

# Sierra Club YODELER

THE NEWSPAPER OF THE SAN FRANCISCO BAY CHAPTER ♦ SPRING 2017



OAKLAND REVS UP ELECTRIC VEHICLE INFRASTRUCTURE ♦ AN EXISTENTIAL THREAT TO CONTRA COSTA'S URBAN LIMIT LINE ♦ NO VACANCY ON ALAMEDA POINT HARBOR-SEAL FLOAT ♦ RICHMOND PROTECTS 430 HILLSIDE ACRES

## LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

A few months ago, I got a very unusual call from a mother concerned about her son. You see, she was worried about finding him a suitable partner. I tried to explain to her that though the director's role often includes many unusual tasks, matchmaking is typically not on that list. She insisted, though, that the Sierra Club (and the Bay Chapter in particular) is a place to find solid, compassionate, environmentally minded people—the kind of person she knew her son could fall in love with—and she wanted my help.



Was she wrong? Since I've come to the chapter I've met many couples who met and fell in love on Sierra Club hikes (I've even met their children!), and others who have built deep and abiding friendships. It's not just the connections to other people that I hear about, though, but the connections people make with nature and with themselves as they wander the trails. There is something special that happens when we connect with nature, and the mother on the other end of the phone was determined to help her son experience it for himself.

As you will read in this issue of the Yodeler, the Bay Chapter works on a lot of issues. We fight the fossil fuel industry. We campaign to stop sprawl and create sustainable, equitable communities. We work to keep our air, water, and public lands clean and accessible to everyone. We persist through years-long campaigns and we show up for urgent actions. Most days if you asked me what our volunteers do, I would say they are strong warriors for the environment. But we don't just *protect* the environment; we also *explore* and *enjoy* it.

Given the long and bitter election campaign that ended just a few months ago—and the promise of four years of tough fights ahead—I think it is important that we spend some time in nature to remind ourselves what it is that we are fighting for. So this spring, between rallies and meetings, I plan to hit the trails, and I hope that you'll join me there. Whether it's to find love and companionship from others, or to reconnect with your love of nature, I can't think of a better time to get outdoors. You'll find dozens of outings in this Yodeler, on pages 16-19, plus many more online at [www.sierraclub.org/sfbay/events](http://www.sierraclub.org/sfbay/events).

This spring, let's fall in love with nature again.

Minda Berbeco  
DIRECTOR

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### ABOUT THE COVER PHOTOGRAPH:

Bay Chapter director Minda Berbeco (right) and conservation manager Brittany King (left) hold signs at the Oakland Woman's March on January 21st. Photo by Will Fertman.

# Sierra Club YODELER

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# SPRING 2017 CHAPTER NEWS

## Cookies & cards: letter-writing party

*Thu., Feb. 23, 6:30 - 8 pm, 1125 Fillmore St., San Francisco*

In response to cries of "What can I do?" from our members, the Bay Chapter's SF Group is hosting a "Cookies and Cards" event. Come and write postcards to your representatives expressing your opinions on current environmental issues. Handwritten letters and cards get attention! We'll provide the cards, information on current issues, and the names and addresses of decision-makers.

We'll provide some cookies, but please bring a small donation for stamps (34 cents per postcard) and, if you want to contribute, your favorite cookies. Please RSVP at <http://tinyurl.com/cookies-cards>.

## Sierra Club endorses Kate Harrison for Berkeley District 4 special election

The Sierra Club is proud to endorse Kate Harrison for the City of Berkeley District 4 special election to fill the seat vacated by Jesse Arreguín when he became Berkeley Mayor. Kate's platforms stem from a long history of policy advocacy on a variety of environmental issues, including her work on Berkeley's Parks and Waterfront Commission, Housing Commission, and as an advisor to former San Francisco Mayor Art Agnos.

Kate is committed to building affordable, transit-oriented housing; protecting tenants from displacement; making city spaces sustainable, water-wise, and carbon-neutral; restoring and adding parks in District 4 and other underserved neighborhoods; and leading the charge for Berkeley to become its own green energy provider. Please visit her website at [www.electkateharrison.com](http://www.electkateharrison.com).

Ballots must be postmarked by March 7 and sent to the Alameda County Registrar of Voters for this mail-only special election. Read more at [www.ci.berkeley.ca.us/elections](http://www.ci.berkeley.ca.us/elections).

## Celebrate Earth Day with the Bay Chapter

Join the Bay Chapter at Earth Day events throughout the Bay Area in April and May. Events in Martinez, Berkeley, Oakland, Livermore, Albany, San Francisco, Alameda, and Walnut Creek are just the beginning. When we officially sign up, event information will be posted on the chapter's online calendar: [www.sierraclub.org/sfbay/activities](http://www.sierraclub.org/sfbay/activities). Some events are listed in the Activities & Events section of this Yodeler (page 19; look for Earth icon).

We are looking for tabling volunteers who want to share their enthusiasm for the environment with others. You do not need to have in-depth experience or knowledge. Materials and information will be provided. For more information, to volunteer to coordinate an event, or to table at a fair, please contact Joanne Drabek, Outreach Committee chair, at [joanne1892@gmail.com](mailto:joanne1892@gmail.com) or 510-530-5216.



## Save the date: April 29th Mobilization for People, Planet, Justice, Jobs and Peace

The People's Climate Movement is uniting hundreds of thousands of activists against Donald Trump's dangerous policies. The coalition of organizations that sponsored the hugely successful 2014 People's Climate March in New York City has issued a call for mass demonstrations in Washington, DC and in communities all across the country on April 29th: the 100th day of the Trump administration. Save this date for a major event in the Bay Area!

To have real impact, our local event must be large and reflect the interests of all the constituencies impacted by the Trump agenda. If you're a member of a group that wants to get involved in planning this event, contact Bay Chapter organizer Melissa Yu at [melissa.yu@sierraclub.org](mailto:melissa.yu@sierraclub.org) or 510-848-0800.

Look to our website and [www.facebook.com/A29BAM](http://www.facebook.com/A29BAM) for updates and details on the April 29th mobilization.

### IMAGE CREDIT:

Photo of the People's Climate March, September 20, 2014, by Heather Craig, courtesy survivalmediaagency.com.

# EVEN MORE CHAPTER NEWS

## Nominations sought for Michener Award honoring exceptional outings leaders

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 calendar in today's Yodeler and Chapter website) and to recognize superior leadership by Chapter outings 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 educating outing participants; 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 April 18th to Steve Bakaley, chair of the selection committee, at [slbakaley@lbl.gov](mailto:slbakaley@lbl.gov) (preferred), or: 12 Calvin Court, Walnut Creek, CA 94595. The winner will be selected at the May 1st Activities Committee meeting.

## Wanted: SF Dinners program coordinator

The coordinator for the Bay Chapter's SF Dinners program is retiring and we're looking for a replacement. The program offers monthly dinners followed by a multimedia presentation of environmental interest.

For more details, contact Sheila Bost at [wawonast@earthlink.net](mailto:wawonast@earthlink.net) or call 415-664-4985.

## Help the Sierra Club improve SF transit

The SF Group is greatly concerned with improving transit to and around our City and County. Better transit will reduce driving and climate-disrupting emissions.

Members of the SF Group Conservation Committee are anxious to hear about your transit concerns. We used to have an SF Transportation Committee that met monthly to formulate suggestions for local Club policy. Now it may be easier to use an informal email list to bring interested members together. But first we have to know who is interested. Email Howard Strassner at [ruthow1@gmail.com](mailto:ruthow1@gmail.com) to share your transit concerns or to get involved.



## San Francisco: take climate action by choosing 100% renewable electricity

Launched one year ago this spring, San Francisco's new "Community Choice" clean power program, CleanPowerSF, serves about 75,000 customers and growing! CleanPowerSF offers two energy options: 35% renewable Green energy (cleaner than what PG&E provides at competitive rates) and 100% renewable SuperGreen energy.

The Sierra Club encourages our members in San Francisco to opt up to SuperGreen. It's the number one action you can take as an individual to leverage your purchasing power to make a difference for the environment and help San Francisco reach its climate action goals. For the average residential customer, opting up to 100% clean energy costs only \$6 more per month — and your ratepayer funds will be invested right back into the local economy to create renewable energy infrastructure and green jobs.

As CleanPowerSF continues to roll out city-wide, San Franciscans will be automatically enrolled in CleanPowerSF's 35% Green energy. If you're already enrolled, it's easy to opt up to SuperGreen: just call 415-554-0773 or visit [cleanpowersf.org/supergreen](http://cleanpowersf.org/supergreen). If you're not yet enrolled, you don't have to wait: sign up today at [cleanpowersf.org](http://cleanpowersf.org).

# Is Sharp Park a golf course or a wetland? The emperor goose says wetland

JULIA CHANG FRANK

In late January, the emperor goose descended on the 18th fairway of the Sharp Park Golf Course and treated Pacifica residents with a rare sighting. Perhaps while circling the sky, the goose could see what the City of San Francisco continues to deny: that the Sharp Park Golf Course is meant to be a wetland.

The Sharp Park Golf Course was built around Laguna Salada, a natural wetland that is critical habitat for the endangered San Francisco garter snake and California red-legged frog. Located off Highway 1, the unpopular, soggy public golf course is owned and operated by the City of San Francisco and loses hundreds of thousands of tax dollars each year.

To dry the fairways, the City drains the wetland by pumping out thousands of gallons of water from the lagoon. But when water levels drop, frog eggs dry out and die. The emperor goose enjoyed the fairways after the deluge of January rains, during a brief period before the wetlands were drained again.

In 2011, the Sierra Club and a coalition of environmental groups helped pass legislation to turn the golf course over to the National Park Service. But Mayor Ed



Lee, a golf enthusiast, vetoed the decision.

Now, the City is planning to spend millions more to redevelop Sharp Park Golf Course by calling it a “restoration” project for a natural area. If the golf course redevelopment is allowed to go forward, there’s little hope for the snake and frog habitat.

## WHAT YOU CAN DO

Send a message to the San Francisco Board of Supervisors asking them to take the Sharp Park Golf Course redevelopment out of the city's Natural Areas Management Plan. Take action at <http://tinyurl.com/sharpparkalert>.

Then, join us at 3 pm on Tuesday, February 28th for the Board of Supervisors meeting on this issue at City Hall in San Francisco. RSVP at <http://tinyurl.com/sharpparkmeeting>.

Questions? Contact Bay Chapter organizer Melissa Yu at [melissa.yu@sierraclub.org](mailto:melissa.yu@sierraclub.org) or 510-848-0800.

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## Rare chance to speak out against Twin Tunnels at Capitol

We have a rare public opportunity to voice our opposition to the costly and environmentally damaging Twin Tunnels proposal. Let's fill the seats with friends of the SF Bay-Delta estuary at this hearing of the California Senate Natural Resources and Water Committee:

*Tuesday, February 28, 9:30 am*

*State Capitol, Room 112, 1315 10th St., Sacramento*

RSVP to <http://tinyurl.com/228twintunnelshearing>. If you are willing to provide a carpool from your city, please email [stina@restorethedelta.org](mailto:stina@restorethedelta.org).



## City of Alameda electric utility quietly guts solar

**LUIS AMEZCUA**

Late last year, in a move with the potential to impede the growth of rooftop solar in the City of Alameda, the public electric utility Alameda Municipal Power slashed compensation to its solar customers by roughly half.

Alameda Municipal Power achieved this unfortunate outcome by adopting a “successor tariff” for its Net Energy Metering program. To understand what that means in plain English, you have to understand the relationship between rooftop-solar customers and utilities. Under current law, solar customers receive credit for excess power they give back to the grid after satisfying their own energy needs—a relationship known in the energy industry as “net metering”. Once customers’ combined solar give-backs reach five percent of the utility’s total generation capacity, a mechanism called a “successor tariff” administers how customers will be compensated for solar power by the utility.

Normally, solar customers would be compensated for their excess electricity at the same rate their utility charges for electricity. This is still the case for customers who are served by the three major utilities: Pacific Gas & Electric, Southern California Edison, and San Diego Gas & Electric. Now, however, solar-power-generating Alameda Municipal Power customers will receive less compensation for the power they provide the utility, *and* they will pay more for the power the utility provides to them.

Net metering programs are crucial in incentivizing solar, and they’re a driving force in the transition away from fossil fuels to a clean energy economy. If a net metering program does not pay solar residents a fair value for the clean electricity they produce and give back to the grid, there is a risk of disincentivizing solar and impeding the overall growth of solar in the region. The California Public Utilities Commission recognized such a risk when it adopted a successor tariff in 2015 that included full retail compensation for customers of the three major utilities (despite the utilities’ opposition).

Rooftop solar provides numerous benefits, including: decreasing the need for new generating capacity; providing upgrades to local distribution infrastructure; and reducing the distance between the generation and the demand. Rooftop solar also provides residents and business with an opportunity to take climate action and empowers them to save on their utility bills through clean energy. Over the last four years, the solar industry has grown significantly, employing more people than the state’s three major utilities combined.

The Sierra Club opposed Alameda Municipal Power’s successor tariff proposal when it came to the board last July, and we are disappointed to see essentially the same proposal adopted in later months. We will continue our efforts to educate Alameda Municipal Power about the benefits of rooftop solar and its contribution to the grid. We hope that Alameda Municipal Power will soon join the Bay Area, along with the brand-new East Bay Community Energy (Alameda County’s local power agency), in being an environmental leader for the rest of California and the country.

# Oakland revs up electric vehicle access with new infrastructure requirements

LUIS AMEZCUA

On February 7th, the City of Oakland adopted electric vehicle (EV) infrastructure requirements that exceed even the State's green building standards. Oakland's action took the form of updates to the municipal code, specifically requiring an increase in the number of plug-in-ready parking spaces in new commercial and multi-family residential buildings. This requirement will increase equitable access to EVs, as many people who reside in multi-family buildings—especially low-income residents and families—are unable to take advantage of California's financial incentives for buying EVs due to the lack of necessary infrastructure in their homes.

EVs, which require no gasoline and emit no pollution from their tailpipes, present a critical opportunity to slash pollution, reduce our dependence on oil, and create American jobs. Improving Oakland's EV infrastructure is a step toward tackling Oakland's greenhouse gas emissions from transportation and gaining energy independence.

Oakland is well positioned to make the most of investments in EV infrastructure. As a member of the newly established public utility East Bay Community Energy, the city will soon benefit from an ambitious shift to cleaner sources of electricity. Over time, as rate-payer funds are invested in local renewable resources like solar arrays and wind farms, more and more of the energy powering Oakland's EVs will be clean and local-generated.

EV infrastructure investments also return in the form of public health improvements. Since EVs have little to no conventional tailpipe emissions, they can play a crucial role in reducing air pollution that is linked to asthma, heart attacks, and other health complications.

The Oakland City Council passed the EV municipal code upgrade unanimously, with one councilmember absent. Thank your councilmember for taking climate leadership! Visit <http://tinyurl.com/oaklandcouncilmembers> to find your representative's contact information and send them a note of appreciation.



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# Victory in grassroots campaign: Richmond permanently protects 430 hillside acres

DICK SCHNEIDER

On January 24th, the Richmond City Council voted 6-0 to adopt the Richmond Hills Initiative, thereby protecting from development 430 acres of beautiful hillside land in the El Sobrante Valley of Richmond. The scenic area lies directly below Wildcat Canyon Regional Park at the northern tip of San Pablo Ridge. The vote capped a nearly two-year effort by dozens of volunteers to design, write, and collect petition signatures for the open space initiative.

The newly protected area is home to many native plants and animals including a variety of rare and endangered species. It boasts commanding panoramic views of San Pablo Bay and the peaks of Napa and Sonoma Counties. Steep, unstable soils make the site completely inappropriate for large-scale development, yet numerous such proposals have been made over the years to do just that.

The initiative designates the land for appropriate open space uses such as agriculture and grazing; rearing, boarding

and care of animals such as horses; and low-intensity outdoor recreation such as hiking, horseback riding, nature study and enjoyment, outdoor summer camps, agricultural and nature education centers, photography studios and the like. Strong protections are provided



for wetlands, stream corridors, wildlife, steep slopes, and scenic resources.

In addition to Sierra Club support, the initiative was endorsed by the California Native Plant Society, Greenbelt Alliance, California Wildlife Foundation, California Oaks Coalition, Forests Forever, Canyon Park Friends of Open Space, and Contra Costa County Supervisor John Gioia.

After fifteen speakers rose to support the initiative at the January 24th council meeting, Councilman Jael Myrick, who recently won reelection with the Club's endorsement, immediately moved to adopt the initiative. Councilman Eduardo Martinez, a Sierra Club West Contra Costa County Group Executive Committee member, seconded the motion. Without debate, the Council voted unanimously to adopt. (Vice-mayor Jovanka Beckles left the meeting early due to illness but also supported the initiative.)

For over forty years, local residents have fought back development of the hills one project at a time. Now the initiative's protections are part of the Richmond General Plan and can only be changed by a vote of the people.

Say thank you to the council members for passing the Richmond Hills Initiative: Find their contact information at <http://tinyurl.com/richmondcouncilmembers>.

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# No vacancy at new harbor seal float at Alameda Point

**RICHARD BANGERT**

Record numbers of harbor seals have been enjoying the new concrete and Styrofoam float in the harbor at Alameda Point. This first-of-its-kind structure was delivered to the harbor in June of last year, and the seals haven't wasted any time making themselves at home. Their new rest stop was constructed by the Water Emergency Transportation Authority (WETA) at the urging of local seal advocates, including the Sierra Club, after an old wooden dock the marine mammals had been using was slated for demolition to make way for a ferry maintenance facility, now under construction.

The number of seals resting in the harbor has grown since the new float was brought in. There were 52 seals using the new float on December 24, 2016, compared with 38 seals counted on the old dock on December 25, 2015. By January 5th, 2017, the number had risen to 70 seals, all but making the float invisible.

Many observers have commented that a second float is needed. The San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission (BCDC), which issued the permits for the new seal float and ferry maintenance facility, is amenable to permitting a second float. But they have advised the community that they first want to see what the impact on seal behavior will be once the 12-berth ferry maintenance facility begins operating in 2018.

The number of harbor seals using the old wooden dock typically rose dramatically in December of each year and continued with steadily high numbers in the dozens



through the spring. Harbor seals need to "haul out" regularly to warm up. The recent pattern since December 2016 is that the seals will haul out after a rain storm, which is what happened this January.

Members of the public who wish to observe the seals should plan their visits to the Bay Trail at Alameda Point for right after the skies clear up following a rain, with early-to-mid-afternoon being the best bet. The best parking option is the lot at the Encinal Boat Ramp and beach, which is arrived at via a service road from Central Avenue next to Encinal High School. The Bay Trail comes right to the parking lot (see map on this page).

The City of Alameda is preparing to install a sign at the parking lot to alert kayakers and canoers who launch into the harbor via the beach that they should stay clear of the harbor seals. Small watercraft will often frighten the skittish marine mammals into the water, unlike sea lions that seem to enjoy the close attention. It is a violation of the federal Marine Mammal Protection Act to disturb resting harbor seals. The city is also planning to install some warning buoys in the harbor.

The new float is the only haul-out site in the East Bay between Yerba Buena Island and Newark—and it is the only site on San Francisco Bay where harbor seals can be viewed from a public trail. Popular haul-out sites in the Bay are in the South Bay sloughs (Newark, Mowry, and Bair Island), which require self-propelled watercraft to access. Other popular harbor seal haul-outs in the region include a spit in the mouth of the Russian River at Jenner on the Sonoma coast and at Point Reyes National Seashore.

The volunteer Alameda Point Harbor Seal Monitors group provides updates on their Facebook page, [www.facebook.com/alamedaseals1](http://www.facebook.com/alamedaseals1). They can be reached via email at [alamedaharborseals@gmail.com](mailto:alamedaharborseals@gmail.com).



# Tassajara Parks development an existential threat to Contra Costa County's sprawl-prevention efforts

SONIA DIERMAYER

A residential development called Tassajara Parks in southeastern Contra Costa County is threading the needle to become a dangerous breach in the county's Urban Limit Line—a bad precedent that could be followed by other similar developments. Additional problems that would be caused or exacerbated by this project include loss of agricultural lands, increased car traffic, carbon emissions contributing to climate change, and impacts to water resources potentially as far away as the Mokelumne River watershed in the Sierra Foothills.

Tassajara Parks' developer, FT Land LLC, is proposing to build 125 single-family homes on 30 acres in the Tassajara Valley just outside of the Contra Costa Urban Limit Line east of Danville and San Ramon. The proposal includes what would appear to be some public benefits, such as conveyance of a chunk of land to the East Bay Regional Park District (EBRPD) and public trail access in another parcel. But these benefits and the project's relatively small size obscure the fact that it represents a camel's nose under the tent of Contra Costa Urban Limit Line. Furthermore, the proposal flouts the Bay Area's Sustainable Communities Strategy, which is intended to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from vehicles by building in already established urban areas near transit.

The Urban Limit Line is a powerful tool that Contra Costa voters passed as Measure C in 1990 to ensure that new development occurs within certain boundaries, thus protecting the county's remaining agricultural lands, open space, and wild lands from sprawl. As a result of additional provisions passed as Measure L in 2006, most proposals to build outside the Urban Limit Line would need voter



approval. But there is a loophole whereby developments of 30 acres or less can get the go-ahead with only a 4/5 vote of the county Board of Supervisors, as long as the Board can make a “finding” from a list of specified circumstances.

The residential portion of Tassajara Parks has been trimmed down to 30 acres from its earlier iterations to slip through this loophole. The “finding” which the developer aims to qualify under

**"ONCE APPROVED, THE M.O.U. WOULD APPLY TO ALL OF CONTRA COSTA COUNTY AND COULD BE USED BY ANY DEVELOPER OF 30 ACRES OR LESS TO APPLY FOR AN EXTENSION OF THE URBAN LIMIT LINE."**

is a “preservation agreement” Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the City of San Ramon, the Town of Danville, EBRPD, and the county. The great irony is that the areas in question don't need further preservation as they are *already* preserved by the county's General Plan, zoning ordinances, and the

Urban Limit Line—layers of protections that would be seriously eroded by provisions of the MOU and approval of Tassajara Parks.

Most concerning is that this MOU is generic. Once approved, it would apply to all of Contra Costa County and could be used by any developer of 30 acres or less to apply for an extension of the Urban Limit Line. According to advocates from Tassajara Valley Preservation Association, by dedicating 500 acres for non-urban use and donating \$4 million to the county, a developer could fulfill the

preservation agreement “finding” and ensure consideration from the Board of Supervisors. This could open the gates for a stampede of other mini-developments to pass, further trampling the county’s protective land-use policies and violating the intent of the voters when they instituted the Urban Limit Line.

Besides the breach of the Urban Limit Line, there are other troubling aspects to the Tassajara Parks saga. In order for the development to move forward, the county would also have to change the parcels’ land use designations from Agricultural Lands to Single-family Residential and others, and alter the parcels’ zoning from Exclusive Agricultural District to Planned Unit District. Making such changes to benefit a single development would seriously violate the stated goals and policies of those foundational county planning instruments.

Furthermore, serving water to the Tassajara Parks project would require the East Bay Municipal Utility District (EMBUD) to extend the borders of its service area, undermining the agency’s long-term water-supply planning efforts. EBMUD opposes this extension. A second option under consideration by the developer would be to buy water from Calaveras Public Utility District on the Mokelumne River. This arrangement could compromise local water supply and economies in the Sierra Foothills, increase net diversions from the river, and add further stress on that riparian ecosystem.

The County’s Recirculated Draft Environmental Impact Report (R-DEIR) for Tassajara Parks failed to call out these impacts and others, including increased car use and vehicle miles traveled. The R-DEIR did appropriately identify some other impacts as significant and unavoidable, including violations to the Clean Air Plan and increased greenhouse gas emissions.

**NEXT STEPS**

County staff anticipates that both the final EIR document for Tassajara Parks and the preservation agreement MOU will come to the Planning Commission for a vote in late February or March. Activists feel that both are likely to be approved. It will be very important for commissioners to hear from Contra Costa residents who share grave concerns about both pieces.

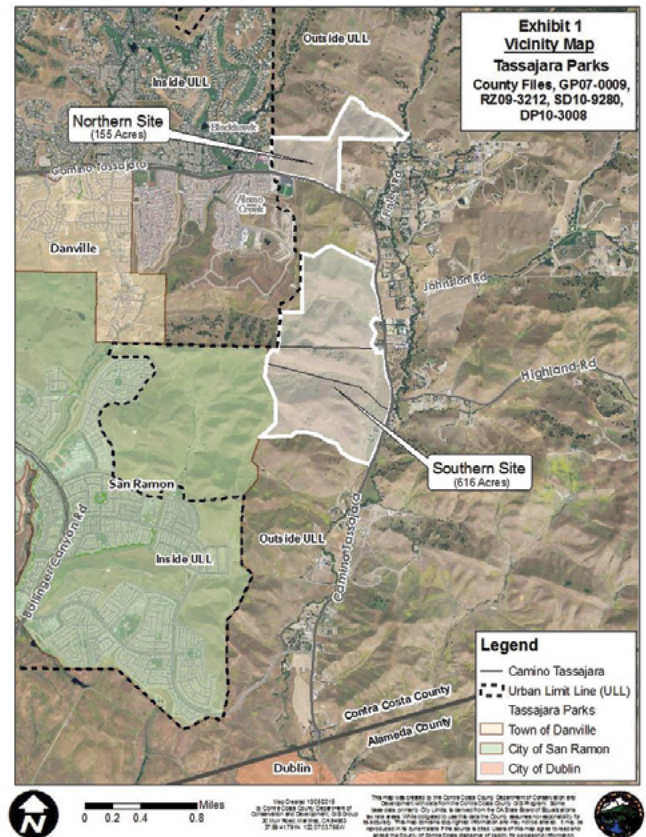
If approved at the Planning Commission, the MOU will then go to a formal vote at the two cities, San Ramon and Danville. According to local advocates, Danville seems to be holding firm against signing the MOU. San

Ramon’s City Council, on the other hand, appears more likely to approve it. Activists would do well to be at those meetings and voice their opposition.

If approved by both cities, the approvals of both the MOU and Tassajara Parks would return to the full county Board of Supervisors for their final approval. This may be the last opportunity to stop a very determined camel from getting its nose under the tent, and our last chance to hold onto the Contra Costa Urban Limit Line!

**WHAT YOU CAN DO**

- Take action! Send a message opposing the MOU and the Tassajara Parks project online at <http://tinyurl.com/tassajaraparksalert>.
- Write letters to the editors of the *East Bay Times* and *San Francisco Chronicle*.
- Request that John Osborne, Senior Contra Costa County Planner, put you on a list for notification when meetings about Tassajara Parks are scheduled. Email [john.osborne@dcd.cccounty.us](mailto:john.osborne@dcd.cccounty.us).
- Email Tassajara Valley Preservation Association at [tassajaravalleyppa@gmail.com](mailto:tassajaravalleyppa@gmail.com) and request to be kept updated about Tassajara Parks.



**IMAGE CREDITS:** Facing page: Tassajara Parks development site from the southeast corner. Photo by Gretchen Logue, Tassajara Valley Preservation Association. This page: Map of the proposed project site, courtesy Contra Costa County Department of Conservation and Development, GIS Group.

# Balancing access and conservation in EBMUD watershed lands

HELEN BURKE

There's a debate going on at the East Bay Municipal Utility District (EBMUD) about whether and how to open up watershed lands to a new use: mountain biking. For over 40 years EBMUD has allowed only hikers and equestrians on watershed lands—and then only with a \$10-per-year permit. While the Sierra Club encourages the enjoyment and exploration of our public lands for all, we must weigh the benefits of access for different groups of users against the potential risks. In this case, opening the watershed to mountain bikes poses risks to extremely sensitive ecosystems, to our water resources, and to the safety of hikers and pedestrians. But as is usually the case, there is room for compromise: it's possible that a carefully designed and implemented plan could protect these values while allowing some new access for mountain bikes.

This issue is on the table right now because EBMUD is working on an update of its Watershed Master Plan, which is revised every twenty years. At the urging of the mountain biking community, advocates for the Bay Area Ridge Trail, and EBMUD Director Marguerite Young, EBMUD staff proposed a pilot project that would have opened up four trail segments to mountain bikes: two on narrow, single-track trails and two on wider fire roads. The initial design for the pilot was formed without input from other trail users like hikers, equestrians, joggers, and birders. If they had reached out to the wider community, staff would have heard concerns that if mountain bikes are allowed on these narrow, steep, curvy trails with blind corners, they would collide with other trail users.

While the Sierra Club is not opposed to mountain bikes per se, we do have concerns about their use in areas like nar-

row footpaths, where safety and the biodiversity of plants and animals are more at risk than on wider roads. We're also concerned with maintaining intact and well-vegetated watershed lands to protect drinking-water quality.

To make sure these factors were being considered by EBMUD, the Sierra Club reached out to other environmental groups (representing other trail users) to form an alliance to oppose mountain bikes on narrow footpaths on EBMUD watershed lands. Eventually six organizations came together to form Safe Trails, Environmental Protection (STEP): the Sierra Club, the Golden Gate Audubon Society, California Native Plant Society, Regional Parks Association, Claremont Canyon Conservancy, and Metropolitan Horseman's Association.

Our advocacy has been effective: last month EBMUD

staff eliminated the two narrow trails from consideration for the pilot project, while leaving in one or two fire roads.

STEP and the Sierra Club do not oppose allowing mountain bikes on fire trails like the Eagle's Nest trail, a connector trail from San Pablo Dam Road to Inspiration Point trail, if an adequate enforcement and compliance program is in place to protect hikers

and equestrians and to guard against rogue trail development. Another fire trail proposed for opening to mountain bikes, the Pinole Valley trail, is more problematic because, depending on the routing, it could pass through habitat of the California red-legged frog and Alameda whipsnake, both protected species. The Sierra Club has called for a full Environmental Impact Report (EIR) where changes in trail use impacts are potentially significant. Because of the presence of threatened and endangered species, EBMUD's Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) needs to be reviewed by US Fish and Wildlife Service, and EBMUD staff needs to investigate the Plan's compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

The Skyline Trail section between Tilden and Sibley—an area known as Skyline Gardens—exemplifies the



importance and fragility of the ecosystem that STEP seeks to protect. This trail section was part of the pilot project as originally proposed, but has since been removed from that plan thanks to STEP's advocacy. Skyline Gardens is the site of a California Native Plant Society project to remove invasive nonnative plants in order to encourage natives in the most botanically diverse area of its size (about 250 acres) in the entire East Bay. Skyline Gardens contains 237 native plant species and 67 species of rare and unusual plants. EBMUD has expressed an openness to a special designation for Skyline Gardens as some kind of conservation area, with no mountain bikes. The California Native Plant Society is working with the District to make this happen. (See the end of the article for hike and volunteer opportunities at Skyline.)

As the pilot program introducing mountain bikes onto watershed lands takes shape, it will be critical to ensure it is properly funded so that there is environmental documentation and an enforcement program to keep bikes in designated areas. Overall, we support the general direction of the EBMUD staff recommendations—although as the saying

goes, it ain't over until it's over (and the Board votes). We look forward to meeting with other trail users and stakeholders, including members of the bicycle community, to discuss the Watershed Master Plan and trail uses.

#### WHAT YOU CAN DO

- **Get involved:** If you're interested, you can attend STEP or Sierra Club East Bay Public Lands Committee meetings; contact the Sierra Club's SF Bay Chapter office at 510-848-0800 for details.
- **Volunteer at Skyline Gardens:** Volunteers, under the direction of project manager Glen Schneider, go out to Skyline Gardens twice a week to conduct a botanical survey and remove invasive species. To get involved in that effort, contact [skylinegardens@ebcnps.org](mailto:skylinegardens@ebcnps.org).
- **Hike to Skyline Gardens:** To see the magnificent springtime display of native plants in bloom at Skyline Gardens, Glen Schneider will lead a special hike for Sierra Club members on Saturday, April 8th at 9 am. Space is limited to 20 people. RSVP at <http://tinyurl.com/skylinehike>.

Only Eight Left



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# Accessory Dwelling Units: a resource-efficient way to add housing

ALFRED TWU

Also known as in-law units or granny flats, Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs) are small homes added to lots that already have a house. They might be backyard cottages or basement or garage conversions. Compared to apartments, ADUs use fewer materials, and existing buildings are preserved. At \$50,000-200,000 to build (roughly 1/3 the cost of a conventional apartment), ADUs add low-cost housing to existing neighborhoods, fighting sprawl, reducing commutes, and adding enough new residents to make transit and walkable businesses and amenities viable.

Berkeley and Oakland presently have ADU ordinances that allow ADUs of up to 750 square feet on lots that currently have a single house, with some restrictions on narrow streets. Additionally, State Bill 1069 took effect statewide on January 1st, making building ADUs easier by reducing utility fees, parking requirements, and streamlining approvals. To address traffic and parking concerns, some cities have policies where ADU residents are ineligible

for residential parking permits.

Specifics on ADUs can be found at Berkeley Municipal Code section 23D.10 (search [www.codepublishing.com/CA/Berkeley](http://www.codepublishing.com/CA/Berkeley)), Oakland Municipal Code section 17.103.080 (search [www.municode.com/library/ca/oakland](http://www.municode.com/library/ca/oakland)), or California Government Code 65852.150 (search <http://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov>). Your city's Planning Department can also provide you with information.

The large upfront cost, as well as requirements on owner occupancy of the main unit, setbacks, and door location, could challenge some homeowners. Financing programs similar to those used by rooftop solar could be offered by prefab and tiny-house manufacturers to cover construction costs on installment plans. If subdivision and occupancy rules are relaxed, nonprofits and land trusts could also partner with homeowners to develop permanently affordable ADUs.



Raised Basement



Garage Conversion



Backyard Cottage

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## Pushing the State to “Buy Clean” for the climate

KATHRYN PHILLIPS

One of Sierra Club California’s major campaigns for 2017 focuses on getting the state to use its purchasing power in a way that’s consistent with our goals to reduce climate-disrupting pollution. The campaign, called “Buy Clean”, was conceived by Blue Green Alliance, a coalition of labor unions and environmental organizations including the Sierra Club. Sierra Club California has teamed up with Blue Green Alliance’s California team to incorporate the Buy Clean approach into California’s state procurement policies.

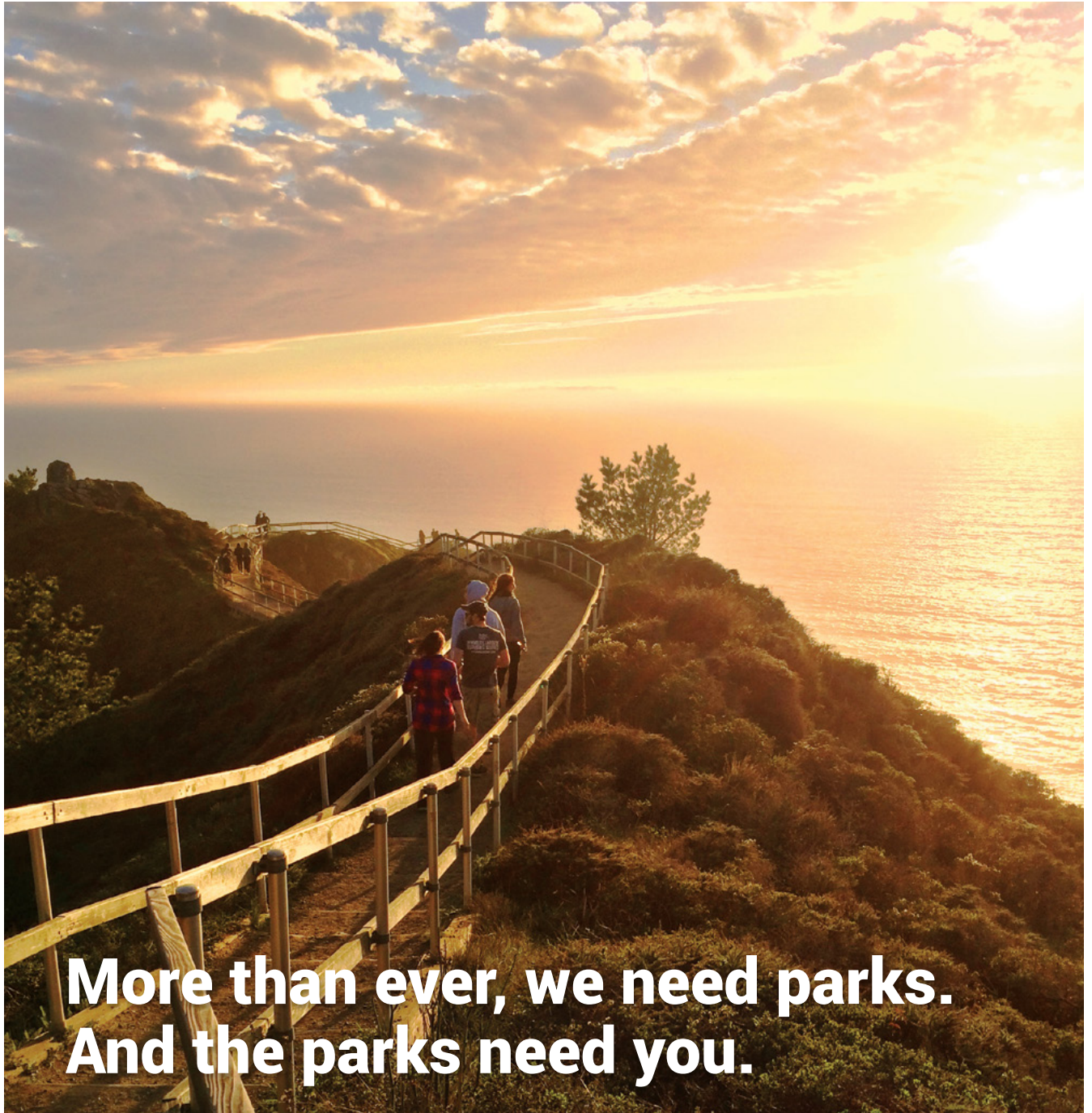
The Buy Clean approach got a big push when Assembly members Rob Bonta and Susan Eggman jointly introduced Assembly Bill 262 on February 1. That bill would require that state agencies that contract for big infrastruc-

ture projects, plus the University of California and the California State University system, take into consideration the greenhouse gas emissions in the supply chain when they’re reviewing bids for those projects.

It combines information disclosure and purchasing requirements to recognize manufacturers who produce the least amount of climate pollution while making any of five products: cement, steel, glass, insulation, and asphalt.

On launch day, the bill’s supporters represented labor, manufacturing, environmental, environmental justice, and health groups. Over the next month, Sierra Club California staff and volunteers will be helping refine the bill and building the support list before it goes to its first committee hearing in March.

If you’d like to get involved in helping your chapter or group learn more about the Buy Clean campaign, or if you’d like to get involved in in-district lobbying for the bill, email [meg.gunderson@sierraclub.org](mailto:meg.gunderson@sierraclub.org). Learn more about the Buy Clean Campaign online at [www.buycleancalifornia.org](http://www.buycleancalifornia.org).



# More than ever, we need parks. And the parks need you.

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## ABOUT THIS CALENDAR

Activities listed here are abbreviated. For full listings, visit: [sierraclub.org/sfbay/activities](http://sierraclub.org/sfbay/activities). The online calendar will also include changes, cancellations, and outings submitted after the print deadline.

### 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, call (415)977-5630, or visit <http://tinyurl.com/outingswaiver>.

### 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 contact the Activities Committee ombudsman, Seth Feinberg, at [sethfeinberg@yahoo.com](mailto:sethfeinberg@yahoo.com) or (510)969-7151; or the Chapter office at (510)848-0800.

### Carpooling

Carpooling helps the environment and allows people 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: [www.meetup.com/sanfranciscobay](http://www.meetup.com/sanfranciscobay).

# SPRING 2017 OUTINGS CALENDAR

## TUESDAYS

**Lake Chabot Reservoir 1A hike.** Optional dinner afterward. MEET: 4 pm at boathouse. LEADER: Dolores Gruenewald, (510)351-6247 or [doloresgru@aol.com](mailto: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)

## LAST SATURDAYS

**Corona Heights Natural Area habitat workday.** (Feb. 25, March 25, April 29) GLS and other volunteers have worked in the Corona Heights Natural Area since the early 1990s, resulting in one of the best areas in San Francisco to view Spring wildflowers. If this is a good rainy season, we might still be planting natives; if not, we'll be waging war against non-native annual grasses and other weeds. Children welcome with parent or guardian. Rain or shine. Wear close-toed shoes. All tools and gloves provided. MEET: 10 am on north side of Randall Museum (parking lot is on south side), a short walk from Castro and Market Streets. ENDS: noon. LEADER: Russell Hartman, (650)242-2679 or [rph1917@comcast.net](mailto:rph1917@comcast.net). (Gay & Lesbian)

## SAT • FEB 25

**Muir Woods / Steep Ravine 3C loop hike.** Explore the south side of the mountain on a route with great vistas and old-growth redwoods. Moderate pace, but not a beginner's hike. Rain cancels. MEET: 9:15 am at Mountain Home trailhead. ENDS: 5 pm. LEADER: Bob Solotar, (510)525-2110 or [bob\\_solotar@hotmail.com](mailto:bob_solotar@hotmail.com). (Hiking)

## SUN • FEB 26

**Big Rock Ridge & Loma Alta 3D hike.** Savor the views on this robust hike. Rain cancels. MEET: 9 am at Vogelsang Drive, San Rafael. LEADER: Tom Post, (415)690-6572 or [tpost123@hotmail.com](mailto:tpost123@hotmail.com). (Hiking)

**Mount Diablo Eagle Peak 2C hike.** Climb past Mitchell Rock via Twin Peaks to Eagle Peak with magnificent views of the Diablo summit, North Peak, and canyons below. Return via Murchio Gap, Deer Flat, and Mitchell Canyon. Steady, relaxed pace. May be mud and poison oak. Rain cancels. COST: \$6 parking (exact change required). MEET: 10 am in front of Mitchell Canyon Visitor Center. LEADER: Jake Van Akkeren, (925)933-3486 or [jvanakkeren@comcast.net](mailto:jvanakkeren@comcast.net) (preferred). (Mount Diablo Group)

**Martinez to Port Costa hike.** Hike on George Miller Regional Trail, a paved trail with scenic views of Carquinez shoreline and bay. Lunch at Port Costa, then hike back to Martinez. BRING: lunch or buy one drink



and get free buffet. Rain cancels. MEET: 10 am at Carquinez Strait Regional Shoreline Park, East Staging Area. ENDS: 2-2:30 pm. LEADER: Lidia Campos, (925)240-5795 or [lidiacampos@sbcglobal.net](mailto:lidiacampos@sbcglobal.net). (Delta Group)

**Claremont Canyon-Oakland/Berkeley 2B hike.** Vigorous hike through East Bay canyons and over ridges, with spectacular views of the Bay. Start near historic Claremont Hotel, then steep climbs up through Claremont Canyon. Connect with wooded, undulating trails in Tilden Park. Then follow a level trail around Strawberry Canyon and finally down some charming, crooked paths and hidden stairways into the Beaux Arts district above the UC Berkeley campus. Moderate pace. Rain cancels. MEET: 10 am at Claremont Avenue and Tanglewood Road, Berkeley. LEADER: Sylvie Hessini, [shessini@hotmail.com](mailto:shessini@hotmail.com). (Gay & Lesbian)

#### FRI • MAR 3

**Mount Diablo Lower Perkins Canyon 1A hike.** Short outing on the eastern side of North Peak featuring lovely wildflowers, green meadows, and a charming creek. Relaxed pace with a snack break. Be prepared for mud and poison oak. Rain cancels. MEET: 1 pm at trailhead parking lot on Morgan Territory Road. LEADER: Jake Van Akkeren, (925)933-3486 or [jvanakkeren@comcast.net](mailto:jvanakkeren@comcast.net) (preferred). (Mount Diablo Group)

#### SAT • MAR 4 - MON • MAR 6

**Carson Pass/Meiss Lake ski trip.** An out-and-back trip to Carson Pass going north along the Truckee River. Layover day will be spent touring. Open to alumni/graduates of the chapter's Snow Camping Training Series. Details upon registration. LEADERS: Jocelyne Sleckman, (415)664-6330 or [jocelsleck@cs.com](mailto:jocelsleck@cs.com); M. Bandrowski, (510)834-3235 or [mike.bandrowski@gmail.com](mailto:mike.bandrowski@gmail.com). (Snow Camping)

#### SUN • MAR 5

**Mount Diablo Donner Canyon Falls 2C hike.** Wildflowers and water on the rugged north side. Up Back Canyon, over Meridian Ridge to the Middle Trail before we wend our way around the falls and cataracts at the base of North Peak. Steady, relaxed pace with breaks. Be prepared for mud and poison oak. Rain cancels. COST: \$6 per vehicle (exact change required). MEET: 10 am at Mitchell Canyon trailhead. LEADER: Jake Van Akkeren, (925)933-3486 or [jvanakkeren@comcast.net](mailto:jvanakkeren@comcast.net) (preferred). (Mount Diablo Group)

**Butano State Park 3B hike.** Explore one of the San Mateo County coastside's less-traveled parks. See both first- and second-growth redwoods, great views, and maybe some calypso orchids. Moderate pace; not a beginner's hike. Rain cancels. MEET: 10:15 am at Butano State Park entry kiosk off Cloverdale Road, Pescadero. ENDS: 5:45 pm. LEADER: Bob Solotar, (510)525-2110 or [bob\\_solotar@hotmail.com](mailto:bob_solotar@hotmail.com). (Hiking)

#### SAT • MAR 11

**Inner Sunset to Lyon Street Stairs 1A hike.** One-way hike with wonderful views and lovely homes along the way. Return via Muni. Rain cancels. BRING: Return Muni fare. MEET: 10 am at 9th and Irving Streets, northeast corner. ENDS: 3 pm. LEADER: Gloria Navarra, (415)731-6144. (Hiking)

#### FRI • MAR 17 - SUN • MAR 19

**Igloos and other snow structures snow camping trip.** This outing focuses on use of a snow saw and shovel to cut and shape blocks of snow to build a shelter. Open to alumni of the chapter's Snow Camping Training Series. Details upon registration. LEADER: Mark Johnson, (510)278-2728 or [cutlert@hotmail.com](mailto:cutlert@hotmail.com). (Snow Camping)

**Pinnacles National Park 2B car camping.** Find solitude, challenge, and escape from urban life. Day hikes along the spectacular ridges and trails among the spring wildflowers. We will look for the illusive condors. REGISTRATION: Email the trip leader (Ernie) for further information and payment instructions. BRING: Individual commissary. LEADERS: Ernie Castiaux, (510)909-3301 [ecastiaux@hotmail.com](mailto:ecastiaux@hotmail.com); Sanjay Reddy, [reddysanjay@comcast.net](mailto:reddysanjay@comcast.net). (Backpacking)

#### SAT • MAR 18

**Murrieta Falls & Ohlone Wilderness 4D hike.** Explore less-visited areas of the Ohlone Wilderness when wildflowers are emerging. One of the most remote places in the Bay Area. Moderate pace; not a beginner's hike. Rain cancels, snow does not. MEET: 9:15 am at parking area, at the intersection just after you cross the bridge over the reservoir. ENDS: 7:30 pm. LEADER: Bob Solotar, (510)525-2110 or [bob\\_solotar@hotmail.com](mailto:bob_solotar@hotmail.com). (Mount Diablo Group)

**San Jose 2A history walk.** An all-day educational walk in downtown San Jose, featuring local history and architecture. Rain cancels. COST: \$5 car parking in furthest Diridon Caltrain parking lot. BRING: Money for post-walk dinner at San Jose restaurant. MEET: 10 am in front of Diridon Caltrain station. ENDS: 5:30 pm. LEADER: Guy Mayes, (510)522-1590. (Hiking)

**Stinson Beach to Mount Tamalpais 2C hike.** Hike up Steep Ravine to Pantoll station, returning via Matt Davis Trail. A variety of terrains including dense woods along a creek. Weather permitting, magnificent ocean views. MEET: 10:30 am by the restrooms in the Stinson Beach parking lot. LEADER: Jeffrey Sanchez, (510)599-5238 or [amagi@pacbell.net](mailto:amagi@pacbell.net). (Sierra Singles)

#### SAT • MAR 18 - SUN • MAR 19

**Yosemite's Dewey Point snow camping trip.** A relatively easy trip from Badger Pass to Dewey Point. Amazing winter views of Yosemite Valley, El Capitan, and surrounding mountains. Open to alumni of the chapter's Snow Camping Training Series. LEADERS: Roger Williams, (415)601-2079 or [rogerw@ymail.com](mailto:rogerw@ymail.com); Robert Postar, (510)551-4979 or [rpostar@gmail.com](mailto:rpostar@gmail.com). (Snow Camping)

#### SUN • MAR 19

**SF waterfront to Mission Bay 1A hike.** Explore the waterfront along the Embarcadero from the Ferry Building to AT&T Park and Mission Bay. See how this area has changed. Rain cancels. MEET: 1:30 pm in front of the Ferry Building main entrance. ENDS: 5 pm. LEADERS: Bob Solotar, (510)525-2110 or [bob\\_solotar@hotmail.com](mailto:bob_solotar@hotmail.com); Caprice Solotar, (510)525-2110. (Mount Diablo Group)

CONTINUED ON FOLLOWING PAGE

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

### WED • MAR 22

**Diablo or Tam flowers 2-3 B-C hike.** Good ups, easy-ish downs, looking for flowers and enjoying views. Must register for this hike by emailing leader to be informed of location. Exercise hike with short stops. Leader may request several 'quiet zones'. MEET: 8:15 am. ENDS: 12:30 pm. LEADER: Jayah Faye Paley, (415)699-3333 or [seminar@polesformobility.com](mailto:seminar@polesformobility.com). (Hiking)

**Memorial bikes on Mount Tamalpais 3B/3C.** In memory of Gus Raney, a legendary hike leader. Lunch at Mount Theater at noon. Rain cancels. MEET: 9 am at Mount Home parking lot on Panoramic Highway, Mill Valley. LEADERS: Pao Chen, (510)237-7570 or [paoc945@yahoo.com](mailto:paoc945@yahoo.com); Brian Chan, (415)861-8956 or [brianchan227@gmail.com](mailto:brianchan227@gmail.com). (Hiking)

### FRI • MAR 24

**EBRP Round Valley 2B hike.** Follow a lovely creek to Round Valley. After rambling through this expansive bowl of verdant grasses, ancient oaks, and the occasional artifacts of early ranching and farming, we'll return via a highland route with spectacular views. Rain cancels. MEET: 10 am at Round Valley Regional Preserve trailhead. LEADER: Jake Van Akkeren, (925)933-3486 or [jvanakkeren@comcast.net](mailto:jvanakkeren@comcast.net) (preferred). (Mount Diablo Group)

### SAT • MAR 25

**Black Diamond Mines Regional Preserve 3C hike.** Explore beautiful green hills and canyons, see white shooting stars, check out an old mining tunnel, and visit a 19th-century graveyard. Rain cancels. COST: \$5 parking fee. BRING: a flashlight for the Prospect Tunnel. MEET: 10 am at the far parking lot. LEADER: Steve Bakaley, [sbakaley@lbl.gov](mailto:sbakaley@lbl.gov). (Mount Diablo Group and Sierra Singles)

### SUN • MAR 26

**San Pedro Ridge & China Camp 3C hike.** Enjoy views of the bay from Turtle Back Hill. Rain cancels. MEET: 9 am at 28 Woodoaks Drive, San Rafael. LEADER: Tom Post, (415)690-6572 or [tpost123@hotmail.com](mailto:tpost123@hotmail.com). (Hiking)

**EBRP Black Diamond Mines 2C hike.** From Markley Canyon, ramble up and over a verdant ridge before heading down into a lovely valley of grassland and oaks. Circuitous return route includes a maze of paths leading through chaparral and sandstone outcroppings. Steady, relaxed pace with breaks. Rain cancels. COST: \$5 per vehicle. MEET: 10 am at parking lot at end of Somersville Road. LEADER: Jake Van Akkeren, (925)933-3486 or [jvanakkeren@comcast.net](mailto:jvanakkeren@comcast.net) (preferred). (Mount Diablo Group)

### FRI • MAR 31

**Mount Diablo Moses Rock Ridge 2C hike.** Savor a variety of vegetation zones and enjoy spectacular views as we explore some of the wild northwestern slopes of the Mountain. Wildflowers should be abundant. Steady, relaxed pace with breaks. Rain cancels. COST: \$10 per vehicle. MEET: 10 am at Diablo Ranch trailhead on

North Gate Road. LEADER: Jake Van Akkeren, (925)933-3486 or [jvanakkeren@comcast.net](mailto:jvanakkeren@comcast.net) (preferred). (Mount Diablo Group)

### FRI • MAR 31 - SUN • APR 2

**Winter photography snow camping trip.** Tahoe area, but exact location TBD. No previous photography experience necessary. Open to alumni/graduates of the chapter's Snow Camping Training Series. LEADERS: Cynthia Knowles, (415)845-2357 or [cynthiapatagonia@yahoo.com](mailto:cynthiapatagonia@yahoo.com); Leslie Thomas, (415)299-9098 or [samosausa@yahoo.com](mailto:samosausa@yahoo.com). (Snow Camping)

### SAT • APR 1

**Stewartville Valley Black Diamond Mines 2B hike.** Impressive views in historic coal-mining area. Leisurely pace, some steep trails. Rain cancels. COST: \$5 per car. BRING: flashlight for mine tunnel and food for post-hike BBQ/potluck. MEET: 10 am at last parking lot. ENDS: 4:30 pm. LEADER: Guy Mayes, (510)522-1590. (Hiking)

**Mitchell Canyon, Mount Diablo State Park, 1A hike.** Leisurely loop walk to discover spring wildflowers in a scenic canyon. After hike, optional stop nearby for refreshments. Rain cancels. COST: \$6 per car. MEET: 4 pm at interpretive center parking area. ENDS: 6 pm. LEADER: Lucy Henderson, (925)254-2898. (Delta Group)

### SUN • APR 2

**Mount Diablo 'round the mountain 2C hike.** This classic loop provides views in all directions as we circle the park's dominant peak. Wildflowers should be abundant. Steady, relaxed pace with breaks. Rain cancels. COST: \$10 per car. MEET: 10 am at parking lot at Juniper Campground entrance on Summit Road. LEADER: Jake Van Akkeren, (925)933-3486 or [jvanakkeren@comcast.net](mailto:jvanakkeren@comcast.net) (preferred). (Mount Diablo Group)

**Morgan Territory ridgetops 2B hike.** Celebrate the green hills of spring and explore Bob Walker and Highland Ridges during wildflower season. Moderate pace. 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](mailto:bob_solotar@hotmail.com). (Mount Diablo Group)

### FRI • APR 7

**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 the park. Steady, relaxed pace with breaks. Rain cancels. COST: \$6 per car. MEET: 10 am at Mitchell Canyon trailhead. LEADER: Jake Van Akkeren, (925)933-3486 or [jvanakkeren@comcast.net](mailto:jvanakkeren@comcast.net) (preferred). (Mount Diablo Group)

### FRI • APR 14

**Mount Diablo Riggs Canyon & Highland Ridge 3C hike.** This hike explores the hills framing Riggs Canyon in the remote southeastern reaches of the park. Stunning views and wildflowers. Steady, relaxed pace. Rain cancels. MEET: 9:30 am at trailhead parking lot on Morgan Territory Road. Five-mile carpool from there to Red Corral trailhead. LEADER: Jake Van Akkeren, (925)933-3486 or [jvanakkeren@comcast.net](mailto:jvanakkeren@comcast.net) (preferred). (Mount Diablo Group)

**SAT • APR 15**

**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. 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. LEADER: Bob Solotar, (510)525-2110 or [bob\\_solotar@hotmail.com](mailto:bob_solotar@hotmail.com). (Hiking)

**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. Rain cancels. MEET: 11 am at McClure's Beach lower parking lot at the end of Pierce Point Road. LEADER: Steve Bakaley, (925)945-8205 or [slbakaley@lbl.gov](mailto:slbakaley@lbl.gov). (Hiking and Sierra Singles)

**FRI • APR 21**

**Mount Diablo Castle Rock & Camel Rock 2B hike.** Dip in and out of Pine Canyon until climbing into lovely meadows for our return. Highlights include spectacular Castle Rock cliffs, Pine Creek, Buckle Point, and Little Yosemite. Steady, relaxed pace. Rain cancels. MEET: 9:30 am at lower parking lot on Borges Ranch Road in Walnut Creek. LEADER: Jake Van Akkeren, (925)933-3486 or [jvanakkeren@comcast.net](mailto:jvanakkeren@comcast.net) (preferred). (Mount Diablo Group)

**SAT • APR 22**

**Glen Park 1B hike.** Walk through charming Glen Park, its canyon, and hidden lanes. Rain cancels. MEET: 10:15 am at Glen Park BART station. ENDS: 3:30 pm. LEADER: Gloria Navarra, (415)731-6144. (Hiking)

**John Muir birthday/Earth Day celebration.** Celebrate the birthday and legacy of the Sierra Club's founder and first president, John Muir. Rain or shine. Free admission to the historic Muir home and orchards. Environmental exhibits, food, music, and entertainment throughout the day. Volunteers needed to help staff our information table. If you can help, please contact leader. MEET: 10 am at the John Muir National Historic Site, Martinez. ENDS: 4 pm. LEADER: Janess R. Hanson, (925)458-0860. (Delta Group)



**SUN • APR 23**

**Earth Day road work party, Contra Loma Park, Antioch.** In honor of Earth Day, join the Delta Group for a spring cleanup along their one-mile adopted park-entrance road. Benefits include fresh air, exercise, sociability, and a cleaner corner of Planet Earth. Rain postpones. MEET: 10 am in trailhead parking area at sharp bend in Frederickson Lane, just before park entrance. ENDS: noon. LEADER: Tim Donahue, (925)754-8801. (Delta Group)



**Mount Diablo Windy Point & Riggs Canyon 3C 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. Descend lovely Riggs Canyon to an abandoned ranch house before we climb into the Black Hills on the Oyster Point Trail. Back via a series of ups and downs into and out of Sycamore Canyon. Steady, relaxed

pace. Rain cancels. COST: \$10 per car. MEET: 9 am at Curry Point trailhead. LEADER: Jake Van Akkeren, (925)933-3486 or [jvanakkeren@comcast.net](mailto:jvanakkeren@comcast.net) (preferred). (Mount Diablo Group)

**FRI • APR 28**

**Mount Diablo Sycamore Canyon & Knobcone Point 2B hike.** From Curry Point we'll hike down to Rock City before descending into leafy Sycamore Canyon. Ascend Black Hawk Ridge for magnificent views before making our way to the Knobcone Point area and intriguing Balancing Rock. Back along a ridge with expansive views of Curry Canyon. Steady, relaxed pace with breaks. Rain cancels. COST: \$10 per car. MEET: 10 am at Curry Point trailhead. LEADER: Jake Van Akkeren, (925)933-3486 or [jvanakkeren@comcast.net](mailto:jvanakkeren@comcast.net) (preferred). (Mount Diablo Group)

**SUN • APR 30**

**Mount Diablo Twin Peaks 1B hike.** Climb up to Twin Peaks via the magnificent but at times steep (with loose rock) Eagle Peak Trail and return via the Mitchell Rock Trail. Outstanding views of Mitchell and Back Canyons, North Peak, and Diablo's summit. Relaxed, flower-sniffing pace. Rain cancels. COST: \$6 per vehicle. MEET: 10:30 am at Mitchell Canyon trailhead. LEADER: Jake Van Akkeren, (925)933-3486 or [jvanakkeren@comcast.net](mailto:jvanakkeren@comcast.net) (prefer). (Mount Diablo Group)

**FRI • MAY 5**

**Mount Diablo Curry Canyon & Windy Point 2B hike.** Descend into lovely riparian Curry Canyon before climbing steeply to a section just below Windy Point. Return via Knobcone Point Road, passing by Balancing Rock. Outstanding views. Steady, relaxed pace. COST: \$10 per car. MEET: 9:30 am at Curry Point trailhead. LEADER: Jake Van Akkeren, (925)933-3486 or [jvanakkeren@comcast.net](mailto:jvanakkeren@comcast.net) (preferred). (Mount Diablo Group)

**SUN • MAY 7**

**Pacifica ridgetops 3B hike.** Visit three units of the GGNRA for panoramic vistas and a wildflower hotspot. See where the bay was first viewed by the Spanish and learn how the area was saved from development. Rain cancels. MEET: 10:30 am at northeast corner of Ocean and Paloma Avenues, Pacifica. ENDS: 5:30 pm. LEADER: Bob Solotar, (510)525-2110 or [bob\\_solotar@hotmail.com](mailto:bob_solotar@hotmail.com). (Hiking)

**WED • MAY 10**

**Mount Tamalpais 3C hike.** A moderate hike on the south side of Mount Tam. Rain cancels. MEET: 9 am at the bus stop at Miller and Locust, Mill Valley. LEADER: Pao Chen, (510)237-7570 or [paoc945@yahoo.com](mailto:paoc945@yahoo.com). (Hiking)

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# SPECIAL EVENTS & PROGRAMS

## SAN FRANCISCO DINNERS

**MEET:** Social hour 6 pm, dinner 7 pm, program 8 pm. Grace Lutheran Church, 3201 Ulloa St. at 33rd Ave. **COST:** Send a check for \$22 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, vegetarian meals requested, and your phone number. Non-members welcome. **BRING:** Wine or soft drinks. Glasses and ice available. **LEADER:** With questions, contact Gerry between 4 and 9 pm at 415-474-4440 or [gsouzis@hotmail.com](mailto:gsouzis@hotmail.com).

### Thu, Mar 16 - “Women who shaped Impressionism”

Queen Victoria’s reign is often thought to be a time of cultural oppression, but quite the opposite was true. Join us for a visual treat as we visit the private lives of the Impressionists and learn the backstory of these independent, visionary artists. Discover the inspirational women who helped shape the culture of 19th-century Europe, as well as the world we live in today.

Michael Saint James is a popular speaker in the Bay Area with his presentations “In the Footsteps of Vincent van Gogh” and “Parisian for a Year”, and his award-winning photography book, “Bridges of Paris”. Saint James is an artist, educator, and world traveler with a fresh, entertaining view of history, art, and culture.

Checks must be received by March 10th.



### Thu, April 20 - “Walking Scotland: West Highland Way and Great Glen Way”

Last summer, Joy Durighello and Kathleen Stern returned to Scotland to walk across the highlands. Their destination was

Fort William, 95 miles north of Glasgow, followed by another 75 miles further north to Inverness. Only one of them completed the entire journey. Follow them along the trails, past the lochs, and up the *munros* (mountains with a height of over 3,000 feet), and learn a bit about the Jacobites and Bonnie Prince Charlie along the way.

Joy Durighello, an English instructor at City College of SF, and Kathleen Stern, retired, are avid hikers of both rural and urban landscapes.

Checks must be received by April 14th



### Thu, May 18 - “Trekking the Haute Route”

The Haute Route starts in Chamonix at the base of Mont Blanc, France, and concludes in Zermatt at the base of the Matterhorn, Switzerland. Join Seiji Kawamura and his friends as they trek 100 miles hut-to-hut with 30,000 feet of elevation change over 11 high passes. The route passes by green valleys, crystal-clear lakes, massive glaciers, and formidable mountain ranges—a challenging and most picturesque trek.

Seiji is a retired high school physics teacher. He has trekked extensively in the Alps, Asia, South America, and Africa. For the last eight years he has done volunteer trail maintenance work on the Pacific Crest Trail.

Checks must be received by May 12th.



**IMAGE CREDITS:** Left column: *Crop of Berthe Morisot With a Bouquet of Violets*, 1872, by Edouard Manet, courtesy Musée d'Orsay. Right column (top): *Walking in Scotland*, by Joy Durighello. Right column (bottom): *Mt. Blanc de Cheilion with Cabane des Dix*, by Seiji Kawamura.

## EAST BAY DINNERS

**MEET:** 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. **COST:** Dinner and program is \$30, including tax and tip; \$10 for program only. **RESERVATIONS:** Send your check, payable to "Sierra Club, S.F. Bay Chapter," with your name, telephone number, and the names of your guests, to: Jane Barrett, 170 Vicente Road, Berkeley, CA 94705. With questions, call 510-845-8055. Attendance is limited to the first 115 reservations received. Reserve early; programs fill up.

### Thu, March 23 - "Madagascar"

The island nation of Madagascar formed after breaking away from the Indian peninsula 88 million years ago. Its separation has resulted in the evolution of plants and animals in relative isolation. It is known as a biodiversity hotspot, with 90% of its wildlife found nowhere else on Earth, making it an ideal subject for scientists the world over. A growing, impoverished population lives off the land, resulting in deforestation, fires, erosion, and diminishing habitats for its plants and animals. With conservation areas protected by the government, it is still possible for visitors to see the amazing wildlife there—a big draw for ecotourism—but other areas face impending destruction. Join us as Tom Vincze recounts his visit to Madagascar for three weeks in late 2014.

A designer by trade, Tom has had an appreciation for nature from an early age. In his spare time, he collects and grows all sorts of unusual plants at home. As his passion for exotic plants has grown, he has been compelled to journey to far away lands to see them growing in their actual native habitats. In his spare time, Tom has also been involved with rainforest conservation.

Reservation deadline: March 16.



### April 27 - "Summer of Love, 2017"

Birthing: Berkeley Marina, April 27, 2017.

It is time. 50 years after the first *Summer of Love, 1967*, humanity is at a critical juncture: due to habitat destruction, conservation biologist Guy McPherson predicts humanity will go extinct within the next 10 years.

That's the bad news. The good news is that the *bad news* is bring-

ing us together to save ourselves and our fragile world: Welcome to the *Summer of Love, 2017*: a planetary movement to bring out the best in humanity, toward a *whole world*.

Join us as Professor Guy McPherson and East Bay Dinners program chair Jamen Shively lead a conversation on the prospects for our survival, and for making our world *whole* again.

Dr. McPherson will begin with a strictly peer-reviewed scientific analysis of the most current data, the findings of which are transforming the conversation on the future of life on earth. McPherson and Shively then roll out *Summer of Love, 2017*, from the "Summer of Love Boat" *Tour de Amor* around the Bay launching the next day from the Berkeley Marina, to the worldwide rollout and evolution of a radical form of *collective intelligence* and its potential to save our planet from apocalyptic destruction, and our species from extinction.

Guy McPherson is Professor Emeritus of conservation biology at the University of Arizona. His is the leading voice on the topic of abrupt climate change leading to near-term human extinction. He was under surveillance by the United States government no later than 1996, and had a spy in his classrooms no later than 2005. He has been labeled an anarchist and eco-terrorist by senior members of the Obama administration. He readily pleads guilty to the former.

East Bay native Jamen Whipple Shively is program chair for the East Bay Dinners and president of *Radish.org*, pioneer of *radical collective intelligence*. Like his (many Greats) Uncle William Whipple who signed the Declaration of Independence in 1776, Jamen is a pragmatic patriot and radical revolutionary promoting the adoption of a planetary *Declaration of Interdependence*.

Reservation deadline: April 20

### Thu, May 25 - "The Power of Solar"

It is the best of times, it is the worst of times. It is the season of light and of darkness. How did Dickens know? Solar power is a powerful force on the planet today and a gift for our season of light, but it is often maligned, misunderstood, and miscalculated.

What IS solar power? Is it merely "cute" as Bill Gates said in 2011? Is the economic payback really 32 years as Candidate Trump claimed? Is it unreliable and expensive, as blogger Anthony Watts and many others have claimed?

No, no, and no! Come join us as local solar advocate Doug McKenzie leads us through the realities and the potential of solar power. From the giant solar plants in California deserts to residential solar systems on your neighbors' roofs, learn where solar fits in the context of climate change, clean renewable energy, energy independence, and your monthly utility bill.

Doug retired early from HP after almost 20 years as a people, project, and program manager in software development and customer support. Before HP, he received a degree in Applied Math from UC Berkeley. After HP, he is living his dreams as a solar educator and consultant and as a career coach helping people through career transitions. He's the East Bay development manager for non-profit solar installer *SunWork.org* and is on the Board of NorCal Solar. He teaches solar workshops for East Bay

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residents and is a member of many environmental organizations. He lives in Berkeley and drives an electric vehicle powered by rooftop solar.

Reservation deadline: May 18.

### MOUNT DIABLO GROUP

MEET: 7 pm at Ygnacio Valley Library, 2661 Oak Grove Road, Walnut Creek. RESERVATIONS: Mount Diablo Group programs are open to all and no reservations are necessary. LEADER: If you have questions, call Ken Lavin at 925-852-8778.

#### Wed, Mar 8 - "Exploring Vietnam's Son Doong Cave"

Imagine a cave so large that it has its own weather system, with clouds and a river inside. So it is with the world's largest cave, located in Vietnam's Phong Nha-Ke Bang National Park.

Son Doong, Vietnamese for "River Mountain Cave", was first discovered in 1991 and first explored in 2009. Fewer people have been in the cave than have stood on top of Mount Everest. Join one of those intrepid spelunkers, Adam Garcia, as he guides us down and through this geological wonder.

Adam Garcia grew up in the East Bay and studied environmental science and urban planning in Southern California. Currently, Adam is planning and research manager at Greenbelt Alliance, where he oversees mapping and policy analysis.



#### Wed, May 10 - "Exploring Mount Diablo and beyond"

Our May meeting features a spectacular photographic tour of our local parks and open space. Photographer Bill Karieva has been exploring Mount Diablo and surrounding parklands, camera in hand, since 2003. He was challenged by a friend to hike all of the ever-growing network of trails on and around Mount Diablo. Along with his inclination to follow deer paths, this trail challenge provided Bill with a multitude of photographic opportunities. Bill will show us secret waterfalls, colorful flowers, elusive wildlife, seasonal changes, and the drama of the Morgan Fire.

Bill Karieva is a board member of the Mount Diablo Interpretive Association and maintains his own website, [www.explorediabolo.com](http://www.explorediabolo.com). Bill's photos appear in the *Hiker's Guide to Mount Diablo State Park*, *Mount Diablo Review*, *Diablo Magazine*, and *Black Diamond Living*.

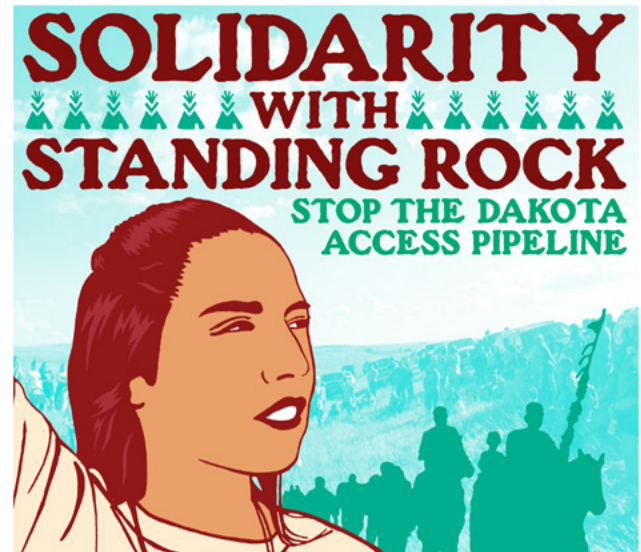
### MARIN GROUP

#### Sat, Mar 5 - "Standing with Standing Rock" benefit event

MEET: 6:30 pm (program starts promptly at 7 pm) at First Presbyterian Church, 72 Kensington Road, San Anselmo.

You're invited to join the Marin Group for a panel discussion with attorneys Larry Bragman and Ford Greene in conversation with Erin Schrode (all observer-participants at Standing Rock last fall). This event is a fundraiser for the legal defense fund supporting protestors of the Dakota Access Pipeline. The evening will also feature live music by Cherokee-Metis singer-songwriter Jane De Cuir.

A reception will immediately follow the program, with scrumptious organic food provided by Good Earth Natural Foods.



## CLASSES & TRAININGS

### WILDERNESS FIRST AID CLASS

Saturday, April 22 and Sunday, April 23, 8:30 am to 5 pm, Bay Chapter office, 2530 San Pablo Ave., Suite I, Berkeley.

This class satisfies first-aid requirements for most Bay Chapter outing leaders (confirm requirements with your section/group officers). Students have two options: You can take the one-day class on Saturday and receive the Basic Wilderness First Aid certification of the American Safety & Health Institute—\$50 for members/\$60 for non-members. Basic WFA is a practical, eight-hour course that prepares you to recognize and avoid wilderness hazards, and do first aid outdoors with whatever equipment you have or can improvise. Or, you can take the two-day class for an additional \$30/\$40, and receive the higher-level WFA certification. This option adds more advanced skills and role-playing scenarios.

Visit [www.sierraclub.org/sfbay/wfa](http://www.sierraclub.org/sfbay/wfa) or call 510-848-0800 for instructions on how to register for this class.



DOUG STEAKLEY

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Please support our effort on the Big Sur coast, where we are working to conserve a mile of the **Little Sur River** (pictured here where it meets the Pacific) and improve trail connectivity between the ocean and the Ventana Wilderness. Visit [www.westernrivers.org](http://www.westernrivers.org) or call us at 415-767-2001.



WESTERN RIVERS  
CONSERVANCY



**#SierraSnapshots** | Sierra Club hikers stick together to safely cross a rain-fed seasonal stream on a February climb up Eagle Peak in Mount Diablo State Park. Photo by Samuel Lui. Submit your photographs on Twitter, Instagram, or Facebook using the hashtag #SierraSnapshots, or email photos to [yodedit@sfbaysc.org](mailto:yodedit@sfbaysc.org) for a chance to be featured in the next issue. Include your name and where and when the photo was taken.

#### **FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA!**

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#### **SIERRACLUB.ORG/SFBAY**

Our website is home to helpful information and resources including:

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

#### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- Meet up with us at Earth Day events this April and May. Visit our online calendar, [sierraclub.org/sfbay/events](http://sierraclub.org/sfbay/events), for details.
- Nominate an exceptional outings leader for the Michener Award (details on page 4)
- Save the date: April 29th – the 100th day of the Trump presidency – for a mass mobilization in the Bay Area (details on page 3)

#### **EMAIL**

Visit [sierraclub.org/sfbay/email](http://sierraclub.org/sfbay/email) to sign up for Bay Chapter emails, including monthly bulletins and action alerts.