectacular view from Coit Tower. **Meet:** 11 am in front of Peter and Paul's Catholic Church on Washington Square in San Francisco's North Beach. **Leader:** Vera Lis, (510)234-8949. (Solo Sierrans)

April 29 • Fri

Mount Diablo Curry Canyon & Windy Point 2B hike. We'll descend into riparian Curry Canyon before climbing steeply to a section just below Windy Point. From there we'll return to the trailhead via Knobcone Point Rd., passing by the landmark of Balancing Rock. Great views of the Diablo summit and North Peak. Wildflowers should be abundant. Steady relaxed pace with a 30-minute lunch and other rest breaks. Be prepared for mud and poison oak. Steady rain cancels. **Cost:** \$10 per vehicle. **Meet:** 9:30 am at Curry Point trailhead on South Gate Rd. **Leader:** Jake Van Akkeren, (925)933-3486 or jvanakkeren@comcast.net (prefer). (Mount Diablo Group & Save Mount Diablo)

May 7 • Sat

Seal and sea otter watch by kayak. Join us for a kayaking adventure in Elkhorn Slough National Marine Estuary. With 90% of California's wetlands lost to development, Elkhorn Slough offers a special opportunity to observe a biologically rich and critically endangered habitat. We will be using double sea kayaks which are very stable and easy to use. No previous kayaking experience necessary. To confirm your place on this trip, please contact trip leader. Heavy rain cancels. **Cost:** \$58 per person. Contact leader for payment information. Full refunds will be given if the trip is cancelled due to inclement weather. **Bring:** Contact leader for list. **Meet:** 9:30 am at Elkhorn Slough. **Ends:** 2 pm. **Leader:** Beth Bittle, (510)759-6225 or callingu2@gmail.com. (Gay & Lesbian)

Bayshore at Point Isabel in El Cerrito 1A hike. This walk takes about an hour, is flat and easy on paved paths, wheelchair accessible, and perfect for seniors. Younger people will also enjoy the company of like-minded people. Optional Chinese dinner after at the Pacific East Mall. **Bring:** Binoculars for possible shorebird sightings, and also enjoy views of the Golden Gate Bridge, Mount Tamalpais, Alcatraz, and other bay islands. **Meet:** 4 pm at the small parking lot at the end of Rydin Road. **Leader:** Vera Lis, (510)234-8949. (Solo Sierrans)

May 8 • Sun

Mount Diablo Sycamore Canyon & Knobcone Point 2B hike. From Curry Point we'll hike down to Rock City before descending into leafy Sycamore Canyon. Then it's a climb over to the Knobcone Point area and intriguing Balancing Rock before heading back to our trailhead along a ridge with expansive views of Mount Diablo and North Peak. Wildflowers should be abundant. Steady relaxed pace with a 30-minute lunch and other rest breaks. Be prepared for mud and poison oak. Steady rain cancels. **Cost:** \$10 per vehicle. **Meet:** 10 am at Curry Point trailhead on South Gate Rd. **Leader:** Jake Van Akkeren, (925)933-3486 or jvanakkeren@comcast.net (preferred). (Mount Diablo Group & Save Mount Diablo)

May 11 • Wed

Mount Tam south side 3C ramble. Heavy rain cancels hike. **Meet:** 8:45 am at Miller and Locust in Mill Valley to carpool to trailhead. **Leader:** William H Mayers, (415)785-3516, (415)302-4802 (cell), or whmayers@gmail.com. (Hiking)

May 13 • Fri

Mount Diablo Twin Peaks 1B flower walk. We'll climb nearly up to Twin Peaks via the Mitchell Rock Trail, which should have abundant wildflowers, and return the same route. Outstanding views of Mitchell and Back Canyons, North Peak, and Diablo's summit. Relaxed, flower-sniffing pace with a snack break. Be prepared for poison oak. Steady rain cancels. **Cost:** \$6 per vehicle. **Meet:** 10:30 am in front of visitor center at Mitchell Canyon trailhead. **Leader:** Jake Van Akkeren, (925)933-3486 or jvanakkeren@comcast.net (preferred). (Mount Diablo Group & Save Mount Diablo)

Fuller versions of many of these listings can be found at www.sierraclub.org/sfbay/activities.

May 14 • Sat**Zen Center and Muir Beach 3C hike.**

We will hike from Tennessee Valley up the Miwok Trail. Pass by Hope Cottage and hike through the gardens at the Zen Center where we will enjoy a break in the courtyard garden. Climb to Muir Beach Overlook to enjoy spectacular views. Lunch at Muir Beach. Return by the Coastal Trail to Wolf Ridge and Hill 88, then down Old Springs Trail to Miwok Stables. Shorter option available. Any rain cancels. **Meet:** 9 am sharp at large gravel lot below Tennessee Valley stables. **Ends:** 4:30 pm (3 pm for shorter option). **Carpool:** From East Bay, depart CVS Pharmacy, 2151 Meeker Ave., Richmond at 8:15 am sharp. If you want to carpool, email leader or she will drive directly to the trailhead. **Leader:** Katy Christie, (510)277-5386 or kathyhike@gmail.com (preferred). (Hiking)

Mission and Monument Peaks from the wild east side 3C hike.

Climb Mission Peak from the wild east side, and continue on to Monument Peak. Approximately 15 miles with 2,500 feet of elevation gain. Moderate pace. Not for speed demons or gazelles, but not a beginner's hike. Hikers with relaxed attitudes most welcome. Steady rain cancels, sprinkles OK. **Cost:** \$5 per car plus \$2 per person for Ohlone Trail Permit. **Meet:** 10 am at Sunol Regional Wilderness visitor center. **Ends:** 6:30 pm. **Leader:** Bob Solotar, (510)525-2110 or bob_solotar@hotmail.com. (Mount Diablo Group)

Emeryville to Berkeley along the Bay Trail 1A hike.

A six-mile bayside walk along the Emeryville shoreline and Berkeley frontage road pathway. Any rain cancels. **Bring:** lunch or money to purchase food at the Seabreeze Market cafe. **Meet:** 11 am at Emeryville Marina Entry Gate (just past Chinese restaurant). **Ends:** 3:30 pm. **Leader:** Caprice Solotar, (510)525-2110 or caprice94804@yahoo.com. (Mount Diablo Group)

Antioch Dunes National Wildlife Refuge wildflower walk.

The Refuge is normally closed to the public, so here is your chance to see this unique 55-acre wildlife preserve along the San Joaquin River shoreline. A refuge docent will lead a one-hour walk to see wildflowers in bloom and habitat restoration for the three endangered species here: Antioch Dunes evening primrose, Contra Costa wallflower, and Lange's metalmark butterfly. **Meet:** 10 am at the main Dunes Refuge gate and parking area. **Leader:** For details, call the Refuge at (707)769-4200 or Janess Hanson at (925)458-0860.

May 20 • Fri**Morgan Territory Regional Preserve 2B hike.**

Our route will hug Bob Walker Ridge on the way out with some magnificent views of Diablo, North Peak, Los Vaqueros Reservoir, and Round Valley. We'll return via a shady riparian canyon, a stretch of chaparral, and a lovely oak parkland. Late spring wildflowers should be abundant. Allow 5.5 hours for this 7.5-mile hike with about 1,200 feet of elevation gain. Steady relaxed pace with a 30-minute lunch and other rest breaks. Be prepared for poison oak. Steady rain cancels. **Meet:** 10 am at Morgan Territory Road staging area. **Leader:** Jake Van Akkeren, (925)933-3486 or jvanakkeren@comcast.net (preferred). (Mount Diablo Group & Save Mount Diablo)

May 21 • Sat**Bay Area Ridge Trail from Pantoll Ranger station to Golden Gate Bridge 3C hike.**

One-way hike with a car shuttle and trailgate party at Golden Gate Bridge parking area at the end of the hike. Route follows the Old Mine Trail to the Dipsea and Deer Park Fire Road, Redwood, Miwok, Marincello, Bobcat, Alta, SCA, and Coastal Trails to Golden Gate Bridge. Lunch on Coyote Ridge. Enjoy spectacular views. Moderate pace. Any rain cancels. **Bring:** a favorite snack or beverage to share. **Meet:** 8:30 am sharp to depart the parking lot on the northwest side of Golden Gate Bridge. We will consolidate cars and drive up to Pantoll Ranger station (parking fee \$8 or display CA State Parks Pass). **Ends:** 4:30 pm. **Directions:** From Highway 101, exit #442 at Alexander Avenue. **Carpool:** From East Bay, depart CVS Pharmacy, 2151 Meeker Ave, Richmond at 7:45 am sharp. Email leader first. **Leader:** Katy Christie, (510)277-5386 or kathyhike@gmail.com (preferred). (Hiking)

May 21 • Sat**West Point Inn 2B loop hike.**

Great views of San Francisco and the bay. Learn about the historical West Point Inn. **Meet:** 9:30 am at the 7-Eleven store at the corner of Miller and Locust to drive to Rock Springs parking lot. Any rain cancels. **Carpool:** leaves 8:30 am from the North Berkeley BART station. **Leader:** James Bonsey, (510)527-5345 or jlbj3@netzero.net. (Marin Group)

Mount Wanda, John Muir Historic Site, Martinez hike.

Enjoy a leisurely walk on scenic oak-covered hills that are part of the historic John Muir ranch (includes one steep climb). You may want to come early and tour the John Muir home and historic buildings nearby. After hike, optional stop nearby for refreshments and sociability. Rain cancels. **Meet:** 11 am at the Park and Ride lot on Alhambra Ave., just south of the intersection of Highway 4. **Leader:** Lidia Campos, (925)240-5795 or lidiacampos@sbcglobal.net. (Delta Regional Group)

May 22 • Sun**Five Brooks 3C hike.**

We'll Start at Five Brooks and head up to Firtop on our way to Wildcat Beach and Alamere Falls. After lunch, we'll head up to Inverness Ridge and work our way back to the trailhead. The hike is around 15 miles and elevation gain is over 2,000 feet. Any rain cancels. **Meet:** 9 am at the Fairfax Parkade, 19 Broadway Blvd., Fairfax, to carpool to trailhead. **Leader:** Tom Post, (415)690-6572 or tpost123@hotmail.com. (Hiking)

Mount Diablo Back & Mitchell Canyons 2C hike.

Our route will take us up secluded Back Canyon to Murchio Gap, and then we'll return via Deer Flat and Mitchell Canyon, including the lovely Globe Lily Trail. Late spring wildflowers should be abundant. Parts of the route are steep with loose rock. Steady, relaxed pace with a 30-minute lunch and other rest breaks. Be prepared for poison oak. Steady rain cancels. **Cost:** \$6 per vehicle. **Meet:** 10 am at Mitchell Canyon trailhead. **Leader:** Jake Van Akkeren, (925)933-3486 or jvanakkeren@comcast.net (prefer). (Mount Diablo Group & Save Mount Diablo)

May 28 • Sat

Mount Diablo summit 3C hike. Moderately paced hike up to Mount Diablo. Most of it on Summit Trail and Juniper Trail. Rain or muddy trails cancel. **Meet:** 8:45 am for carpool at lacrosse/soccer field parking lot, Blackhawk Road. **Leader:** Lutz Heinrich, (925)216-8672 or ltz_hnrch@yahoo.com. (Hiking)

May 28 • Sat - May 30 • Mon**Trinity Alps to Canyon Creek 2CT backpack.**

Spend Memorial weekend in the Trinity Alps. Hiking Canyon Creek, we'll reach high lakes and see spectacular peaks. Expect sapphire-blue lakes, tumbling creeks, dramatic waterfalls, abundant wildflowers, rugged granite peaks flanked by permanent snowfield, and splendid vistas. On the layover day, we have the options to explore the nearby Boulder Creek Lakes or hang out at Canyon Creek. Strong beginners welcome. **Cost:** \$35, payable once you have been approved to join the trip. **Bring:** Details upon registration. Individual commissary. **Leaders:** Alice Chung, (415)203-4133 or syingchung@yahoo.com; Roger Williams, (415)601-2079 or rogerw@ymail.com. (Backpacking)

May 29 • Sun**Colma Cemetery 2A hike.**

An historical all-day walk through the many cemeteries of Colma, the "City of Souls." This walk is Part 1; Part 2 is in October/November. Leisurely pace. Rain cancels. **Bring:** Lunch and money for post-walk dinner at local restaurant. **Meet:** 10 am at Colma BART near station agent's office. **Ends:** 5:30 pm. **Leaders:** Guy Mayes, (510)522-1590; Gloria Navarra, (415)731-6144. (Hiking)

Tilden Regional Park in Berkeley 1A hike.

Meet for an hourlong walk through the eucalyptus groves. Optional early dinner at Jerusalem Cafe at the top of Solano Ave. **Meet:** 4 pm at Lone Oak parking lot. **Leader:** Vera Lis, (510)234-8949. (Solo Sierrans)

June 4 • Sat – June 5 • Sun**Austin Creek State Recreation Area 1BT backpack.**

Relaxed Sonoma County trip perfect for beginners, lapsed backpackers, or those who just like to take it easy. **Cost:** \$30. **Bring:** Contact leaders for details. Individual commissary. Water purification is required. **Leaders:** Inga Aksamit, (510)865-4647 or iaksamit@aol.com; M. Bandrowski, (510)834-3235 or mike.bandrowski@gmail.com. (Backpacking)

June 11 • Sat – June 12 • Sun**Chilnualna Falls, Yosemite 2DT backpack.**

Enjoy beautiful and tranquil waterfalls in the southern Yosemite. This is a moderately strenuous trip that is suitable for fit beginner backpackers. Activity is held rain or shine, but may be altered due to inclement weather. **Cost:** \$30, entry into Yosemite not included. **Bring:** Details upon registration. Participants bring their own food and cooking equipment. Bear canisters required. **Leaders:** Lesley Kao, (415)504-7109 or lesleymkao@yahoo.com; Kent Lewandowski, (510)759-6646 or kentlewan@gmail.com. (Backpacking)

June 17 • Fri – June 20 • Mon**Up the Grand Canyon of the Tuolumne 2DT backpack.**

Celebrate the return of our Sierra rivers! We will marvel at the 4,000-foot-deep Grand Canyon of the Tuolumne, hiking up the 28 miles from White Wolf to Tuolumne Meadow with a 3-mile side hike to an overlook on Wildcat Point. **Cost:** \$30, entry into Yosemite not included. **Bring:** Details upon registration. Individual commissary. **Leaders:** Rodney Omachi, contact by email after March 7 at rodomachi@yahoo.com; Linda Weldele, lindaweldele@gmail.com. (Backpacking)

June 30 • Thu – July 4 • Mon**Yosemite Hetch Hetchy Tuolumne River 3DT backpack.**

Enjoy Independence Day weekend by visiting waterfalls, lakes, and vistas in and high above the the Tuolumne River Canyon. **Cost:** \$50. **Bring:** Details upon registration. Individual commissary. Bear canisters required. **Leaders:** Thomas Meissner, (707)795-7980 or meissner.thomas@sbcglobal.net; Roger Williams, (415)601-2079 or rogerw@ymail.com. (Backpacking)

July 10 • Sun – July 12 • Tue**North Fork of Big Pine Creek to view Palisades Glacier 2C1 backpack.**

At the head of Big Pine Creek soars the longest spine of 13-14,000-foot peaks in the lower 48 states: the legendary Palisades. Every turn the North Fork Trail reveals new perspectives on these splintery crests, all while touring six inviting lakes. The largest glaciers in the Sierra gather in benches below the peaks. We hike from the Big Pine trailhead up the North Fork of Big Pine Creek to Fifth or Sixth lake, where we set up a base camp. Day hike to view the Palisades Glacier. **Cost:** \$35. **Bring:** Details upon registration. Individual commissary. **Leader:** Mike Bandrowski, (510)834-3235 or mike.bandrowski@gmail.com. (Backpacking)

July 24 • Sun – July 27 • Wed**Hidden Boothe Lake in Yosemite 2B2 backpack.**

Visit mostly unnoticed Boothe Lake, tucked away below more popular Vogelsang High Sierra Camp and thus providing a secluded home base to two exceptional day-hike destinations you won't forget. One is the 150-foot-tall granite fin jutting above Emeric Lake (a smooth water slide!) The other is the summit of Rafferty Peak with a nearly 360-degree view. Signups begin April 16. **Cost:** \$45. **Bring:** Details upon registration. Individual commissary. **Leaders:** JP Torres, (415)269-5406 or jpinkflo@xecu.net; Adrienne Klein, (415)776-8682 or aksf@sbcglobal.net. (Backpacking)

Aug 3 • Wed – Aug 7 • Sun**Silliman Tablelands light and fast 5E2/3 backpack.**

For those superfit few with a light-weight travel ethic. We will start and finish at Lodgepole but will hike across the Silliman tablelands, Deadman Canyon, Lion Lake, Nine Lakes Basin, and Moose Lake. Expect unparalleled beauty, fast hiking but relaxing naps by lakes. See long description online for full route. Contact leader for details and registration. **Leaders:** Kevin Sawchuk, (925)362-1542 or ksawchuk@gmail.com; Brian Gunney, (925)667-5236 or brian@gunney.net. (Backpacking)



San Francisco Dinners: From the Silk Road to Scotland

Social hour 6 pm, dinner 7 pm, program 8 pm. New location: Grace Lutheran Church, 3201 Ulloa St. at 33rd Ave. Take Muni L to 32nd Ave., walk one block to 33rd, turn left on Ulloa for 1 block. Street parking available. From East Bay, take BART to Embarcadero station, transfer to Muni L Taraval.

To reserve your seat, send a check for \$22 (note new price), made out to "Sierra Club, S.F. Bay Chapter," to Gerry Souzis at:

1801 California St., #405
San Francisco, CA 94109

Please indicate the program date, number of guests, and your phone number. Non-members are welcome. Bring your own wine or soft drinks. Glasses and ice are available. Let us know if you are a vegetarian. Checks must be received by April 15 for the April program and May 13 for the May program.

For questions, contact Gerry between 4 and 9 pm (no morning calls please) at (415)474-4440 or gsouzis@hotmail.com.

Thu, April 21 – "Traveling the ancient Silk Road"

For millennia an ancient trade route has extended thousands of miles, linking East and West. Caravans journeyed across the ancient Silk Road's scorching deserts, picturesque oases, and treacherous mountain passes to supply Europe with precious silks, gems, spices, dyes, gold, silver, and exotic creatures. Jimmy Wong will guide us on a breathtaking journey from China's ancient capital of Xi'an to the border of Tajikistan, traversing the deadly Taklamakan desert, and along the way interacting with local people, their culture, and their food.



Avon Viaduct, a railway bridge in Linlithgow, Scotland. Photo by Joy Durighello.

Jimmy is an award-winning travel photographer with over 20 years of experience organizing trips to China, including lesser-known destinations such as the wilderness of Sichuan and southwest China.

Thu, May 19 – "In John Muir's footprints in Scotland"

It is ironic that John Muir is more famous in the U.S. than in his native Scotland, where he was born and lived until immigrating at the age of eleven. In 2014, in an effort to draw more attention to a famous native son, the Scottish National Heritage opened a new, 134-mile path, the John Muir Way, stretching from the west to the east coast of Scotland, with the terminus in the town of Dunbar, Muir's hometown. A year after the John Muir Way opened, Kathleen Stern and Joy Durighello spent three weeks walking this new path, and along the way learned the history and legends of Muir's fascinating native land.

Joy Durighello, an instructor at City College of SF, and Kathleen Stern, retired, are avid hikers who searched for a scenic long-distance trail, and found it in the John Muir Way. Join them for an evening of emerald-green imagery and quirky anecdotes.

East Bay Dinners: Looking south to Baja and Antarctica

No-host cocktails/social hour at 6 pm, dinner at 7 pm, program at 8 pm. Berkeley Yacht Club on the Berkeley Marina, one block north of the west end of University Avenue (ample free parking is available in the Marina parking lots).

Cost of dinner and program is \$27, including tax and tip. For a reservation, please send your check, payable to "Sierra Club," with your name, your telephone number, and the names of your guests, to Jane Barrett at:

170 Vicente Road
Berkeley, CA 94705
(510)845-8055

Attendance is limited to the first 115 reservations received. Reserve early, as these programs do fill up. Reservation deadline is April 21 for the April program and May 19 for the May program. No admittance for program only.

Thu, April 28 – "Voyage to Antarctica"

Antarctica, the only continent that is not inhabited by humans, is extremely beautiful and captivating. Its history includes groups of explorers from several countries, with diverse experiences and success on their missions. Penguins of many types abound, and global warming is greatly in evidence in the fascinating glaciers. The nearby Falkland Islands (aka Malvinas) are rich in penguins and sheep, beautifully green with sandy beaches.

Join us for Joanie Ciardelli's beautiful 35mm slide presentation from her 2001 New Year's trip on a 100-passenger, Russian-built icebreaker. They were the first ship that year to break the ice of the far southern reaches, to see thousands of penguins (eight different kinds), hundreds of elephant seals, pods of whales, amazing icebergs, and other spectacular vistas.



Abronia umbellata in the Baja desert. Photo by Debra Valov, May East Bay Dinner presenter.

Thu, May 26 – "Exploring the botany and wildlife of Baja California"

Mexico's Baja California peninsula is the world's second longest peninsula. The northernmost portion on the Pacific coast shares southern California's hot, dry Mediterranean climate while the southern tip is covered with tropical thorn scrub and tropical deciduous forests. It is a vast and varied landscape of mountains, mesas, plains, arroyos, and vast coastline with protected inlets and bays that harbor mangroves and coastal marshes.

From the world's largest cactus, the Cardón, to the Cirio (or Boojum Tree), the desert is blessed with a rich diversity of tree, shrub, herbaceous, and succulent species. Eastern Pacific gray whales travel from the Arctic in the late fall to Baja California's shallow coastal lagoon systems — the longest migration of any mammal. Many species of migratory birds, including black brants, loons, and white ibis also winter along with the whales.

Take a photographic tour with Debra Valov across Baja California's desert region that explores both its physical and botanical diversity, as well as some of the area's emblematic fauna. She will also touch upon such issues as alternative tourism, conservation, and popular movements.

Green Friday programs on local park treasures and humanity's ecological footprint

Green Fridays meets the second Friday of the month in the Sierra Club's Bay Chapter office, 2530 San Pablo Ave. in Berkeley. Doors open at 7 pm. Program begins at 7:30 pm and runs until 9 or 9:30 pm including questions and discussion. Refreshments are served. A \$3 donation is requested. Our programs present speakers and topics discussing the most important environmental issues of our time. All are welcome, Sierra Club members as well as nonmembers.

Fri, April 8 – "History and treasures of the East Bay Regional Park District"

The April speaker is longtime Sierra Club hike leader Ron Ucovich. Having led

hundreds of hikes over thousands of miles of trails, Ron is a treasure trove of history and stories that have enriched the lives of this many loyal followers. Along with his career as a teacher he has been a docent at the Alameda History Museum, the aircraft carrier Hornet, and the presidential yacht Potomac. He was the 2015 recipient of the Sierra Club's Michener Outings Leadership Award. Ron's great story-telling style and his anecdotes about Bay Area history promise to make this a memorable evening.

Fri, May 13 – "The human footprint on Planet Earth"

We will show National Geographic's

amazing film "Human Footprint," which graphically illustrates the average American consumer's ecological footprint on the resources of the planet.

Afterward, we will discuss our own personal footprints and ways we can begin to minimize our impacts. From birth to death we consume enormous quantities of natural resources and produce equally enormous quantities of waste. From food to clothes, cars and energy, housing and plastics, our impact is astonishing. Human consumption and pollution of planetary resources is the fundamental environmental problem of our time.



A family's consumption laid out in front of their home.



Groups

Marin Group, Mon, April 25 – “Saving the Bay from climate change”

7 to 9 pm, San Rafael Community Center,
618 B St., San Rafael.

Join the Marin Group and the Time to Lead on Climate coalition for an educational forum on “Saving the Bay from Climate Change.” The forum will address how Bay Area residents can meet the rapidly growing challenge of sea-level rise and its impact on San Francisco Bay. It will include discussion of the Clean and Healthy Bay Measure AA appearing on the June 7 ballot (see page 15 for more).

Dr. Stephen Crooks, a UN Climate Delegate and contributor to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, will anchor the evening by describing “The insistent science of sea level rise—and its solutions.” Bay Area Council Policy Director Adrian Covert will address “The economic threat of rising tides,” and Marin City Community Services District Chair Nancy Johnson will explain how “We’re all at risk.” Save the Bay Executive Director David Lewis will conclude with an overview of “Measure AA, the Bay and our identity.”

Marin Supervisor and Bay Conservation and Development Commissioner Kate Sears will moderate, and there will be a Q&A.

For information and to RSVP, visit www.leadonclimate.org. Donation of \$10 appreciated, but no one turned away for lack of funds.

Tri-valley Group, Tue, April 26 – Conservation update, Tesla Park

7:30 pm, Livermore Civic Center library,
1188 S Livermore Ave.

This is an opportunity to find out what issues your local group is involved with. Foremost will be a presentation by Friends of Tesla Park regarding the recently released Environmental Impact Review deciding if the Carnegie off-road vehicle park will take over the 3,400-acre Tesla Park greenbelt.



Photo by Mike Woodring, who will be presenting with Ruth Ann Kishi at the May Mount Diablo Group meeting

Mount Diablo Group, Wed, May 11 – “A South Pacific adventure”

7 pm, Ygnacio Valley Library, 2661 Oak
Grove Rd, Walnut Creek.

Join us at our next meeting as Mike Woodring and Ruth Ann Kishi take us on a photographic tour above and below the South Pacific Islands of Bali, Lombok, Nusa, Sangeang, Komodo, and Rinca.

Traveling on the 115-foot yacht Pelagian, Mike and Ruth Ann enjoyed ten days of island hopping featuring both scuba dives and land-based excursions. Mike will show his beautiful photographs of the undersea world, featuring camouflaged pygmy seahorses, ornate ghost pipefish, poisonous scorpion fish, an octopus playing peek-a-boo, and other brilliantly colored marine wonders.

On land, Mike and Ruth Ann will show us internationally known Komodo Island National Park, with its nesting fruit bats and native giant corpse flower plants. Our photo journey concludes on the beautiful

island of Bali as we visit temples, countryside rice paddies, and view a Balinese dance performance.

Mike Woodring is president of the Mount Diablo Interpretive Association (MDIA). Ruth Ann Kishi serves on the MDIA Board of Directors. Besides scuba diving, Mike’s varied interests include designing, building, flying radio-controlled aircraft, cultivating carnivorous plants, and traveling the country by RV with Ruth Ann.

This program is open to all, no reservations necessary. If you have questions, contact Ken Lavin at ken_lavin@hotmail.com or (925) 852-8778.

Note: Information on the April 23-24 Wilderness First Aid class can be found on page 10.

Delta Group

Upcoming activities and events

Saturday, April 9: Earth Day road-work party,
Contra Loma Park (details on page 5)

Sunday, April 17: Mount Diablo State Park
1A wildflower hike (details on page 6)

Saturday, April 23: John Muir Earth Day/
birthday celebration, John Muir National
Historic Site (details on page 2)

Saturday, May 14: Antioch Dunes wildflower
walk (details on page 7)

Saturday, May 21: Mount Wanda, John Muir
Historic Site 1A hike (details on page 7)

Delta Group program meetings are usually held in February, May, and October unless otherwise noted. The meeting scheduled for May has been cancelled. A newsletter listing Delta Group programs, outings, and activities is available. To receive the newsletter, send a \$5 check made out to “Sierra Club, Delta Group” to Janess Hanson at 431 Levee Road, Bay Point, CA 94565.

For information about Delta Group activities, call Janess Hanson at (925)458-0860. For information about Delta area environmental concerns, call Tim Donahue at (925)754-8801.

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<p>Redwood Adventure For girls entering 6th & 7th grades</p> <p>7-day camping trip among the towering redwoods of Big Basin Redwood Adventure Rock June 25th - July 1st or Redwood Adventure Coast July 16th - 22nd</p>	<p>Project Courage For girls entering 7th & 8th grades</p> <p>13-day adventure in Point Reyes National Seashore - Sea kayak on Tamales Bay and backpack along the coast June 20th - July 2nd or July 11th - 23rd</p>	<p>Transitions For girls entering 9th grade</p> <p>14-day expedition in the breathtaking backcountry of the Sierra Nevada Mountains - Climb a granite dome, rappel off a towering cliff and play in alpine lakes July 25th - August 7th</p>
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Learn Wilderness First Aid with the Sierra Club

Next class: Saturday, April 23 to Sunday, April 24, 8:30 am to 5 pm, 2530 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley.

Come to an all-day class in Wilderness First Aid (WFA) sponsored by the Bay Chapter Activities Committee. The class satisfies first-aid requirements for most outing leaders (confirm requirements with your section/group officers).

Students have two options:

- One-day Saturday class and receive the Basic WFA certification of the American Safety & Health Institute — \$50 for members/\$60 for non-members; or
- Two-day class for an additional \$30/\$40 and receive ASHI's higher-level WFA certification.

If you already have the current WEC textbook (200 pages) and show it at the registration table, deduct \$15.

Basic WFA (one-day class) is a practical, 8-hour course that prepares you to recognize and avoid wilderness hazards, and do first aid outdoors with whatever equipment you have or can improvise. WFA (two-day class) adds more advanced skills and role-playing scenarios.

Registration

If you are a current Bay Chapter outing leader, register by the Tuesday before the class. Call (510)848-0800 or email wfa@sfbaysc.org. Then mail a \$30 deposit check (payable to "Sierra Club SF Bay Chapter") to:

Sierra Club
Attn: WFA
2530 San Pablo Ave., Suite 1
Berkeley, CA 94702.

The check will be returned in class, but will

be cashed if you don't show up. Include your mailing address, email, phone number, and which section you lead for. Indicate if you are also attending the Sunday class. You will pay the \$30 fee for the second day in class.

If you are a leader candidate or trainee (not a current outing leader), register with the instructor, Steve Donelan, at:

donelan@speakeasy.net, or
P.O. Box 1227
Berkeley, CA 94701.

Indicate if you are attending the Sunday class. Include your Sierra Club membership number. Be prepared to pay the fee in class.

People who have taken Steve Donelan's one-day class in the last year can sign up for the second day only. Those who have taken Steve's two-day class can repeat the second day for free. Pre-register with Steve at the address listed above.

Painting workshops in Yosemite Valley

Yosemite National Park offers a wonderful, little known service available to all visitors to for a small donation. It's called the Art Activities program and features workshops led by an Artist in Residence six days a week, Monday through Saturday, from April to September. The art medium (and artist) changes from week to week, from watercolor, to pastels, acrylics, printmaking, etc. No previous art experience or materials are needed. You meet at the Art Activities Center near the Village Store.

Painting and sketching is a wonderful way to explore and appreciate further the scenic wonders of the Valley. Advance sign-up is recommended, and registration is \$10 per student per day. For more information go to: www.yosemiteconservancy.org/yosemite-art-center-schedule.

Forum on the impact of women's reproductive rights on climate change

Saturday, April 23, 1:30 to 3:30 pm, Hayward City Hall, 777 B Street. RSVP (free) at <http://tinyurl.com/populationandclimate>.

Join the Sierra Club for a forum on the impact of women and girls' reproductive rights on climate change. Panelists from Planned Parenthood, the League of Women Voters, the UC Berkeley School of Public Health, the National Asian Pacific American Women's Forum, and the United Nations Association of the USA will discuss their work to increase universal access to voluntary family planning and reproductive health services; advance women's and girl's basic rights, including access to health care, education and economic opportunity; and raise public awareness of wasteful consumption in the context of social and economic equity.

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Watch & learn at the SF Green Film Fest, April 14-20

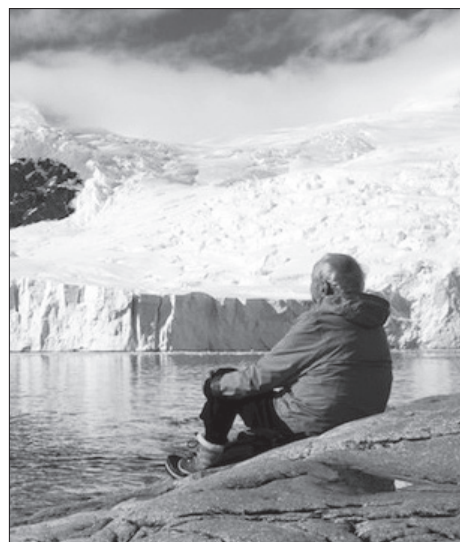
The Bay Chapter is pleased to partner with the 6th annual San Francisco Green Film Fest. Join us April 14th to 20th at the Castro Theater, Roxie, and venues across the Bay for a week of new films and events that spotlight the world's most urgent environmental issues

and most innovative solutions.

This year, the festival will present 70 internationally acclaimed films, with over 90 visiting filmmakers and guest speakers to delve into some of the most pressing environmental issues. Check out the fantastic line up of films and special guests at www.greenfilmfest.org. You can purchase tickets online or by calling (415)552-5580.

This year, the Bay Chapter is co-sponsoring the screening of the documentary "Ice and the Sky" by Luc Jacquet, director of "March of the Penguins." In "Ice and the Sky," Jacquet returns to the Antarctic with an awe-inspiring account of the life of climate change pioneer Claude Lorius. A farseeing glaciologist, Lorius was the first scientist to be concerned about global warming. Now, returning to the Antarctic in his 80s, he is sad to see history has proved him right. "Ice and the Sky" connects Lorius's legacy with present innovators as they rewrite the rules for our future.

"Ice and the Sky" will show at the Roxie Theater on Saturday, April 18th, at 8:30pm. Watch the trailer for "Ice and the Sky" at youtu.be/NW2PZrOkQ8c.



Still from the film "Ice and the Sky" showing at the SF Green Film Fest on April 18th.

Wild & Scenic Film Festival Earth Day event

Friday, April 22, 7:30 pm (doors at 6:30 pm), Cowell Theater at Fort Mason, 2 Marina Boulevard, San Francisco, \$15 general admission.

The Wild & Scenic Film Festival is coming to San Francisco for a one-night-only special screening of some of the most inspirational films from this year's festival. Join them for a night of environmental and adventure films and leave inspired to make the world a better place. For information and to purchase tickets, visit www.wildandscenicfilmfestival.org/earthday.

The festival is produced by the South Yuba River Citizens League, the leading voice for the protection and restoration of the Yuba River and the Greater Yuba Watershed.

Looking closer at the overall environmental impacts of SF's private commuter shuttles

Private commuter shuttles operating in San Francisco public bus stops have been a bone of contention for several years now. This practice violates a good law — California Vehicle Code 22500.5 — which prohibits operation of any vehicles but public carriers (public transportation accessible to all), cabs, and in some instances school buses, in public bus stops.

In early 2014, when the San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency (SFMTA) was preparing to adopt a pilot program to regulate these vehicles, the Sierra Club took a position opposing operation of the vehicles in public bus stops and supporting an environmental impact report for the legal parts of the program (regulated operations in white zones, for example).

The Sierra Club position has been confusing to some of our members, given the common perception that private shuttles get cars off the road. Maybe, but maybe not. Private shuttles have impacts the Sierra Club believes should be assessed and mitigated.

Disruptions to Muni

While Muni bus operations are dispersed

throughout the City and operate throughout the day, private shuttles concentrate their operations in particular desirable neighborhoods during particular hours. Approximately 30 to 40 private shuttles can be counted along Van Ness Avenue within a few minutes during the morning commute. Similar numbers have been counted along 24th Street in Noe Valley and elsewhere. The buses pull into one of 125 stops, one after the other, frequently blocking Muni buses and interfering with the ability of public bus riders — especially senior citizens and the disabled — to safely board and disembark.

Unknown air quality impacts

While the SFMTA is increasingly moving to a clean-air fleet, the private shuttles are almost all diesel. The long-term air quality impacts of such a fleet have not been assessed, especially in comparison to a plan in which workforce housing is built in the communities where the jobs are located.

It should also be noted that the shuttles go back and forth between the Silicon Valley and

San Francisco several times a day, wasting fuel during the return (or “deadhead”) runs with no passengers.

Fueling displacement

Mounting evidence suggests that the availability of the private shuttles to well-paid tech workers is fueling skyrocketing housing prices and displacement of lower-income individuals and families to the suburbs. People forced out of the city by necessity become more car dependent. A 2014 study by TransForm found that low-income households displaced to the suburbs more than double their vehicle miles traveled, and that the replacement of these households by high-income households in dense, transit-rich city neighborhoods results in a net increase in emissions.

Some of the shuttles are intra-city, but about 75 percent of the people who ride the shuttles live in San Francisco and work in the Silicon Valley. Right now, that's about 8,500 people — a number that will likely grow as tech companies in the Silicon Valley expand. Apple alone intends to hire 27,900

more people. That would mean more private shuttles. In July 2015, the SFMTA had issued 479 shuttle placards (equal to more than half of the entire Muni rubber-tire fleet). Less than a year later, more than 700 shuttles have placards — and there are no limits on the number of shuttles that can receive them.

So, on balance, are the shuttles getting cars off the road?

And what happens to the ability of the public transportation system to expand to address climate change if bus stops are increasingly monopolized by exclusive private carriers?

A permanent shuttle program unlimited in duration or ability to expand was to have started on February 1st, but negotiations between SEIU 1021 and a coalition of housing and public-transportation activists were able to restrict the life of the program to one year, with a six-month review. Meanwhile, the SFMTA will explore options for removing private carriers from public bus stops. Local government will also commission a study on the housing impacts of the shuttles.

Sue Vaughan, chair, SF Group

Sierra Club and Ecology Center launch webinar series on local climate action

Interactive monthly programs designed to empower community activism

The Bay Chapter and the Ecology Center have come together to present a new series called Changemakers for Climate. On the first Wednesday of each month, a panel of environmental activists, policy makers, and experts will gather to discuss local campaigns to combat climate disruption.

Sierra Club organizer Ratha Lai will moderate the discussions, which will explore topics such as crude by rail, coal exports, and Community Choice energy.

The Changemakers programs will focus on local actions and draw connections to air quality, public health and safety, green jobs, and environmental justice. The goal of the series is to empower Bay Area residents with the knowledge and tools they need to get engaged in tackling these issues in their own backyards. The public can participate in the events in person or via a live webinar broadcast. Recordings of the events will be posted online at www.sc.org/sfbay/changemakers and will serve as an educational resource.

“When people think of the Bay Area they often think of us as being at the forefront of the environmental movement — and that's true in many ways,” said Ratha Lai, a Bay Chapter organizer and host of the Changemakers program. “Today, the Bay Area is leading in the development of Community Choice energy programs, which are a key tool in the transition away from fossil fuels to clean and renewable power. But we also have five oil refineries fighting tooth and nail to bring in dirtier and more dangerous grades of crude

oil. We have gigantic piles of coal and petcoke sitting uncovered just a stone's throw from the Bay. And we're still dealing with the threat of a massive coal-export proposal in Oakland that would make things a lot worse for people who already suffer disproportionately from air pollution.” Lai added: “Whether you've never attended a public hearing or you're already deep in the trenches, our monthly Changemakers programs will get you up to speed on our climate campaigns and prepare you to take action.”

“We are at a crossroads where most people are very concerned about climate change, but may not know where to start to tackle these issues,” says Rebecca Milliken, climate action coordinator for the Ecology Center. “Changemakers for Climate brings together experts and community members to break down these policy issues into specific actions.”

April 6 program on refinery rules

The next Changemakers program will tackle the ongoing campaign to improve the Bay Area's air quality by pushing the Bay Area Air Quality Management District to implement strong new regulations on the region's five refineries.

Topic: Refinery emission rules

Date: Wednesday, April 6

Time: 6 to 7 pm

Location: Bay Chapter office, 2530 San Pablo Ave, Suite I, Berkeley, OR join the webinar at:

Link: tinyurl.com/refineryruleswebinar



Photo courtesy refineryhealingwalks.com.

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Take a healing walk along the refinery corridor

You're invited to join Idle No More SF Bay and other frontline activists for a series of healing walks along the refinery corridor of the northeast San Francisco Bay this spring and summer.

Inspired by Native American tradition, the healing walks are intended to bring attention to the health risks and dangers posed by refineries and oil trains that deliver toxic and explosive crude. Join us for four upcoming walks:

- Saturday, April 16: Pittsburg to Martinez
 - Sunday, May 15: Martinez to Benicia
 - Saturday, June 11: Benicia to Rodeo
 - Sunday, July 17: Rodeo to Richmond
- Learn more at refineryhealingwalks.com.



Big Oil's hostile takeover — Your help needed to implement refinery-emission caps this year

Late last year we succeeded in getting the Bay Area Air Quality Management District board to deny its own staff's "swiss cheese" proposal for a cap on refinery emissions (it was riddled with exemptions and loopholes). The Air District also agreed that our coalition's proposal for numeric emission limits should be included in the next draft of the rule. These victories have teed up what could be a historic and monumental year for limits on pollution, including greenhouse gases, from the Bay Area's five refineries. But it won't be easy. Big Oil is engaged in an all-out effort to take over our environmental and public health safeguards at all levels of government.

Recently, a Republican majority — including members who were helped to their position by the oil industry — took over the South Coast Air Quality Management District board. The board then fired its long-time executive director, Dr. Barry Wallestein, who was widely recognized as a strong and capable architect of some of the world's most advanced and innovative air pollution control measures. Thanks to regulations that were rolled out under Dr. Wallestein's oversight, refineries in Southern California emit less toxic pollution than our own refineries here in the Bay Area. (State Senate President Pro Tem Kevin de

León is working on a bill to add three new seats to the State Air Resources board — two environmental justice members and a public health expert — to counter the Republicans' rollback of progress for the environment and public health.)

Dr. Wallenstein's firing was a shocking demonstration of the oil industry's ability to control another of the agencies that regulate it. The dismissal of such a committed advocate for the community and the environment at the Bay Area Air District's southern counterpart can be seen as a direct threat to our own efforts to reel in industry excesses. A cap on refinery emissions will be our best protection against unchecked pollution — but it too could abruptly get dismissed, just like Dr. Barry Wallstein.

Let's be honest here; we can't expect Big Oil to give up its stranded assets without trying to salvage some money out of their gamble on extreme fuels. And that means we can expect BIG money to be spent on ads, lobbying, and campaign contributions to push their agenda. The last election cycle, Chevron dropped over three million dollars in political spending to blanket Richmond with advertising for pro-industry candidates. Fortunately for Richmond (and humanity), Chevron lost to a coalition of progressive

Richmond councilmembers. But Big Oil wins as many, or more, as it loses. Statewide, the oil industry spent \$11.3 million on advertising to force the Senate President and governor to abandon the historic oil-reduction goals in State Bill 350. We have to exercise the tools of democracy to fight back by holding elected leaders accountable to us, the voters — not the oil industry.

But many agency officials, like our own Air District executive director Jack Broadbent, are not elected. The grim reality is that there is little we can do to protect against the revolving door of ex-public officials joining industry for huge paydays. After all, Jack Broadbent has been good to the oil industry, allowing explosive oil trains with no public notice; rubber-stamping Phillips 66's controversial tar sands permits; and trying to claim that a loophole-riddled proposal for emission limits is the best protection for our communities. Let's just say there's little chance the oil industry will target Broadbent for removal.

Jack Broadbent recently delayed action on the emission-cap rule from May of this year to December — dangerously close to a board transition that will likely make the Air District even more oil-friendly. That means the next seven or eight months could be our best and last opportunity to get legitimate

rules that safeguard our communities against increasing refinery pollution.

Given the industry's move to take over public agencies, we have to do everything we can to get the board to vote on the strongest possible emission-cap rules, and to stick as close as possible to the May deadline.

WhatYouCanDo

This is an all-hands-on-deck moment. We need volunteer leaders to lead canvassing, phone-banking, and other outreach efforts. We are planning a community forum to tell the truth about the refinery rules and what we need to do as a community to protect our health and safety:

What: "Spare Our Air," a community forum on emission caps

When: Thursday, April 21st, 6 to 8 pm

Where: Grace Lutheran Church, 24th & Barrett, Richmond

New people are encouraged to attend the forum, while regulars are encouraged to attend a possible Air District meeting on April 20th, at which the board will be voting on a rule to increase and improve air monitoring.

To volunteer or to learn more about either event, contact Ratha Lai at ratha.lai@sierraclub.org or (510)848-0800.

Ratha Lai

Fate of dangerous Valero oil-train proposal rests with the Benicia city council

This February, six planning commissioners in the quiet community of Benicia unanimously rejected oil giant Valero's proposal to transport crude to its local refinery in dangerous oil trains. To no one's surprise, Valero has appealed that decision to the Benicia City Council, which will take public comment in a series of hearings on Monday, April 4, Wednesday, April 6, and Tuesday, April 19, if needed.

Valero's plan to receive two 50-tanker oil trains each day at the Benicia refinery is emblematic of broader industry efforts to ramp up transport of oil — including dirty tar sands crude from Canada and explosive Bakken crude from North Dakota — in mile-long trains to refineries along the West Coast.

The planning commission decision went against City planning staff's recommendation to approve Valero's proposal. Staff recommended approval despite concluding that the benefits do not outweigh the numerous "significant and unavoidable" impacts on up-rail communities (including derailments, oil spills, and explosions). The staff report insisted that federal regulation of railroads means that the legal doctrine of preemption prohibits the City from mitigating — or even considering — any of the serious risks that

oil trains pose to communities and sensitive environments along the rail line. During the planning commission hearing, the contract attorney hired by the City repeatedly told the commissioners that they unquestionably lack any authority to deny the permit based on these rail impacts — and went so far as to say that mere disclosure of these impacts could be unlawful.

Attorneys from the Sierra Club, Natural Resources Defense Council, and the Stanford Law School clinic testified at the hearing, refuting this expansive interpretation of the preemption doctrine and urging the commissioners to reject it. Before voting to deny the project, several commissioners expressed skepticism that they are legally required to turn a blind eye to the grave dangers that oil trains pose to up-rail communities. One commissioner told the contract attorney that his interpretation of the preemption issue is "180 degrees different" from the view expressed by other attorneys. (Using more colorful language, another commissioner noted: "I don't want to be the planning commissioner in the one city that said 'screw you' to up-rail cities.")

For years, the Sierra Club and our partners have pushed back against Valero's attempts

to conceal the true impacts of its oil-train proposal. The City initially tried to approve the project without conducting a full environmental review. In 2013, we submitted comments challenging that course of action, which contributed to the city's decision to circulate an environmental impact report (EIR) for the project. We then submitted comment letters identifying major flaws in the the draft EIR (2014), revised draft EIR (2015), and final EIR (2016). Our allies in these efforts include Benicians for a Safe and Healthy Community, NRDC, ForestEthics, Communities for a Better Environment, Center for Biological Diversity, Sunflower Alliance, and SF Baykeeper, among others.

Attorney General Kamala Harris also weighed in on the inadequacies of the city's environmental review — specifically noting the failure to adequately analyze impacts on up-rail communities. And the Sacramento Area Council of Governments, which represents 6 counties and 22 cities, characterized the City's environmental review as "a non-response" to its public-safety concerns about oil trains traversing the Sacramento area.

After voting to deny the project, the planning commission issued a resolution identifying 14 deficiencies in the final environmental

impact report. The resolution also concluded that "Staff's interpretation of preemption is too broad..." (In direct contrast to the position adopted by the Benicia planning staff, the San Luis Obispo County planning staff recommended denial of a similar oil-train proposal at a Phillips 66 refinery, due in large part to the environmental and health impacts along the rail line. See page 13 for more.)

WhatYouCanDo

The decision is now in the hands of the Benicia City Council. Here's how you can help deal a second blow to Valero's oil-train project:

1. Write to Benicia's City Council members. Send your email to Principal Planner Amy Million at amillion@ci.benicia.ca.us. You may also send your letter to Amy Million by mail to 250 East L Street, Benicia, CA 94510, or by fax to (707)747-1637. Be sure to note that your comments are "for the public record on Valero crude by rail."

2. Join us at the city council hearings on Monday, April 4th, Wednesday, April 6th, and Tuesday, April 19th if needed. All meetings will be held at 7 pm in City Hall Council Chamber, 250 East L Street, Benicia.

Adapted from a blog post by Sierra Club attorney Elly Benson

Hundreds urge Planning Commission to deny Phillips 66's dangerous oil-train proposal

San Luis Obispo planning commission deliberations underway, but multiple appeals likely

So many people wanted to have their say about the Phillips 66 oil-train proposal that planning commission hearings on the subject had to be continued twice. Over four all-day hearings in February and March, over 400 people from across California converged on downtown San Luis Obispo to urge county planning commissioners to reject the proposal to build an oil-train terminal at the Phillips 66 Santa Maria refinery.

The oil giant seeks to import tar sands crude from Canada in mile-long trains, each laden with over two million gallons of dirty crude. The trains would travel through hundreds of communities (including many in the Bay Area) before arriving at the refinery on California's Central Coast. After being partially refined there, tar sands products would be sent back north to Contra Costa County's Rodeo refinery through a 200-mile pipeline.

On the first day of hearings, on February 4th, the local paper reported that it was the largest turnout for a public hearing in years. The crowds were so large that the historic movie theater next door had to be used for overflow seating. People came not just from San Luis Obispo County but also from farther afield: Los Angeles, the Bay Area, Sacramento, Fresno, Santa Barbara, and other towns and cities that would be put at risk by oil trains rolling through their communities. Oil-train derailments and explosions have skyrocketed in recent years. The most catastrophic accident occurred in Lac-Megantic, Canada in July 2013, when an oil train derailment caused a fiery explosion that killed 47 people and obliterated several city blocks.

At the start of the first day of hearings, Phil-

lips 66 announced that it had downsized its proposal from five oil trains per week to three trains per week. Phillips conceded that this new proposal would have many of the same "significant and unavoidable impacts" to human health and the environment as the original proposal, particularly along the rail line. But the company espoused an opportunistic (and flimsy) argument that federal regulation of railroads means the commissioners can only consider impacts at the refinery site — not the risks posed to hundreds of communities that the unsafe oil trains would rumble through on their way from Canada to the Santa Maria refinery.

On the first day of the hearing, the Planning Commission heard from 83 members of the public. Every single speaker opposed the project. They included elected officials such as San Luis Obispo Mayor Jan Marx, Santa Barbara Mayor Helene Schneider, and staffers speaking on behalf of State Senators Bill Monning and Hannah-Beth Jackson, State Assemblymember Das Williams, and officials from nearby towns including Oxnard and Goleta. From the Bay Area, staffers spoke against the project on behalf of elected officials from Santa Clara County, San Jose, and Berkeley.

This trend of overwhelming opposition to the project continued on the second day of the hearing. Although a number of people spoke in support of the project on the third and fourth days of the hearing, overall they

were outnumbered by people urging the Planning Commission to deny the project. This imbalance is nothing new. Of the approximately 24,500 comment letters received on the project during the environmental review process, only about 150 were in support. The county has also received dozens of comments from state and local governmental officials, counties, cities, schools and fire protection

the company has also said it believes that pre-emption prevents the county from regulating rail terminals or unloading facilities — which signals that if allowed to build the oil train terminal under the three-train-per-week proposal, Phillips 66 would later argue that the county is prohibited from limiting the number of trains.)

Many of the speakers urged the Planning Commission to follow the recommendation of its own staff, which issued a report recommending denial of the project. The staff report noted the significant local, regional, and statewide concern regarding toxic air emissions, risk of derailment and explosion, and inadequate emergency-response services along the rail line. The staff report also pointed out that the environmental impact report for the project concluded that there would be "significant and unavoidable" impacts from diesel



Hundreds gathered for a rally on the first day of hearings. Photo by Vanessa Tsimoyianis.

particulate matter and toxic air emissions at the refinery (including an unacceptable cancer risk for the population near the project), as well as ten "significant and unavoidable" impacts along the rail line (including impacts to agricultural resources, air quality, biological resources, cultural resources, hazards, public services, and water resources).

The Sierra Club and our allies have played a critical role in the environmental review process for the project, helping to ensure that the project's impacts are thoroughly analyzed. We submitted comments on the draft environmental impact report in January 2014, which led the county to do another round of environmental review, which we also commented on. In addition, represented by Environmental Defense Center, we submitted comments highlighting the project's inconsistency with critical Local Coastal Program policies.

At the time of this writing, planning commission deliberations are underway. However the planning commission rules, that decision can be appealed to the County Board of Supervisors, whose decision could then be appealed to the California Coastal Commission. Notably, on February 3, Coastal Commission staff sent a letter to the planning commission stating that it "strongly agree[s] with and support[s]" the planning staff's recommendation to deny the project.

The people have spoken, and their message is clear: put the public before oil industry profits, and deny this project. As a Paso Robles High School student told the planning commission at the hearing: "oil trains are dinosaurs and dinosaurs belong in museums."

Adapted from a blog post by Sierra Club attorney Elly Benson

Alameda County fracking ban has a chance to move forward on April 4th

At last! Word is that the revised draft ordinance to ban fracking and other extreme methods of oil extraction in Alameda County will come before the Planning Commission on April 4th.

This ordinance is our chance to reinforce the message that fracking should be banned in California, county by county by necessity (Thank you, Governor Brown). San Benito led the way. We look for Alameda to follow. And the fight will continue, with a big effort that gets underway on March 19 to get enough signatures to place an anti-fracking measure on Monterey County's November ballot.

The need for tighter regulations was underlined by the discovery last year of a leak from an oil storage tank in Livermore at an E&B Natural Resources site. E&B failed to promptly report the leak to government agencies or to the surface property owner whose land surrounds the site. Monitoring wells to detect any possible contamination to the groundwater have been drilled. The company has paid a nominal fine,

without acknowledging that it committed any violation. According to an NBC Investigative Unit report, E&B has experienced multiple spills at its sites in California.

Given the hazards associated with the transport, storage, use, and disposal of fracking chemicals, should E&B, or any other oil producer, be entrusted with being mindful of the land, water, and air of the Tri-Valley? Say "no" at the Planning Commission meeting.

What You Can Do

There are two immediate ways you can become involved:

First, voice your support for the ordinance by emailing the Board of Supervisors at CBS@acgov.org. You can send a letter via snail mail to 1221 Oak Street, Suite 536, Oakland, CA 94612.

Second, turn out for the Planning Commission meeting on April 4th to let the Commissioners know of the broad support for making sure that fracking and other extreme recovery methods never blight the landscape

of Alameda County. Their recommendation to the Board of Supervisors will be critical to passage of the ordinance.

What: Planning Commission meeting on anti-fracking ordinance

When: Monday, April 4, 6:00 PM

Location: Alameda County Buildings Public Hearing Room, 224 W. Winton Avenue, Hayward

If you want to energize yourself before the April 4th meeting, join us for a screening of 'Dear Governor Brown,' a film that exposes the governor's oily record, challenges the climate legacy he's so desperate to create, and pressures him to stop fracking and other extreme oil-extraction methods. The screening will be hosted by the Center for Biological Diversity:

What: Showing of Dear Governor Brown

Date: Thursday, March 31

Time: Refreshments at 6 pm, film at 6:30 pm

Location: Center for Biological Diversity, 1212 Broadway, Suite 800, Oakland

Rebecca Franke

Marin's Hamilton Wetlands at risk from development on adjacent toxic landfill

A well-connected commercial developer is planning to build a massive private sports complex next to a model wetland project on the San Pablo Bay in Novato — right on top of a former U.S. Army hazardous waste landfill. We need your help to stop this development and protect the wetlands.

What's at stake is Marin County's newest environmental treasure: the 988-acre Hamilton Wetlands in Novato, developed with state and federal funding at a cost of over \$300 million. With established habitat for two listed and 55 special-status species, Hamilton Wetlands is already known as one of the best places in the Bay Area to watch all kinds of wildlife, from a large diversity of migratory birds and waterfowl to river otters and western pond turtles. Hamilton's restoration is the first stage in a larger vision for 2,600 acres of restored tidal and seasonal wetlands located in the Pacific flyway with connections to riparian, oak woodlands, and uplands habitats. That vision is now in jeopardy.

Commercial developers have proposed a 55-acre sports complex adjacent to the Hamilton Wetlands and within 100 feet of existing surrounding wetlands, wildlife refuge areas, and the Bay Trail. The proposed complex would include a 1,000-seat stadium, nine fields, and 12 buildings. The City of Novato is considering supporting this project with the stated aim of expanding sports field availability, yet less than 20 percent of the complex would be available for potential public use.

The former Hamilton Army Air Field — the site of the proposed development — includes a 26-acre toxic landfill that was capped in 1992, but was left unlined, potentially allowing leakage of hazardous material into the groundwater. These toxins include pesticides, heavy metals including arsenic, lead, and zinc, polynuclear hydrocarbons, petroleum hydrocarbons, PCBs, and plumes of methane, MTB, and benzene, all of which the Army is required to monitor annually.

The sports complex is proposed to be built on top of this toxic landfill. Any disturbance of this area is unacceptable as it could increase the release of these toxins into the wetlands and the bay (the landfill is located in a floodplain).

The develop-

er's proposal violates many land-use restrictions for the landfill and surrounding areas, including prohibitions on parking, roads, buildings, shrubs, trees, digging below 12 inches, changing the surface grade, and changing drainage patterns. The City of Novato is considering granting the developer's request to rezone the surrounding public open space — including established wildlife buffers and drainage corridors — to accommodate plans to build access roads through wetlands, creeks and open space.

There are many problems with the proposal: over 3,800 daily visitors, seven days a week (around 400,000 visitors per year), parking for 800 cars, noise, traffic impacts, light pollution, and litter and toxic runoff, among others.

The Sierra Club supports keeping this area as an important open-space buffer, and for non-structural, environmentally responsible public usage to preserve and protect adjacent wetlands and wildlife.

What You Can Do

Send an email or letter to the Novato City Council, Supervisor Judy Arnold, and Congressman Jared Huffman asking them to protect our wetlands and endangered wildlife by stopping this development.

Novato City Councilmembers:

City of Novato, 922 Machin Avenue,
Novato, CA 94945



Migrating birds flock by the thousands to Hamilton Wetlands. Photo by Sue Lattanzio.



A mega-marina for mega-yachts at Treasure Island?

A long dormant proposal by commercial developers to close off most of Clipper Cove at Treasure Island and convert the cove into a large luxury marina has moved off the back burner now that Island development is moving forward, prompting a campaign by local supporters to save the cove.

Clipper Cove is considered one of the Bay Area's most valuable open-water resources, being one of the safest, most protected areas in the Bay for public recreation and boating instruction. Currently, Clipper Cove is home to youth sailing, disabled sailing, dragon boating, the Cal sailing team, Olympic class racing,

keelboat raft-ups, kayaking, paddle boarding, high school and collegiate competition, and more.



The cove as it is now, with the marina tucked into the northeast corner and the dragon boating racecourse marked with lines.

without significant negative impacts on public access and use of the Cove, particularly on youth and community sailing. In a letter to the Treasure Island Development Authority,

The Cove is also home to the non-profit Treasure Island Sailing Center that every year puts over two thousand San Francisco public schools kids on the water — many for the first time ever.

The scale of the marina as currently proposed is much greater than can be accommodated

Bay Chapter chair Becky Evans noted that the Club is also concerned about the potential impact on views of open water, potential restriction of space for anchor-outs, and detrimental impact on the eelgrass beds near the shore of Yerba Buena Island.

A look at the architectural drawings presented by the developers reveals a mega-marina designed for mega-yachts. Under the developer's proposal, 372 slips would be built with an average slip size of 54 feet and two finger docks per slip. The marina would also provide docking for mega-yachts up to 175 feet in length. In contrast, South Beach



2015 proposal submitted by the marina developers. The marina would be expanded several times over and moved out of the Cove's NW corner, effectively closing off most of the cove.

Marina, a modern marina located adjacent to AT&T ballpark in San Francisco, has an average slip size of 36 feet and only one finger dock per boat.

Supporters of Clipper Cove are challenging the current marina proposal and calling for a temporary hold on development in the Cove so that the current public use of the Cove can be properly assessed and the cost and benefits of a mega-marina properly considered.

For more information go to www.saveclippercove.org.

Hunter Cutting

Sue Lattanzio



The site of the proposed Lund Ranch development. Photo courtesy www.savepleasantonhillsides.com.

Pleasanton's Lund Ranch development would violate hillside protections

In 2008, the voters passed Measure PP to protect hillsides in Pleasanton from destructive steep-slope development. Going against the voters' wishes, the Pleasanton City Council recently voted to approve a development project in violation of Measure PP. Local activists organized a referendum to block the project that will be on the June ballot as Measure K.

The project in question is a plan by the developer Greenbriar for 43 upscale single-family homes on approximately 17 acres in the southeast hills of Pleasanton. The most controversial project element is the construction of an access road on steep hillsides that is non-compliant with Measure PP. Opponents of the project are also concerned about substantial destruction of heritage oak woodlands.

The Bay Chapter submitted letters of opposition to the Lund Ranch II project to the planning commission and city council. As a result of these efforts and those of other Pleasanton activists, some changes were made to the project to reduce the number of hillside impacts — but the amendments were insufficient to eliminate the Measure PP violation.

In voting to approve Lund Ranch II, Mayor Thorne and council members Narum and Olson pointed to the developer's promise to donate 174 acres of its property to the city as open space. Yet the land in question is already undeveloped "open space" right now. The vast majority of the land is unbuildable, so under any conceivable future proposed use for the Lund Ranch property, much of it will be open space.

It is worth noting that the one dissenting council member was Karla Brown, who was endorsed by the Sierra Club in the last election.

There is a history of Measure PP violations being successfully defeated at the ballot box. In 2010, the Sierra Club's Tri-Valley Group opposed a steep hillside and ridgetop mansion development known as Oak Grove, and the project was voted down by Pleasanton voters.

You can read more about the project and Measure KK at www.savepleasantonhillsides.com, a website created by Pleasanton community activists. Remember to vote 'No' on K this June to protect Pleasanton's hillsides!

Richard Pugh, vice chair, Tri-Valley Group

June ballot Measure AA will restore wetlands for a healthy Bay and safer communities

Vote 'Yes' on Measure AA in this June's election and you'll be helping the Bay Area take a major step forward in responding to climate change and sea-level rise.

Sea-level rise threatens Bay-side communities

As many of us have witnessed during the latest El Niño storms, flooding in low-lying bay shoreline areas is becoming more common. As the bay rises three, four, or even six feet as a result of climate change (as scientists project will happen within this century) many shoreline areas will face constant inundation. Another way of saying that is that some areas may become a part of the Bay.

That is, if we don't do something.

We could build levees around the entire Bay at a cost in the many, many billions. Then again, remember Katrina, remember the Mississippi, and all the other sites where levees have failed. Levees may be necessary in some areas — we're not likely to allow San Francisco's downtown to disappear under water — but they're not the best solution.

Happily (if one can talk about happiness in the face of disaster) there appears to be an answer that makes use of nature's natural flood barrier, tidal wetlands.

Wetlands: the natural solution

Tidal wetland vegetation slows storm surges, reduces the height of waves and encroaching waters, and so helps avoid flooding.

Wetland vegetation traps sediment, and as the Bay rises so will the elevation of the tidal wetlands. As they trap the bay mud and grow new vegetation on this new elevation, wetlands raise our shoreline; a natural and growing levee. This won't work everywhere, but it will be a critical element in how our Bay Area responds to the rising tides.

But, of course, first we need tidal wetlands. The Bay has lost over 80% of its tidal wetlands over the last few centuries as we humans have been altering the shoreline for agriculture, salt production, and urban development.

But thanks to the Sierra Club and many others the tide began to turn a few decades ago. Even before sea-level rise was recognized as the threat we know it is today (and wetlands recognized as an answer to the water's encroachment) wetlands were valued for "cleaning and retaining water naturally, preventing floods, and providing a habitat and food source for a wide variety of plant and animal species" (Sahagian and Melack 1998; Mitsch 2005; Erwin 2009; Ranieri et al. 2013). With this in mind, environmental groups such as the Sierra Club began to save threatened tidal marshes.

As conservation efforts ramped up, state and federal agencies began to make it much harder to destroy wetlands for agriculture or development. Once the message finally got out, the goal of restoring those lost wetland acres took hold and wetland restoration became an active endeavor. Over the last decade tens of thousands of acres of tidal marsh have been restored along the Bay shoreline.

But current estimates show the need for at least 100,000 acres of restored wetlands for the health of the Bay and to address sea level rise. And restoring wetlands can be expensive — not as expensive as levees but still pretty expensive. Estimates are that it will take many hundreds of millions of dollars to restore the Bay's wetlands to health. Where is the money to come from to undertake this essential task?

What would Measure AA do?

In 2008 the State Legislature created the San Francisco Bay Restoration Authority, which was tasked with helping fund "the restoration, enhancement, protection, and enjoyment of wetlands and wildlife habitat in the San Francisco Bay and along its shoreline."

To fund this effort, this year the Restoration Authority is presenting the "Clean and Healthy Bay Ballot Measure," or Measure AA, on the June ballot in each of the nine Bay Area counties. Measure AA would create a \$12 parcel tax that would raise \$500 million over 20 years to fund critical Bay restoration and flood

SF Bay By the Numbers

36,000 acres of wetlands are sitting in public hands and awaiting funding for restoration

55 inches of sea level rise will dramatically alter the Bay shoreline and directly impact surrounding communities and local businesses within the next century

1 dollar per month will help restore San Francisco Bay wetlands and curb looming impacts of rising seas

Graphic courtesy Save SF Bay

protection projects. The Authority's enabling legislation and the ballot language ensure that the money will go where it's needed. It's not enough money to completely protect the Bay Area from sea-level rise, but it's a great start to help us get ready for a higher bay.

This ballot measure will result in a healthier and safer Bay and most of all, it gives us all a chance to do something positive about climate change and sea-level rise. We still need to put all our energy into stopping the use of fossil fuels and reducing greenhouse gases — but that is saying 'No.'

Here is a chance to say 'YES!' Voting 'Yes' on Measure AA fights climate change by creating a healthier Bay ready to take on the rising seas. Please vote this June and vote 'Yes' on Measure AA.

Arthur Feinstein, Bay Chapter Executive Committee



Gifts to the Bay Chapter

In honor of Tali Bojdak-Yates for his bar mitzvah
Gift of Shari, Bruce, Livi, and Solly
Gift of Ellen, Eric, Faye, and Zeke

In memory of Louis Prisco
Gift of Ron L. Moore

The San Francisco Bay Chapter welcomes donations in general, as well as gifts in memory or honor of relatives and friends. Such gifts will be used as specified by the donor, or, if unspecified, at the discretion of the Executive Committee.



Backpackers in Henry W. Coe State Park. Photo by Roger Williams.

The Yodeler wants your #SierraSnapshots!

Did you see a golden eagle on your last hike? Or maybe a blooming buckeye tree? Snap a selfie on top of Mount Tam? Send it to us and you could be featured in the Yodeler in our new Sierra Snapshots series. Our members spend lots of time outdoors enjoying the parks and open spaces we've all helped to conserve — and we want to share in the fun!

How to submit your photos: You can tag the photo #SierraSnapshots on Twitter, Facebook, or Instagram, or email it to us at yodedit@sfbaysc.org. Be sure it's a high-resolution file and include the photographer's name, names of the people in the photo, where and when it was taken, what's happening, and how long you've been a Sierra Club member.

CleanPowerSF powers your home with greener energy at lower rates. Enroll today at CleanPowerSF.org!

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	27% Renewable Energy*	35% Renewable Energy	100% Solar Choice	100% Renewable Energy
Electric Delivery	\$39.20	\$39.20	\$39.20	\$39.20
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Additional PG&E Fees	n/a	\$7.38	\$7.13	\$7.38
Misc. / Taxes	\$4.50	\$4.49	\$5.32	\$4.95
Total Cost	\$73.46	\$73.38	\$85.28	\$79.98

Sign up today at CleanPowerSF.org and be among the first San Franciscans to start getting clean, renewable, and cheap power when the program launches this spring.

Contra Costa votes 'Yes' to Community Choice

On March 15th, Community Choice energy won a big victory in Contra Costa County, increasing the likelihood that every corner of the county will be served by a local clean-energy program in the not-too-distant future.

After a long discussion, which included testimony by a large number of residents, the Board of Supervisors voted unanimously to proceed with a technical ("feasibility") study that will make a cost-benefit analysis of three options for bringing Community Choice to Contra Costa:

1. Form a stand-alone Community Choice energy program including unincorporated areas of the county and all interested cities;

2. Join Marin Clean Energy (MCE), the state's first Community Choice energy program, which is currently serving customers in neighboring Marin County, unincorporated Napa County, and the cities of Benicia, El Cerrito, Richmond, and San Pablo; or

3. Partner with Alameda County's nascent Community Choice energy program.

What are the next steps?

County staff recommends creating an advisory committee with representation by each of the committed cities and the county to define the scope of the study. In addition to fiscal issues, both supervisors and speakers expressed an interest in an assessment of the potential for economic development, job creation, and a response to environmental-justice concerns. A request by two speakers for citizen representation on the committee was not addressed.

Staff estimates the study could be completed by October. The county approved \$300,000 to cover its portion of the study and the staff time required; cities will be asked to fund a remaining \$100,000 for the study on a per-capita basis. Meanwhile,

two cities have acted independently.

Lafayette & Walnut Creek go to MCE

The Lafayette City Council voted unanimously to join MCE — a decision that came after nearly two years of study, several public presentations, and an online public survey. Lafayette will become the fourth Contra Costa city to join MCE (after Richmond, San Pablo, and El Cerrito). Walnut Creek became the fifth city when it voted 3:1 to also join MCE.

Being a city more than twice the size of Lafayette and with a much larger number of commercial energy customers, Walnut Creek had been torn between the choice of joining MCE and continuing to push for a stand-alone Community Choice program for Contra Costa. Both Walnut Creek and Lafayette must undergo a two-month-long membership analysis by MCE before public outreach will begin, leading to the switch-over from PG&E to MCE as the default electricity provider. The switch is estimated to occur as soon as August. Customers will then have the opportunity to opt-out of MCE to remain with PG&E.

Carol Weed, Contra Costa Clean Energy Alliance



Pittsburg students in support of Community Choice. Photo courtesy Carol Weed.

Celebrate the national park system centennial in the great outdoors

This year, join us in celebrating our parks! 2016 marks the centennial of America's national park system. What started with one park, Yellowstone, grew into a system of 35 national parks and monuments by the time the National Park Service was established in 1916. The tremendous popularity and clear value of protected public lands has continued to drive the creation of new parks, bringing the number today to more than 400 parks.

The Bay Area is home to some of our nation's most spectacular national treasures, preserving our natural resources and cultural heritage for all to enjoy. They offer unparalleled opportunities for solitude and camaraderie, extreme adventures and quiet reflection, and learning. How many of these close-to-home

national parks have you explored?

- Alcatraz Island
- Fort Point National Historic Site
- Golden Gate National Recreation Area
- John Muir National Historic Site
- Muir Woods National Monument
- Point Reyes National Seashore
- Presidio of San Francisco
- Rosie the Riveter WWII Home Front National Historic Park
- San Francisco Maritime National Historical Park

This year, we're challenging you to explore as much of our national park system as you can — both here in the Bay Area and far beyond. Find a searchable list of Sierra Club outings in national parks at www.sierraclub.org/nps100.