

Sierra Club YODELER

THE NEWSPAPER OF THE SAN FRANCISCO BAY CHAPTER ◆ SUMMER 2021



- ◆ MONTEREY BAY AQUARIUM HOSTS CLIMATE LITERACY WORKSHOP ◆
- ◆ NEW TASK FORCE TO PROTECT 30 PERCENT OF LANDS BY 2030 ◆
- ◆ BERKELEY SAYS GOODBYE TO SINGLE-FAMILY ZONING ◆
- ◆ TWO-PAGE ILLUSTRATION WARNS AGAINST GAS APPLIANCES ◆

LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

Dear friends,

The realization that everything can change in a matter of moments became palpable to me last year. Maybe that's why this spring I am so purposefully inhaling the beauty of this world with abandon: wild and garden blooms, butterflies dancing in the air, parent doves following their clumsy fledgling as it learns to fly, a mother deer watching out for her spotty fawns, a family of cute skunks crossing a street. Everything is alive and everything is uniquely fascinating.



Perhaps my resiliency, strength, and joy stem from this continuous connection with the natural world – nurtured and channeled through my beloved grandmother, who introduced me to this amazing world of observation, discovery, and the ability to see, touch, smell, and feel the beings around me.

As I continue my adventure with the Sierra Club, I observe immense energy, passion, and dedication to this world and its creatures, including all of us humans – from the Chapter staff to the many volunteers who work tirelessly to preserve this beautiful world and make it much more kind, inclusive, and just. But as I am writing this word “just”, I start to ponder, what does it mean?

Ultimately, to me, it means empathy, respect, and kindness to everyone and everything, including oneself. Happy people usually don't want to hurt anyone or anything. They want to spread and share their joy.

As Dr. Gabor Maté said during a Bioneers conference, “Our physical health is intimately tied to environmental health, as well as to our emotional and spiritual ecology. We have the capacity to heal both ourselves and the planet by reconnecting with our true nature as empathic, nurturing, social beings.”

I am recommitting myself to sharing kindness and joy in hopes that together we will make this world a better place for all!

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Olga A. Bolotina". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a horizontal line underneath.

Olga A. Bolotina
CHAPTER CHAIR

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Cover Photo
A western pond turtle in the Sunol Wilderness Regional Preserve.
Photo by Jerry Ting.



SUMMER 2021 CHAPTER NEWS

Chapter Welcomes New Director, Virginia Reinhart

The SF Bay Chapter is pleased to welcome Virginia Reinhart as its new Director. Virginia has worked at the Chapter for over seven years, formerly as Communications



Manager and Yodeler Editor. In her time at the Sierra Club, she has had the opportunity to work closely with hundreds of local volunteers and activists to help achieve conservation victories in every corner of our chapter. Virginia lives in Richmond with her family, and when she's not working, she's gardening or dragging her two young sons on hikes of the region's amazing trails.

Internship Opportunity for Our "In the Know" Interview Series

Our chapter is looking for an intern to support our interview series "In the Know" with Chapter Chair Olga Bolotina! The Educational Interview Program Coordinator Intern will help develop programming, create promotional materials, and manage the livestreams and recordings. We're looking for someone intellectually curious, detail-oriented, and excited about exploring a diversity of environmental issues to provide educational, engaging, and inspiring content to our members and the public. This part-time, paid position would require thirteen hours a week for six months. You can learn more

about the position and apply at bit.ly/intheknowintern. And as always, you can catch up on past "In the Know" conversations at bit.ly/olgaintheknow.

Over 2,700 Gallons of Water Saved With the Climate Solutions Challenge

Have you joined the Sierra Club Climate Solutions Challenge? Since our kickoff Earth Day event, 27 households have joined the challenge and taken actions that have reduced their carbon footprints and saved them over \$1,200! You can join at brightaction.app/sierraclub and discover over 90 climate-friendly and sustainable actions you can take at home to reduce your carbon footprint. Check out our tutorial video to learn how the platform works and how to get started at bit.ly/climatechallengevideo.

Outings Update Coming Soon

To keep our community safe during this ongoing pandemic, the Sierra Club has not been hosting its usual calendar of outings. While outings are still on hold as of this printing, we hope and expect outings to resume with appropriate safety measures in place this summer. Check sierraclub.org/sfbay/events for updates.



EMBRACE THE LAZY DAYS OF SUMMER

Kick back and relax when you donate your vehicle to the Sierra Club Foundation's SF Bay Chapter! It's easy, the pick-up is free, and cars, boats, motorcycles, RVs, and more are all tax-deductible. To learn more, visit our website at scfch.careasy.org or call (844) 674-3772.

Climate Literacy and Action Workshop for Educators With the Monterey Bay Aquarium on July 30th

SARAH RANNEY

Calling all teachers of grades six through twelve! Our Climate Literacy Committee is collaborating with the Monterey Bay Aquarium on a free, virtual workshop on July 30th from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Build your confidence teaching climate change while developing your students' real-world problem-solving skills. Tackle climate anxiety and despair with an approach that focuses on solutions. Develop student-centered projects that support standards — no matter what subject you teach!

During this free one-day workshop, you'll:

- Meet renowned climate scientist and communicator Jim Barry who will provide an overview of the science of climate change
- Sample vetted, developmentally appropriate, standards-aligned climate curriculums
- Learn a framework and thinking routine to engage students of all backgrounds in community-based climate solutions projects



Please register by Monday, July 12th at bit.ly/MBAClimateWorkshop. Space is limited so we recommend registering early! The workshop will be hosted on Zoom and resources and tools will be provided through Google Drive. We suggest you bring a notebook, writing tools, sticky notes, butcher paper or other large format writing area like a whiteboard, and your curiosity and belief that #TeensCan.

Learn more about the Monterey Bay Aquarium and their various educator programs at montereybayaquarium.org. You can find out more about our Chapter's Climate Literacy Committee at sierraclub.org/sfbay/climate-literacy, or contact them at cl@sfbaysc.org.

Sarah Ranney is the chair of the Sierra Club SF Bay Chapter's Climate Literacy Committee.

Want to Grow Your Skills as an Activist? Join Our Advocacy Team!

JACOB KLEIN

If you're looking for a way to help advance the Sierra Club's mission here in the Bay Area, our Advocacy Team is a great place to start. This action-oriented group helps push for the adoption of local Sierra Club-endorsed environmental policies through phone banking, texting, letter writing, delivering public comment, and more.

The Advocacy Team meets every fourth Wednesday of the month from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. Each meeting is a

little different depending on that month's featured issue campaign. So far, our team has written letters to the Bay Area Air Quality Management District, petitioned the governor to support electrification, prepared to comment at a public hearing, and more!

You don't need any special skills other than an enthusiasm for the environment; we will provide supportive opportunities to develop your advocacy and communication skills as well as educational context for our environmental campaigns. By joining the Advocacy Team, you will:

- Learn about a wide variety of environmental campaigns in the Bay Area, from wilderness preservation, to clean energy development, to limits on fossil fuel infrastructure;
- Take concrete actions to help advance the Sierra Club mission of defending everyone's right to a

healthy world;

- Build advocacy and communication skills and get access to Sierra Club training programs;
- Make connections with like-minded local volunteers;
- Learn about the Sierra Club's local organizational structure and explore opportunities for volunteer leadership.

Register for upcoming meetings on our events calendar

at sierraclub.org/sfbay/activities. You can also sign up for the Advocacy Team's email list at bit.ly/sfbayadvocacyteam to get monthly meeting reminders and to learn about opportunities to take action in between meetings. (You can unsubscribe at any time.)

If you have any questions, reach out to Jacob Klein at jacob.klein@sierraclub.org.

Jacob Klein is an organizer for the Sierra Club SF Bay Chapter.

Green New Deal, Burrowing Owls, and Urban Tree Planting in Upcoming Summer Green Friday Programs

ELIZABETH DODGE

The Green Friday speaker series is beaming straight into your home via Zoom! Join us virtually on the second Friday of each month at 7:30 p.m. for presentations on some of the most interesting and important environmental issues of our time. Read more and register (free) via the calendar listings at sierraclub.org/sfbay/events and we'll send you instructions for how to join via Zoom.

On June 11th, the elder-led advocacy group Grandmothers4AGreenNewDeal will present an interactive workshop titled "The Green New Deal: A Path Forward". The workshop takes a deep dive into the connections between the climate emergency and racial and economic inequities, and explores the comprehensive solutions which the Green New Deal resolution proposes.

On July 9th, Catherine Portman of the Burrowing Owl Preservation Society will speak on burrowing owl history, behaviors, and preservation through education and compatibility with people. Learn about past conservation efforts, why their population is plummeting, and how education is the cornerstone in building public support for their preservation.

On August 13th, 100K Trees for Humanity founder Amos White will share how we can create a more resilient environment by working at the intersection of community equity, plant science, and tech. He will speak on their Black-



led urban reforestation initiative in the Bay Area and explain how increasing urban tree canopies will sequester more carbon, provide cooling shade and cleaner air, and increase natural habitat for wildlife to foster a more resilient planet.

SEEKING VOLUNTEER GREEN FRIDAY PROGRAM COORDINATOR

Are you interested in getting more involved in Chapter activities? You can help organize our educational speaker series, Green Fridays, held on the second Friday of every month! The position requires about three hours of work per month finding speakers, coordinating with Chapter staff, and setting up meetings (on Zoom for now), along with attending the monthly two-hour presentations. If you'd like to help bring interesting and informative speakers to our members, please contact Joanne Drabek at joanne1892@gmail.com. We'd like to extend a huge thank you to Elizabeth Dodge for all of her hard work as our Program Coordinator the past few years! If you have any questions about the position, you can contact her at lizdodge@icloud.com.

Help Protect California Lands and Waters With the 30 by 30 Task Force

ANNE HENNY AND VICKY HOOVER



Sierra Club members in the San Francisco Bay Chapter have an opportunity to work with their Chapter’s new 30 by 30 Task Force — part of the Club’s statewide campaign to protect 30 percent of our lands and coastal waters by 2030! There is a rising global movement — now echoed strongly by the State of California and our national government — to fight the grave crises of species loss and climate change by conserving more lands and waters to benefit both nature and our communities. The 30 by 30 goal is a stepping stone toward preserving “Half Earth”, or 50 percent of the planet, for nature as part of the broad global movement known as “Nature Needs Half.”

Alan Carlton, longtime volunteer for wilderness and federal lands, heads the new SF Bay Chapter Task Force and is the Chapter representative for the Statewide Task Force. Also on the Chapter Task Force are Arthur Feinstein and Mike Painter, San Francisco Group; Marisol Rubio, Tri-Valley Group; Martha Kreeger, Southern Alameda County Group; and Josh Borkowski, Northern Alameda County Group. Chair Alan Carlton seeks additional task force members to have representation from every regional group in the SF Bay Chapter.

The group’s first task was to participate in the San Francisco Bay Area-specific public workshop held by the California Natural Resources Agency (CNRA) on April 21st, with the team advocating for protection priorities centered around Bay wetlands restoration. The CNRA hosted similar workshops for regions across California to seek public input on what actions must be taken to comply with Governor Gavin

Newsom’s Executive Order N-82-20 that made California the first state to adopt “30 by 30” as a state mandate. The Executive Order also strongly promotes environmental justice goals and nature-based solutions to the climate crisis.

The Sierra Club, whose volunteers and staff have been working on land conservation, biodiversity, environmental justice, and climate crisis issues for a long time, has valuable expertise and can play a key role alongside our conservation partners to help guide the state process. And since the Biden administration has made 30 by 30 a national goal as well, California’s trailblazing efforts are of national significance to help inspire federal and other state leadership across the U.S.

There is much to do to ensure the Executive Order yields real conservation and ecosystem restoration gains, while also improving equitable access to nature and its benefits. The Club’s Statewide Task Force has sent out a priorities survey to each Chapter to identify its local land-conservation priorities. Alan Carlton and the Chapter Task Force submitted a list of Bay Area lands needing protection including Tesla Park, Point Molate, Newark Area 4 Marsh, Corte Madera Marsh, Donahue Highlands, Point Reyes National Seashore, and many more. For a full list of submitted areas, please contact Alan at carltonal@yahoo.com.

If you’d like to get involved in this effort, please contact Sierra Club CA 30 by 30 Volunteer Co-Leads Anne Henny and Vicky Hoover at anneth16@sbcglobal.net and vicky.hoover@sierraclub.org.



SUPPORT THE CHAPTER BY GOING SOLAR

Thinking of going solar? If you go solar through SunPower, you’ll receive a \$1,000 rebate and SunPower will donate \$500 to the SF Bay Chapter. It’s a win for you, your local Sierra Club chapter, and the planet. Get started at bit.ly/sunpowerforthebay to get your free quote and find out how much you can save.

Seven Ways to Help the Tree Team This Summer

SOO-RAE HONG

The Sierra Club Tree Team is gradually restarting its tree activities in Oakland. We are currently working through a backlog of requests, and are trying to gather a critical mass of tree requests in each neighborhood before we start planting in an area. If you would like to sponsor a tree in the sidewalk strip in front of your home, please fill out a Tree Request form on our webpage, sierraclub.org/sfbay/tree-planting.

The team can also use your support in a number of ways:

- **Maintain trees in your community:** Use the volunteer-created web app waterthetrees.com to find out how to help trees in your neighborhood and report any tree health issues to other volunteers.
- **Plant your own tree:** Though we have not yet started our planting events due to the pandemic, we have instructions on the Tree Team website for how to get a City permit and plant your own tree in the sidewalk strip in front of your home.
- **Storage space:** We recently found out we no longer have access to the schoolyard that was housing our equipment and supplies. If you have space to host the Sierra Club Tree Team equipment and serve as the launchpad for our planting and maintenance activities, please contact us at our email below.
- **Transportation:** We are always in need of pickup trucks or someone who can help deliver trees and equipment before each planting event once they restart. If you have one to lend or would like to assist



in delivering, please contact us at our email below.

- **Donations:** Donations are always welcome and go to help our tree planting and maintenance operations, and subsidize trees for homes that may not be able to afford the costs. To donate to the Tree Team, please go to the Sierra Club Tree Team website and follow the instructions at the bottom.
- **Tree Team Lead Volunteer:** If you would like to get more involved in a leadership position with the Tree Team and have the ability to commit at least ten hours a month, please send us an email. Serious inquiries only, please, as we are all volunteers and it takes time to train and onboard others.
- **Planting volunteer:** Check back regularly to the Sierra Club Meetup group (meetup.com/sanfranciscobay) for tree planting events. We haven't started planting yet, but hope to in the coming months.

To get involved, email us at sctreeplanting@gmail.com, and check out the Tree Team website for more information at sierraclub.org/sfbay/tree-planting.

Soo-Rae Hong is the coordinator for the Sierra Club Tree Team.



**Get ready
for 2021
Chapter
Elections**

- Passionate about the environment and local issues?
- Be a team leader in a more tangible way!
- It's time to make your voice heard.



SIERRA CLUB
SAN FRANCISCO BAY

NOW ACCEPTING NOMINATIONS FOR CHAPTER POSITIONS!
Nominations due July 30th

Visit sierraclub.org/sfbay/chapter-elections or email elections@sfbaysc.org for more info. First time applicants are highly encouraged. The Nominations Committee is here to help you through the election process.

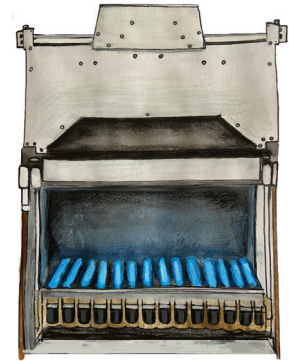
This is the first installment in an illustrated series about electrification of residential buildings.

BUILDING ELECTRIFICATION: GAS IN HOMES

VRINDA MANGLIK

Instagram: @art_by_vrinda

Many people have a favorable opinion of gas stoves and gas appliances.



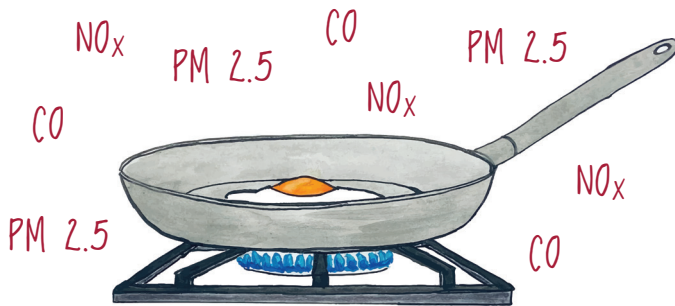
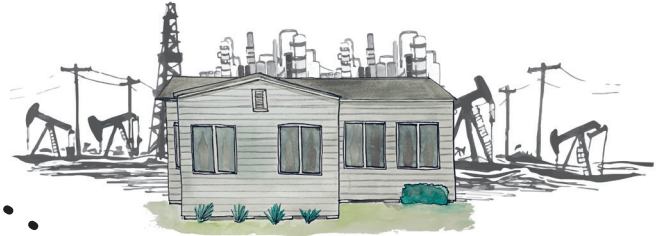
This is due, in part, to the successful marketing efforts of the gas industry over the past century in the form of paid advertising.

Even today, the gas industry is paying social media influencers to show positive opinions about gas stoves.



Unfortunately, the downsides of gas stoves and appliances are not as widely known to the general public.

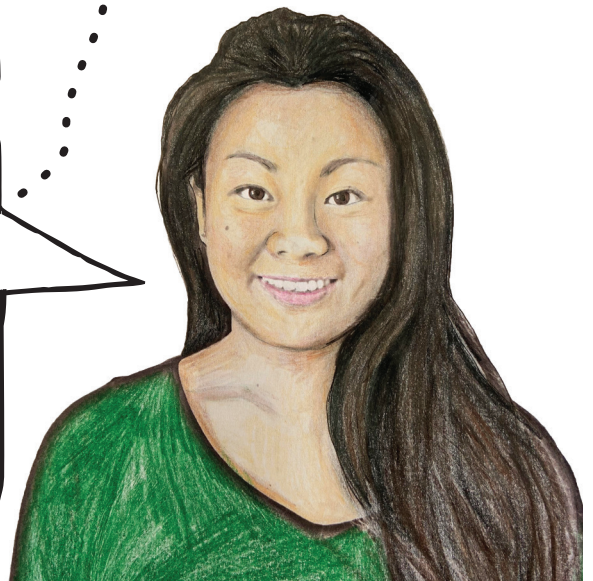
Producing and transporting gas releases methane (CH₄), a potent greenhouse gas, and has serious health impacts for neighboring communities, workers, and the climate.



Gas stoves also contribute to indoor air pollution through the release of particulate matter (PM_{2.5}), carbon monoxide (CO), and nitrogen oxides (NO_x).

"I recently learned that homes without proper ventilation can generate levels of pollution inside homes that exceed outdoor air quality standards."

-Melissa Yu, Sierra Club
(SF Bay Chapter)



Stay tuned for the next installment in the next Yodeler...

Reduce Hazardous Emissions by Switching From Gas to Electric Appliances Today!

MELISSA YU

On April 19th, the Bay Area Air Quality Management District's (BAAQMD) Stationary Source and Climate Impacts Committee discussed options for building decarbonization in the Bay Area. The Air District specifically examined ways to regulate building appliances. The Sierra Club's SF Bay Chapter worked with partner organizations to turn out over 30 advocates at this meeting to speak in support of an equitable transition to clean, healthy appliances in the Bay Area. Our goal is to have the Air District commit to setting zero-nitrous-oxide (NOx) appliance standards for all home appliances.

What exactly are zero-NOx appliance standards? In short, these standards would require appliances sold in the Bay Area to be non-polluting. The Air District already has rules limiting NOx emissions from residential water heaters and furnaces, but the current standards allow pollution to persist. The Air District has the authority to reduce NOx emissions from polluting sources, including appliances, in order to improve local air quality and protect residents' health.

We need zero-NOx appliance standards to protect our health and air quality, address climate change, and provide climate resiliency. NOx pollution harms our health by increasing the risk of asthma and leading to premature deaths. Fossil fuel appliances emit eight times more NOx pollution than power plants and two and half times more NOx than light-duty passenger vehicles in the Bay Area. Building pollution is responsible for more premature deaths than any other pollution source. Additionally, buildings make up 10 percent of greenhouse gas emissions in the Bay Area. If all residential gas appliances in the Bay Area were replaced with electric, the reduction in outdoor air pollution alone would prevent 125 premature deaths, nearly 200 cases of acute bronchitis, and 115 cases of chronic bronchitis each year – with a total annual savings of \$1.2 billion.

Thankfully, incentives already exist to offset the cost differential between electric and gas appliances across the Bay Area. For example, Alameda Municipal Power, the

Bay Area Regional Network, and Electrify Marin are all offering rebates ranging from \$1,000 to \$2,000 for heat pump water heaters. Some regions also offer rebates for central heat pumps, induction ranges, heat pump dryers, and electric dryers. In most cases, these incentives can be layered for maximum cost savings. To see a full list of potential appliance rebates throughout Bay Area regions, head to sierraclub.org/sfbay/building-electrification.

At the April 19th meeting, the BAAQMD committee directed staff to look into pursuing stronger NOx appliance standards. In July, BAAQMD staff will host a public workshop to discuss their findings and how to equitably and affordably regulate building appliances. If you or your organization wants to get involved to support this effort to transition to clean, healthy homes, you can do so by reaching out to Melissa Yu at melissa.yu@sierraclub.org.

Melissa Yu is an organizer for the Sierra Club SF Bay Chapter.



**WHAT WILL YOUR
LEGACY BE?**

Ensure your environmental legacy by naming the Sierra Club's San Francisco Bay Chapter in your will or trust.

If you have named your local Sierra Club chapter as a beneficiary or would like to discuss doing so, please contact us today:

MATT BIELBY
matt.bielby@sierraclub.org
(510) 848-0800 x 321

Golden Gate Village: An Opportunity for Reparations in Marin County

NANCY BINZEN

As U.S. Representative Sheila Jackson Lee observed, “Slavery is America’s original sin, and this country has yet to atone for the atrocities visited upon generations of enslaved Africans and their descendants.”

In Marin County, an opportunity for reparations is playing out in Golden Gate Village, the only majority-Black public housing in the county. Frank Lloyd Wright protégé Aaron Green designed it after World War II to house predominately Black shipyard workers who were prevented from buying homes in Marin by redlining. In 2017, Golden Gate Village was added to the National Historic Register.

A green preservation-based plan for renovation of all 300 units was developed by the Golden Gate Village Resident Council in 2013; however, the Marin Housing Authority and the Marin County Board of Supervisors, which together oversee all public housing in the county, have refused even to discuss this plan — while residents continue to deal with rat infestation, black mold, and other habitability issues brought on by years of deliberate neglect by the Housing Authority. Instead, the Authority’s Executive Director, Lewis Jordan, and an acquiescent board have pushed an outside, for-profit developer and a plan to demolish 16 existing low-rise apartments, build two new, high-rise buildings, segregate seniors in a separate, single building, and increase population density by almost 50 percent. All while postponing urgent rehab for existing units for five to ten years. Or more.

Put bluntly, the Housing Authority wants to destroy the fabric of a vital community, some of whose members go back for generations. And the adherence of Marin County’s power structure to this plan — despite the fact that almost two-thirds of Golden Gate Village residents supported the Resident Plan in a petition presented to the County

in April — exemplifies the continuing gulf between the thinking of many white Americans and true reparations.

Resident Council President, Royce McLemore, has continued to advocate for the Resident Plan at Marin Housing Commission meetings month after month for the past seven years. Now, as more voices join hers, it may finally be possible to make a difference.

As Rep. Sheila Jackson Lee noted, “Reparations are ultimately about respect and reconciliation.” The question for Lewis Jordan and the Marin Housing Commission is whether they are willing to accept responsibility for past injustices, respect the wishes of their Black/African-American constituents, and engage in the deep work required for real reconciliation to begin.

Here are six steps you can take.

- Learn more about Golden Gate Village, its history, and the current situation at ggvrc.org.
- Join a guided tour of Golden Gate Village led by Royce on the first Wednesday of every month. While tours are free, participation is limited and tours fill up quickly. (Sign up through the link on the “Get Involved” page of the website.)
- Stay informed by subscribing to the Golden Gate Village email list. (Sign up through the “Get Involved” page.)
- Email or phone Marin County Supervisors and tell them you support the Golden Gate Village Resident Plan, including deep green renovation, no new building, and a path to home ownership at Golden Gate Village for residents.
- Attend and speak at the Marin Housing Commission meetings on Zoom (generally the third Tuesday of the month nominally starting at 1:30 p.m. but frequently, later).
- Donate to the Golden Gate Village Development Fund at gofundme.com/save-golden-gate-village.

Become a part of the groundswell of individuals, faith-based groups, and organizations demanding a better, fairer future for this vibrant, underserved and richly deserving community.

Nancy Binzen is a member of the Golden Gate Village Strategy Team.



End to Single-Family Zoning in Berkeley Forces Us to Reflect on Our Past

TIM FRANK

Single-family zoning is something that doesn't even exist in most other countries, yet it constitutes the majority of residentially zoned land in every state of the union and 70 percent of all residential zoning in America. It started in Berkeley, and now is coming to an end in Berkeley.

The developer who was the mover and shaker behind establishing the first single-family zoning district in America was a Sierra Club SF Bay Chapter member who served twice as Sierra Club President. That was Duncan McDuffie, a home builder from Berkeley responsible for some of the city's most luxurious neighborhoods. McDuffie placed racial covenants on the deeds of the homes he built. He also supported segregation in the area around his developments, through a novel new zoning, in order to enhance the value of his subdivisions.

McDuffie's developments were architecturally dis-

tinctive, and are veritable museum pieces today. Their streets follow the contours of the landscape and feature large homes on large lots in a park-like setting. You can visit them. They remain largely unchanged from the day he finished them. Though the racial covenants were struck down by the U.S. Supreme Court in 1948, the zoning endured, with no apartments to be found anywhere nearby.

Boosters of Berkeley's single-family zoning ordinance, such as the California Real Estate magazine, publicly bragged that it would create an entire neighborhood that would remain reliably free of "Negroes and Asiatics". What was notable about the 1916 ordinance, however, was not merely that it was racist, but that the ordinance itself could effectively segregate without using any explicit references to race. This was deliberate, implicit discrimination.

At the time, a half-dozen Mid-Atlantic states had experimented with explicit racial zoning, but were facing legal challenges based on the 14th Amendment. A city, using its regulatory authority, was not supposed to discriminate based on race.

Zoning experts helping the City of Berkeley were aware of the challenges, and suggested single-family zoning as a clever work around. It assured that only people



who could afford a mortgage would live in the neighborhood. In 1916, that effectively excluded almost all people of color.

When the U.S. Supreme Court ruled in 1917 that explicit apartheid was unconstitutional, Berkeley's ordinance became the legal alternative rapidly embraced by the rest of the nation. In 1928, then Commerce Secretary Herbert Hoover published a "Zoning Primer" that claimed everyone in America wanted to live in a Berkeley-style single-family zone and chastised cities that were not getting fully with the program.

Hoover's Primer recognized and extolled the fact that single-family zoning would open up vast tracts of pastoral America to development, and that this development would be fully dependent on the automobile. The contours of sprawl were understood. The impact this would have on the environment was enormous. The U.S. now uses four times as much land for urban development on a per-capita basis as Europe, and American motorists burn twice as much fuel.

In hindsight, it seems obvious that sprawl represented a serious threat to the conservation agenda. But in 1928, the Sierra Club, with McDuffie as its president, said nothing. In 1934, when the Federal Government instituted its requirement for redlining, again the Club said nothing.

It would be nearly a half century before the Sierra Club would take a stand on urban land use. In the mid '70s, the Sierra Club's Board appointed a committee to examine urban issues and develop a policy. Bay Chapter member Dr. John Holtzclaw, who is still active with the Club, was among them. Their work culminated with the Board adoption of an urban development policy that recognized infill development as an important antidote to sprawl and that took an unequivocal position opposing redlining. The Sierra Club became the first big environmental group to take on these issues.

In March of this year, Berkeley once again put itself on the cutting edge of zoning reform, this time joining the nascent but growing list of cities across the country that have voted to repeal single-family zoning. The Sierra Club has been at the forefront of most of these efforts. In Berkeley, Northern Alameda County Group chair Igor Tregub testified on behalf of the Club in support of the measure.

In a poetic reversal of the situation from a century ago, when an all-white council voted to adopt the single-family zoning, the authors of the measure to end ex-



clusionary zoning included a diverse group of leaders from across the Berkeley area, including a representative of the district in which the first single-family zone was located. All nine council members supported their motion.

The design of the new rule follows the pattern established by Minneapolis and Seattle two years ago. No large buildings will be popping up in these neighborhoods. Rather, duplexes, triplexes and quadruplexes similar in size to many existing homes in these neighborhoods will be allowed.

These small, multi-family homes were common companions to single-family homes in older neighborhoods, and plenty of them can be found in older parts of Berkeley. Now these types of homes are called "missing middle", a term coined by a Berkeley-based architect named Daniel Parolek. They represent a middle size between the single-family home and a large apartment complex, and provide a lower-cost alternative to the single-family home in a format that fits nicely in low-rise neighborhoods.

Minneapolis and Seattle not only set an example, but have since demonstrated that putting these reforms in place in already built-up areas can produce gradual changes in neighborhoods. This experience is emboldening more cities all around the country to consider taking the leap. In addition to Berkeley, other Bay Area communities considering new missing middle reforms of their single-family zoning districts include San Jose, Oakland and Napa.

To learn more about how you can support this sort of initiative in your city, reach out to your regional group's chair. You can find leaders' contact information on our Leadership Roster at sierraclub.org/sfbay/leadership-roster.

Tim Frank is a member of Sierra Club's Northern Alameda County Group.

Stop the Giveaway of Public Park Space in Oakland's San Antonio Park

KENT LEWANDOWSKI

As many of you know, part of the Sierra Club's mission to "preserve and protect" wild places also involves looking at how we can safeguard natural open space in urban areas. While a City Park may differ from a national park, it does offer many important environmental benefits:

- Recreation and relaxation area for physical and mental health
- Storm water collection
- Reduction of urban heat island effect
- Neighborhood centers / areas for community to interact
- Cleaner air
- Protected space where native trees and plants can grow



For the reasons outlined above, the Northern Alameda County Group opposes the proposal by the City of Oakland to remove a section of San Antonio Park, one of Oakland's oldest and largest parks in a flatlands neighborhood, to give it to the Oakland Fire Department for a new fire station. In addition to a letter of opposition the Sierra Club NAC Group wrote to the City on March 2nd, we hope that our Oakland members can

help voice our opposition to this short-sighted plan.

The Sierra Club has opposed similar situations in the past, including the takeover of Knowland Park by the Oakland Zoo for their expansion in 2010. Taking away parkland permanently removes valuable green space needed for public recreation, water retention, and wildlife habitat. In this case, the City wants to pave over nature to save a couple million dollars. If this proposal is approved, it could set an extremely bad precedent that could be replicated in other East Bay cities. The taking of public parkland also violates the City's Open Space, Conservation and Recreation (OSCAR) plan, which was passed by council after a years-long effort and collaboration among community

members and staff in the 1990s. It also contradicts the City's climate goals outlined in the 2030 Equitable Climate Action Plan. This proposal threatens a park that is the home of significant annual cultural attractions, including the Cinco de Mayo festival and the Malcolm X Jazz Festival.

To help oppose this plan, please contact Oakland Public Works Interim

Assistant Director David Ferguson (dferguson@oaklandca.gov) and Oakland City Council President Nikki Fortunato Bas (nfbas@oaklandca.gov) and express your opposition to the removal of our valuable green space at San Antonio Park.

For more information, please see stopsanantonioandgrab.com.

Kent Lewandowski is a member of Sierra Club's Northern Alameda County Group.

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Representation Matters: Let's Draw Equitable Lines Now

ALAMEDA COUNTY COALITION FOR FAIR REDISTRICTING

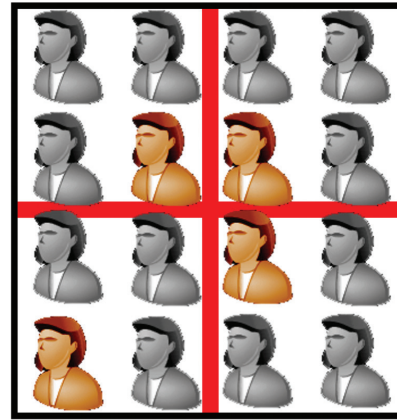
“Everyone Counts!” was the rallying cry during early 2020 as we prepared ourselves for the decennial census. Marches, rallies, and protests throughout 2020 highlighted other long-standing systemic inequities. Although the census data will be released later this year, now is the time to identify communities with common interests, so that their voices are heard and valued. When communities with shared interests advocate together, their environmental, health, social, and economic interests are more likely to be represented.

U.S. Census Bureau data is used to redraw boundary lines for elected officials, rebalancing the populations in federal, state, and local governmental districts — a process called redistricting. Communities participated in record numbers in the 2020 census, guaranteeing that federal funding (and the public's tax dollars) comes back to the areas that need it. A fair and inclusive redistricting process is crucial to ensure that those dollars serve the needs of the residents in those districts. **We will have to live with the lines drawn this year through 2031!**

Public input is vital to inform map drawers of community interests which may not be apparent in population data. In the past, when elected officials drew the district lines themselves, they had an unfair advantage in choosing their constituents, rather than providing citizens the ability to choose their representatives. In 2008, California voters took back that responsibility, and in 2011, the 14 members of the statewide Citizens Redistricting Commission drew the district boundaries for Congress, the state legislature, and the State Board of Equalization.

In 2021, new state redistricting laws introduce ranked requirements, applicable to all government districts, which prioritize keeping neighborhoods together so that cities, counties, and special districts — including recreation, transportation, sewer, water, and healthcare — properly represent communities and neighborhoods.

Some counties and cities have embraced independent redistricting as the state did. Unfortunately, Alameda County is not one of them. On April 20th, the Alameda

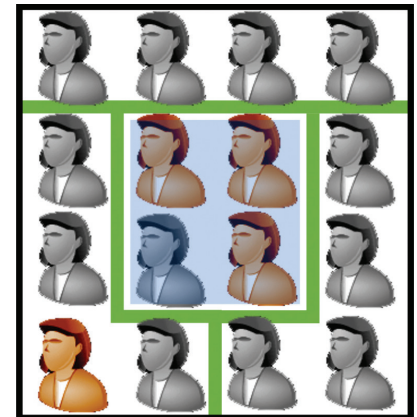


Unfair redistricting can take away voting rights from the minority.

In this example, minorities make up only one fourth of each district. They are not able to choose their own representative.

However, fair redistricting can empower a minority community to elect the representative of their choice.

In this example, minorities make up three fourths of the blue district, and can choose their own representative.



County Board of Supervisors voted to draw the district lines themselves, while downplaying the importance of redistricting.

Alameda County spends \$3.5 billion annually on physical and mental health care, public safety, land use oversight, and other critical services. The Alameda County Coalition for Fair Redistricting promotes equitable and inclusive redistricting now. We are engaging with communities for broad and diverse influence in redistricting, using the same approaches as the 2020 census outreach. We will then deliver these inputs to the Board of Supervisors to ensure that the final County map reflects broad and diverse community insights. **Please join** the Sierra Club, cities, school districts, community, regional and national organizations, local businesses, and faith communities to ensure Fair Redistricting happens now.

If you'd like to get involved, we will be holding virtual trainings on June 6th from 3 to 5 p.m. and June 9th from 6 to 8 p.m. You can register for the trainings at tinyurl.com/redistrictretreat, and if you have any questions you can contact us at organize@alcoredistricting.org or visit alcoredistricting.org.



#SierraSnapshots | A monarch butterfly takes a rest on a new friend, photographed by Brenda Farmer on Hopkins Street, Berkeley. For a chance for your snapshots to be featured in the next issue of the Yodeler, share them on Twitter, Instagram, or Facebook with the hashtag #SierraSnapshots, or email photos to yodedit@sfbaysc.org. Include your name, the names of any people in the photo, and where and when the photo was taken.

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Our website is home to helpful information and resources including:

- Our blog, updated regularly
- The full events and activities calendar
- Group information and leadership roster

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Chapter welcomes new Director, Virginia Reinhart (p. 3)
- Educators invited to a virtual climate literacy workshop with the Monterey Bay Aquarium on July 30th (p. 4)
- Seeking new program coordinator for Green Friday educational speaker series (p. 5)

EMAIL

Visit sierraclub.org/sfbay/email to sign up for Bay Chapter emails, including monthly bulletins and action alerts.