

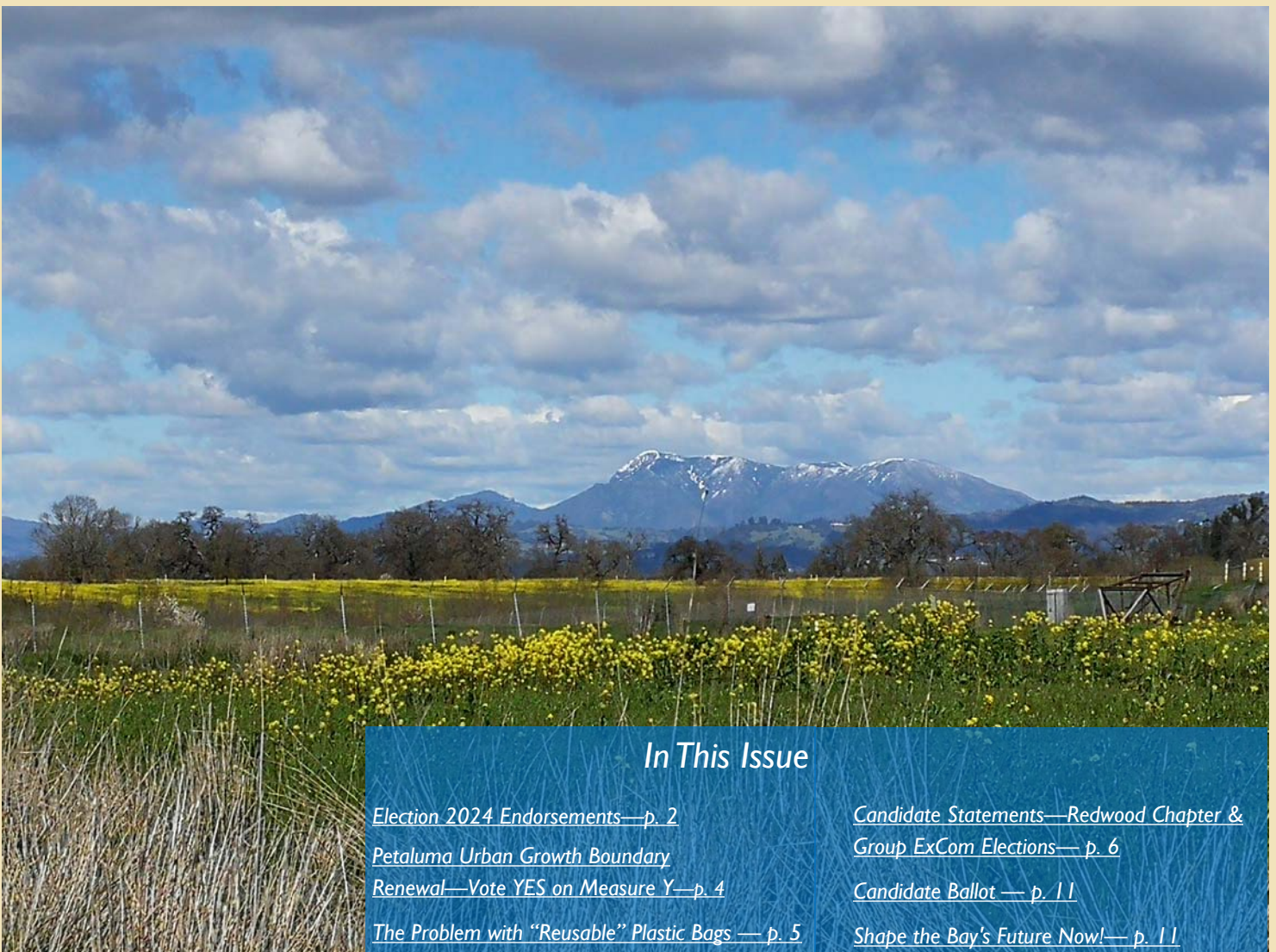
Redwood Needles



Fall 2024

Sierra Club Redwood Chapter

Volume 66, No. 4



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Mt. St. Helena from Laguna de Santa Rosa Regional Park. Photo by Jim Horn

Election 2024: Making a difference

As the crucial November 5, 2024, election draws near, Sierra Club activists have been busy identifying the best candidates in many local races. The results of these grassroots contests often have momentous consequences, with the question coming down to this: do we want to foster the best qualities of the North Coast—abundant open space, towering forests, free-running rivers, charming, friendly small towns with a rural atmosphere—or do we want to become like the rest of California?

We think the choices are clear, and that the election of candidates endorsed by the Sierra Club offers the best hope of making those choices wisely. So please examine the endorsement list in this newsletter, and give your vote to the individuals named there that appear on your ballot. **Please also consider making a personal endorsement, volunteering a few hours of time, or donating money:** the future of all our communities hangs in the balance this November, and action by Club members can potentially tip that balance.

Want to do more? Then consider volunteering for the national Sierra Club's grassroots voter mobilization campaign. In 2020, this massive Get-Out-The-Vote effort targeted climate-conscious voters in four battleground states. It eventually produced 20 million text messages, 1.3 million letters, and made 5 million. This year the program is focusing on letter-writing, with volunteers reaching out to a tailored list of 500,000 voters in Michigan and Pennsylvania. To find out more and to sign up, visit <https://votefwd.org/sierraclub>

Other local endorsements were in progress as this issue of the *Needles* went to press. As they are approved, the names of additional endorsed candidates will be posted to sierraclub.org/redwood/endorsements -- please check it out.

Victoria Brandon, Redwood Chapter Political Chair



SIERRA CLUB

REDWOOD CHAPTER

Redwood Needles

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Sierra Club Redwood Chapter

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You can manage your Sierra Club
account at myaccount.sierraclub.org or
email member.care@sierraclub.org



Election 2024: Endorsements

President of the United States: **Kamala Harris**

Vice President of the United States: **Tim Walz**

CA Prop 4 (the climate bond): **Support**

US Congress, California District 2: **Jared Huffman**

US Congress, California District 4: **Mike Thompson**

US Congress, California District 8: **John Garamendi**

State Senate, District 3: **Christopher Cabaldon**

State Assembly, District 2: **Chris Rogers**

State Assembly, District 12: **Damon Connolly**

Lake County Board of Supervisors, District 1: **John Hess**

Benicia city council: **Christina Gilpin-Hayes**

Cont'd on page 3

Support Your Passion

for a Just and Sustainable World

Create a legacy that protects and restores the natural world for future generations by naming Sierra Club's Redwood Chapter in your will or trust. Or, name Sierra Club Foundation as the beneficiary of your retirement plan for the benefit of your local chapter and leave less highly taxed assets to your loved ones.



To learn more about the advantages of making a planned gift and to become a member of the Rachel Carson Society, please contact us.



SIERRA CLUB
REDWOOD CHAPTER

Julia Curtis • (800) 932-4270 • giftplanning@sierraclub.org • myplan.sierraclub.org

Redwood Chapter Leadership

The Executive Committee (ExCom) is the governing body of the chapter, with one member delegated by each of six regional groups and six members elected at large. Each group elects its own Executive Committee. The chapter ExCom meets every month over Zoom.

Chapter Chair, At Large, CCC/CCL Delegate, 30x30 Task Force:

Dan Mayhew* • drmayhew@comcast.net

Political Chair

Victoria Brandon • (707) 994-1931

vbrandon95457@gmail.com

Secretary, Election Committee & NomCom-Chair and Newsletter Editor:

Jim Horn

jhorn@hornengineers.com

Treasurer & Finance Committee Chair:

Jana Selph • (707) 829-5356

At Large, • Steve Scalmanini*

At Large, CCL Delegate, Membership Co-chair

Elayna Trucker* etrucker86@gmail.com

Conservation Chair, CCC Delegate, 30x30 Task Force:

Teri Shore • terishore@gmail.com

Political Compliance Officer:

Vacant

Transportation Chair, Acting Legal Chair:

Steve Birdlebough • (707) 576-6632

Water Committee Chair, Membership Co-chair

Theresa Ryan • (707) 431-8381

Climate/Energy Committee Chair: *Vacant*

Forest Chair, At Large:

Jeanne Wetzel Chinn* jeannechinn@gmail.com

Lake Group Delegate to Chapter:

Deb Sally* • (707) 235-9011

Mendocino Group Delegate to Chapter:

Robin Leler* • (707) 459-0155

Napa Group Delegate to Chapter:

David Campbell * (707) 260-4455

North Group Delegate to Chapter:

Ned Forsyth* • (707) 826-2417

Solano Group Delegate to Chapter:

Paul Theiss* • (415) 902-3395

Sonoma Group Delegate to Chapter:

Tom Conlon* • tconlon@geopraxis.com

Chapter Webmaster:

Melanie Matway

adastra7@hotmail.com

* Signifies voting member of the ExCom

Election 2024: Endorsements

(continued from p. 2)

Benicia mayor: **Steve Young**

Rio Vista mayor: **Edwin Okamura**

Vacaville city council, district 2: **Mike Silva**

Vallejo city council, district 1: **Alex Matias**

Vallejo city council, district 3: **Tonia Lediju**

Vallejo city council, district 6: **Christina Arriola**

Vallejo mayor: **Andrea Sorce**

Cotati city council: **Susan Harvey**

Cotati city council: **Laura Sparks**

Healdsburg city council: **Ariel Kelley**

Healdsburg city council: **Heather Hannan-Kramer**

Petaluma city council, district 5: **Blake Hooper**

Petaluma city council, district 6: **Brian Barnacle**

Rohnert Park city council, district 4: **Jackie Elward**

Santa Rosa city council, district 5: **Caroline Banuelos**

Sebastopol city council: **Phillip Carter**

Sonoma city council: **Jack Ding**

Windsor town council: **JB Leep**

City of Petaluma Urban Growth Boundary (UGB) renewal: **support**

Solano County rezoning initiative: **oppose** (initiative subsequently withdrawn)

City of St Helena Measure B: **oppose**

At the time this edition of the Redwood *Needles* went to press additional endorsements were in progress, which will be posted to <https://www.sierraclub.org/redwood/endorsements> as soon as they are completed. Please check the site frequently for the

With only months until the election, this is the moment to give it our all — for each of us to pitch in to ensure we win in November and defeat Donald Trump.

Sierra Club is ramping up our efforts to activate voters across the country, focusing on key swing states that are essential to beating Trump this fall.

Sign up here to volunteer with us and we'll connect you with fellow advocates and get you plugged into the most strategic ways you can get involved from now until the election.

Volunteer with us to defeat Donald Trump, defend democracy, and protect our future! (<https://act.sierraclub.org/actions/National?actionId=AR0458816>).



Petaluma Urban Growth Boundary Renewal— Vote YES on Measure Y!

Sierra Club is making the Petaluma Urban Growth Boundary (UGB) Renewal **Measure Y** a top local measure in the November 2024 election. Please join us in this exciting campaign to:

- **Protect Open Space and Farmland**
- **Prevent Costly Sprawl**
- **Keeps Climate Friendly City Centered Growth**
- **Increase Wildfire Resiliency**

Take Action:

Live in Petaluma? Vote Yes on Measure Y. Sierra Club endorsed!!!! If you want a yard sign, contact **Teri Shore** at terishore@gmail.com

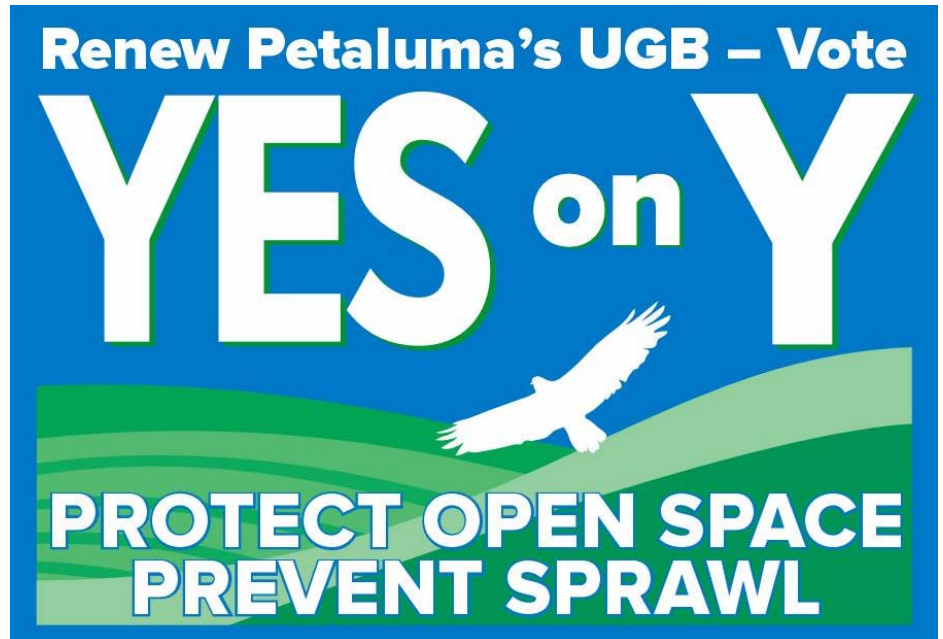
Live outside Petaluma? Endorse Measure Y here (individuals, groups, electeds) —<https://www.renewpetalumaugb.org/endorsements>



Background

Petaluma's current voter-approved Urban Growth Boundary, approved in 2010, expires in 2025. On July 1, 2024, the City Council unanimously decided to place the issue on the ballot and ask for voters' approval to renew it without any changes for the next 25 years.

Voters in all nine cities in Sonoma County have voted in and renewed Urban



Growth Boundaries over several decades. An Urban Growth Boundary (UGB) is simply a boundary around a city or town set by the voters to define the limits of urban development.

An UGB separates urban areas from the surrounding natural and agricultural lands or [greenbelts](#). It puts a limit on how far out the city can expand. It is an environmental, climate-smart measure intended to preserve open space, agricultural uses, and wildlife habitat. It is also needed to encourage climate-smart, city-centered growth to enhance climate resilience by limiting sprawl and making it easier to walk and bike to school, jobs, and shops.

Read more about why Urban Growth Boundaries are good for people and the environment here: <https://www.renewpetalumaugb.org/4-reasons-to-support-ugbs>

Yes on Measure Y renews the existing Petaluma UGB boundaries as-is for another 25 years!

Thank you so much for supporting the Sierra Club and taking action!

DONATE TO THE SIERRA CLUB REDWOOD CHAPTER HERE

https://act.sierraclub.org/donate/rc_connect_campaign_designform?id=7010Z000001OreCOAS&form=00P0Z00000qIMsUUUAU



The Problem with “Reusable” Plastic Bags

A Survey On The Bags Customers Use At Grocery Stores

(Reprinted from the CALPIRG website August 16, 2024: <https://pirg.org/california/resources/the-problem-with-reusable-plastic-bags/>)

From production to disposal, plastic bag waste threatens the environment and our health.

Plastics are primarily made from [fossil fuels](#), so producing plastic bags requires drilling for oil. Extracting and refining fossil fuels to make plastic bags releases [toxicsubstances](#) into the air, including known carcinogens and neurotoxins.

When plastics make it to a landfill, they do not biodegrade, but can [leachtoxicchemicals](#) into the ground, damaging our soil quality and contaminating our groundwater. The plastic bags that don't get to a landfill often end up littering the environment. As plastic breaks down in the environment, it breaks into smaller pieces called microplastics. Microplastics are now found nearly everywhere, from the top of [Mt. Everest](#) to the bottom of the [Mariana Trench](#) and even inside our [bodies](#).

Californians know plastic bag waste is bad. That's why the California State Legislature voted to ban plastic bags in 2014 with Senate Bill 270, and Californians defended that ban at the [ballotboxin2016](#), winning by nearly 6 points.

Unfortunately, the law banning plastic bags allowed grocery stores to still provide plastic bags so long as they are recyclable and reusable. The plastic industry exploited the law and started mass-producing slightly thicker plastic bags that they claim

are reusable and recyclable. But the reality is that most of these bags are not reused or recycled statewide.

In fact, the [LosAngelesTimes](#) reached out to municipal and city recycling centers around the state and was unable to find a single one that accepts them. CalRecycle even told [TheTimes](#), “Plastic bags aren't

photos below), our survey shows that few people are actually reusing them. Rather, these plastic bags are likely being thrown out after only one more use, often as trash can liners, or ending up immediately in our waste stream. According to state waste data, plastic bag waste by weight has soared to an all-time high. In 2021 alone, Californians threw away over [231,000tonsofplasticbags](#).

To address this issue, the legislature is considering two identical bills, Senate Bill 1053 and Assembly Bill 2236, that would fix this problem by banning the sale of plastic bags at grocery store checkout and allowing only recycled paper bags to be provided with a fee.

With these bills, California has the power to amend the law to achieve what voters have indicated they wanted since 2016: plastic bag-free checkout lanes. Given that California is the most populous state in the nation, cutting plastic grocery bags in the state will significantly reduce the flow of plastic waste into our environment and curtail the need to create more plastic. Nothing that we use for a few minutes should pollute the environment for centuries.

Fiona [Hines](#)

Legislative Advocate, CALPIRG



Photo by Staff/TPIN

recycled on a large scale in California.”

In 2024, CALPIRG conducted a survey of the types of bags customers carry into and out of grocery stores. We conducted this survey at 13 stores in 6 California cities, surveying more than 530 grocery store patrons. We found that despite plastic bag producers' advertising that their bags are reusable, few customers seem to be reusing these plastic bags at grocery stores.

Only about 2% of the observed patrons visibly carried plastic bags into the grocery store to use for their grocery shopping.

The survey data suggests that the intent of SB 270, to reduce plastic pollution, has been lost. Although the plastic industry advertises their bags as reusable up to 125 times (see



Sierra Club Group & Chapter Elections

Ballots must be received by December 31, 2024

It's that time of year again. Sierra Club's elections for members of the Chapter and local Group Executive Committees are here!

In the following pages you will find candidate statements for many of those seeking open seats. In addition to our paper ballot located on the next-to-last page of this newsletter, we are offering an **online voting system** through the Sierra Club website. To vote online, please visit <https://www.sierraclub.org/redwood/redwood-chapter-and-group-elections>

Voting begins Oct. 1, and all votes must be in by Dec. 31. You must be a Sierra Club member to vote.

Chapter ExCom

Jeanne Chinn: I'm currently serving on and a candidate for our Redwood Chapter Executive Committee. I am a SClub member of 42 years and bring decades of environmental activism and professional knowledge.

I've enjoyed backpacking & hiking here and abroad, and whitewater rafting, including volunteer guiding for SClub's SF Inner-City Outings for deaf, blind, disabled, and inner-city teens.

For years, I supported SClub through writing campaigns to friends. Currently I'm chair of our Chapter's Northern California Forest Committee (4+yrs), working w/small landowners & agencies to create resilient forests, oak woodlands, and landscapes in light of past/current abuses, climate change, and wildfires. We're also pressing PG&E to stop destructive tree removals and comprehensively update their antiquated overhead infrastructure.

I have an MS in Environmental Management from USF. While working at CDFW, I was a facilitator, and member of several working groups: Statewide Phytophthora, Wood for Salmon, Mar-

bled Murrelet Zone 6, and Strategic Planning. Program positions included Habitat Conservation-CESA, Natural Community Conservation Planning, liaison to the SFPUC, and Timber Conservation.

Working at the Resource Renewal Institute under former CA Secretary of Resources, Huey Johnson, I monitored global sustainability efforts, worked w/New Zealand's Resource Management Act creator, had discussions in The Netherlands with their Environmental Ministers of Strategy, and facilitated round table discussions at the NYC UN Commission for Sustainability.

I created a wolf education program, lecturing at universities, land trusts, high schools, and Yosemite ranger campfires. As a Board member of The Wildlife Society, I served as Chair on the Conservation Affairs Committee.

Neil Hancock: I've been active with environmental issues since moving to Sonoma County in 1995. This has included turning up at meetings to advocate for more walkable and bikeable streets (Active Transportation). Walking, rolling, and cycling safety are often forgotten in the complexity of building roads – yet it often does not take much to add safety features in the planning stage. Making it enjoyable to be active locally, and get to public transport, helps to reduce the amount of pollution we cause with our gas-guzzling vehicles.

Professionally as a software engineer, I worked in the field of remote stream monitoring and supporting the work of others in monitoring the health of our streams and rivers. This has brought me into advocating for the endangered fish species that are still surviving in our streams, and the ecological integrity of our rivers. They are the indicator of the health of a hidden world. It has been a joy to donate some land to complete a walking trail behind our house along the

upper Laguna da Santa Rosa, that is now well used by the local community.

I have volunteered as a member of the Cotati Planning Commission for over 14 years, attempting to influence a more environmentally sensitive way of being, though it's a tough balancing act and more needs to be done. A lifetime member of the Sierra Club, I have appreciated the opportunity to volunteer with several local environmental groups, and I would welcome the opportunity to serve on the Ex-Comm.

Peter Hess: Raised on eighty wild acres in Lake County, California, I became an ecologically conscious land steward at an early age. I was educated at Oxford University and the Graduate Theological Union in Berkeley. My doctoral work examined how humans, both historically and in present time, interact with nature, and for three decades I taught university courses in environmental ethics and history. I have published articles and book chapters on sustainability, most recently in *Climate Abandoned* (2019) on the loss of polar ice. I have lectured in Europe, Africa, Argentina, Australia and numerous cities in the United States.

My academic career is balanced by activism in support of the ecological well-being of Northern California's Coast Range. The Valley Wildfire that burned our family home in 2015 forced me to reexamine the age-old question of how humans engage with nature. How can we work *with*, instead of *against* climate-related risks like wildfires, floods, landslides, etc.?

Interested in regenerating indigenous habitats, I serve as an educator in teaching the return of "good fire" to the land. I co-founded the Lake County Prescribed Burning Association, which enjoys a close collaboration with the Tribal

Candidate Statements *(cont'd from page 6)*

Peter Hess, cont'd

EcoRestoration Alliance of the Pomo people of Robinson Rancheria in Upper Lake. Our EcoCultural Fire Crew brings together a wide diversity of people to restore cultural burning as an ecological practice. I'm a member of the SClub Redwood Chapter's Forest Committee and of the SC National Committee that developed a policy statement endorsing the use of fire as a management practice.

Maya Khosla: After attending inspiring discussions at an in-person Redwood Chapter meeting, I joined the Sierra Club with a renewed understanding that voices can speak together, effectively, for wild places experiencing changes—including all the elements of climate change we are witnessing in California and beyond. My recent work in Sierra Club includes serving on the National Task Force formulating the policy for Prescribed Fire (accepted as policy) and currently serving on the National Task Force formulating the policy on Forest Biomass Energy. As a State Forest Committee member, I have been part of collaborative efforts including drafting a [Forest Biomass Resolution](#) starting in 2023, completed in early 2024. The Resolution was voted in by the California Conservation Committee (CCC) and the Council of Club Leaders (CCL). As an active member of the Sonoma community, I served as [Sonoma County's tenth Poet Laureate](#) starting in 2018, giving me opportunities to bring students, audiences, and fellow writers together in a series of field walks and writing workshops during and after the recent wildfires. I am also part of an all-volunteer organization called SOCOCAN! ([Sonoma County Climate Activist Network](#), a network of 50 organizations and 200 individuals). More informally, I have joined and led field trips with Sierra Club members hiking locally in Sonoma and across the State, and worked on my own [writing](#), [film](#), and outdoor explorations. Realizing

that the Sierra Club holds the collective environmental wisdom of decades, I am honored to serve as a member, to continue working with you all.

Dan Mayhew: I am pleased to submit my name in nomination for election to my second term as an At Large member of the Redwood Chapter ExCom. I am also in my third year as a member of the Sonoma Group ExCom. I'm currently a member of several SCC Committees to include Conservation, the 30x30 Task Force and Forest Committee. I'm also a member of several Grassroots teams: the Wildlands Team and BLM Wilderness and Recreation Issues sub-teams and the Water Sentinels Western Waters and Colorado River Task Force.

I'm currently serving in my first year as Chair of the Redwood Chapter after serving as Vice-Chair and Acting-Chair in 2023. Continuously expanding my knowledge of our issues, developing relationships and supporting the teams and members of Redwood Chapter has been an amazing and rewarding experience. I learn something or meet someone new every day.

2025 presents countless issues and work to do. Offsetting climate change, 30x30, water issues and SLR, forest preservation, UGB threats and sprawl developments, transportation, clean energy and offshore wind, dam removal and habitat restoration to name a few.

Within the Chapter, hiring a full-time Director, support for our outstanding Groups and Committees, leadership and member recruitment, fundraising, newsletters and social media. With so much to do, it is my hope to be able to continue serving in my current role and doing whatever I can to preserve and protect the people and lands of the Redwood Chapter.

Teri Shore: As an active and longtime Sierra Club volunteer, I am running to serve on the Redwood Chapter Execu-

tive Committee to partner with other North Bay leaders and members to fulfill Sierra Club's mission to "explore, enjoy and protect the planet." We are tackling many environmental issues from climate change and forest protection to clean energy and expanding national monuments and wilderness areas. Together, with such an amazing brain trust among us, we can win strong land use policies, conserve lands and waters to achieve 30 X 30 goals, and elect environmental candidates. We can stop the harm by fighting back against sprawl development, preventing commercial biomass and curbing threats to our coast from offshore wind and industrial ports. Let's also connect by hiking and enjoying the spectacular open space, parks, and wilderness areas in the Redwood Chapter.

Currently I serve as Conservation Chair of the Redwood Chapter, on the Executive Committee of the Sonoma Group and as Vice Chair of the CA/NV Wilderness Team. Previously, I was Chair of the Sonoma Group. For 20 years from 1997 to 2017, I led Sierra Club backpack trips for the San Francisco Bay Chapter. My career spanned three decades as an environmental advocate for Greenbelt Alliance, Turtle Island Restoration Network, and Friends of the Earth where I championed winning campaigns to protect the natural world. I've lived in Sonoma Valley for 35 years. A slightly dated interview with me appears on our website here <https://www.sierraclub.org/redwood/terishore>

Lake Group

Eliot Hurwitz: I have been honored to participate in the Lake Group ExCom for this past cycle and hope to continue. My current position is as Executive Director of the Seigler Spring Community Redevelopment Association (SSCRA), a local

Cont'd on page 8

Candidate Statements *(cont'd from page 7)*

Eliot Hurwitz, cont'd

501(c)3 company formed in the aftermath of the 2015 Valley Fire that devastated South Lake County. I was the first chairman of the Cobb Area Council, established in 2016 and have served on the Socioeconomic Subcommittee of the Blue Ribbon Committee for the Rehabilitation of Clear Lake. I am currently on the Local Area Plan Advisory Committee. Over the past 9 years, SSCRA has brought over a million dollars in federal, state and foundation funding for programs in the Cobb Area focused on Fire resilience, watershed protection and grassroots community building. My work in this area was preceded by a career in environmental and development policy at the Federal, state and local level. I worked for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration in Washington DC from 1991 to 2000 on policies and programs related to coastal ecosystems and sustainable development. From 2000-2003, I worked at the Bay Conservation and Development Commission (BCDC) in San Francisco on interagency cooperation related to sustainable community development policy. From 2003-2015, I worked at the Napa County Transportation and Planning Agency to build partnerships among five cities and the County on development related to housing, transportation and overall development. My priorities serving in the Sierra Club are building effective local collaborative programs, especially building working relationships with local Tribes.

Ed Robey: I have been a member of the Lake County Group Executive Committee for many years and humbly ask for the honor of serving for another term.

JoAnn Saccato: I have been a Sierra Club member for numerous years, and have served on the Lake Group Executive

Committee as secretary since 2020. I hold a self-designed masters degree in Co-creating Sustainable Futures and currently work on elevating health and equity in a statewide project for the California Health Collaborative. I'm a certified mindfulness teacher and enjoy hiking, backpacking, and solitude in nature. As climate crisis and environmental collapse quickens, I feel it imperative to take more action to help slow, if not reverse, these trends. I've chosen to focus on bringing whatever skills and talents I can to our local Sierra Club Lake Group efforts as my contribution. I appreciate your consideration.

North Group

Dana Utman: To all my fellow Sierra Club members, I am excited once again to work on your behalf in the North Group. I have enjoyed the past two years as a member of the board and learned that there is always more to do, and always more to learn.

To those who don't know me, allow me to introduce myself. I have been a Sierra Club board member for the past two years. I am a father of three with four grandchildren. I write a monthly climate change article for the local paper. I worked for the California State Parks for six years, which included being a park interpreter, and I am a certified interpretive guide. I was a branch president, vice-president, steward and California district officer for the National Association of Letter Carriers while delivering mail for 34 years. During that period I co-directed the City of Arcata's Homeless Task Force. I graduated from Humboldt State University, now called Cal Poly Humboldt, with a degree in Resource Planning and Interpretation. While attending university, I co-directed a Youth Educational Service's program on campus called 5H. My favorite past-time is outdoor photography.

The Northcoast is a beautiful and scenic area that has many estuaries, rivers and forests that are being impacted by human activity, climate change and sea level rise. I would like to continue my work to protect these areas and help make a difference. I would appreciate your vote.

Solano Group

Jim DeKloe: I am a life member of the Sierra Club and I served as Chair of the Executive Committee of the Solano Group in the 1990s. I'm a biologist and I became active in the leadership of the Sierra Club to advocate for preservation of wildlife habitat, open space, and agricultural land. I teach biology and biotechnology at Solano Community College. For the last four decades, Solano County has responded to the tremendous pressure of the Bay Area's urban sprawl by passing the Orderly Growth Initiative that limits development to inside of the seven cities of Solano County, and by placing urban growth boundaries around several of the cities.

Now the farmlands, open space, and wildlife habitat of Solano County are under the greatest threat in our history. A group of Silicon Valley billionaires secretly bought over 50,000 acres of the best protected farmland in California for \$900 million and propose to build a new City of 400,000 people (doubling the population of the county). If successful, this effort would represent a privatization of urban planning by land speculators and they would like to use it as a model elsewhere. Recent reports indicate that this plan would cost the County \$10 million per year and would threaten the mission of Travis Air Force Base, our largest employer. The project threatens dryland farming, vernal pools, native grasslands, and marshes. I would like to rejoin the Executive Committee to help guide the Sierra Club in the fight against this unethical and damaging project.

Candidate Statements *(cont'd from page 8)*

Joe Feller: My name is Joe Feller and I am running for election to the Executive Committee for Solano County Group. I was a member of the ExCom for 12 years and have served as chair of the Group.

While it has been my honor to act as past chair for 8 years, I believe that the challenges of the future will be greater than we have ever faced. While we have fought and won against the Orcem cement factory, stopped a potential coal terminal in Vallejo and forestalled the California Forever project, we have a more arduous future.

Under our leadership, I hope to enter a new era of environmental activism by stopping the development of Open Space on Mare Island, pumping carbon into Suisun Marsh, and getting all schoolchildren into open space. We will also honor our twenty-eight year commitment to the SF Bay Flyway Festival and an environmental Earth Day effort in our communities.

If you support this platform please vote for myself, Myrna Hayes, Gordon McMahon and Belinda Seidemann. A safe and healthy environment is our goal, not destroying our open space for out of town developers.

Bonnie Hamilton: I serve on the Executive Committee of the Sierra Club Solano Group and would be honored to continue in that role. I've been a Sierra Club member for as long as I can remember, and I'm deeply engaged in local, state and federal climate action and environmental policy.

I trained as a Climate Reality Leader in 2017 in Pittsburgh PA with former Vice-President Al Gore. The training was life-altering and made it undeniably clear that we need to change the trajectory we are on for ourselves and for future generations. I serve on the Leadership Team of the Climate Reality Bay Area Chapter as Local and State Policy Action Co-chair and was Chapter Co-chair in 2022. I lead a Solano Climate Policy Action Team as

part of CRBA, that I established in 2019. I also serve on the Board of Sustainable Solano.

I'm a pediatrician and practice in Solano County. I serve on the Napa-Solano Medical Society Board, am a delegate to the California Medical Association and serve on their Council on Legislation. I work with other physicians to bring the issue of the climate crisis to the forefront of the medical community. I serve on the Board of SF Bay Physicians for Social Responsibility as well as on the Steering Committee of the Medical Society Consortium for Climate and Health. I'm committed to my community, to reversing the climate crisis and to creating a thriving, socially just human presence on our beautiful planet Earth. I ask for your vote.

Myrna Hayes: Forty years ago I moved from Chico to the Bay Area for the cool weather and abundant public access to National and local parklands and seashores. Like many residents of Solano County, I came here for affordable housing. The trade-off was a shortage of public access to nature, I assumed was everywhere in the Bay. In 1994, I was smitten by Mare Island's majestic natural beauty, history and scenic vistas of 7 Bay Area counties, surrounded by the San Pablo Bay, Carquinez Strait and Napa River. In 1996, we teamed together with Sierra Club and others to host the San Francisco Bay Flyway Festival. Our Wildlife and Birding Expo and guided nature and history tours on the Island opened up this wildland to you, along with dozens of guided outings in Solano and surrounding counties. This annual event led us in partnership, to open two wildlands hiking parks open daily to you on Mare Island.

Now, another billionaire threatens our south county anchorage of nature and open space championed for nearly 30 years by Solano Group members. Distressingly, after steadfast grassroots

support, Solano Group ExCom has pivoted its decades long backing, away from providing support for our effort to protect endangered species habitat, wetlands, vast oak woodlands and beautiful shorelines on Mare Island, and our Flyway Festival. I am certain you will join me with your vote, to assure continued grassroots support for access and protection of Mare Island open space and continued support of our Flyway Festival, co-founded by Solano Group.

Gordon McMahon: Much of Solano County's remaining open space is threatened by ill-advised real estate development. A prime example, of course, is the stalled but still pending "California Forever" project. Yet another current example of open space under threat is occurring at the south end of Mare Island in Vallejo; on land presently zoned as "Parks, Recreation, & Open Space" in the Vallejo General Plan; and on land designated as "Open Space" in the City of Vallejo's "Mare Island Specific Plan."

The Golf Course site features spectacular views, it's valuable land for a real estate developer planning to fill the site with high end housing for affluent buyers, those who can afford the view. I submit Mare Island should not lose, nearly half of its present open space, for no reason other than to accommodate the pecuniary interests of a real estate developer.

For the Mare Island developer to achieve its Golf Course site housing ambitions, rezoning is required. Instead of preparing and proposing its own modifications to its General and Mare Island specific plans, it appears the City of Vallejo decided to delegate this essential task to the developer. Which seems a bit like permitting a fox, although with a pious countenance, to take charge of the chicken house! Vigilant Sierra Club oversight is essential in Vallejo, and anywhere else

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Candidate Statements (cont'd from page 9)

Gordon McMahon, cont'd

in Solano County, where it appears certain officials may have cozied up to anti-environmental interests.

If you agree, please vote for myself; Gordon McMahon; Joe Feller; Myrna Hayes; and Belinda Seidemann.

Belinda Seidemann: My name is Belinda Seidemann and it's an honor to be running for election to the Executive Committee for Solano County Group. I have been a resident of Solano County for the past twelve years.

Vallejo, Solano's largest city, requires steady support of a healthy and safe environment for its underserved population. My efforts to assist my community include creating some of the key photographs used in publicizing the fight against the Orem cement plant, writing commentary regarding the closure of The Mare Island Shoreline Heritage Preserve and serving as campaign chair for current Mayor Robert McConnell. I am a member of the Mare Island Historic Park Foundation, in training as a docent.

In September 2023, I initiated a "Stroll In the Park" to introduce Christopher Cabaldon our outstanding candidate for State Senate District 3 to our community and to make him aware of our "urban wildlands" the Mare Island Shoreline Heritage Preserve and the adjacent Historic Mare Island Golf Course.

Currently I've been working with a group of Vallejo residents planning a response to a developers bid to change the Open Space zoning of the Historic Mare Island Golf Course.

The careful work Joe Feller as past chair of the Solano County Group and the work of Myrna Hayes, creator and producer of the Bay Area Flyway Festival and the Mare Island Shoreline Heritage Preserve to foster awareness of our beau-

tiful urban wildlands, and Gordon McMahon an ardent supporter of Open Space inspire my efforts.

Paul Theiss: My first contact with the Sierra Club was at age 15 when I purchased *Starr's Guide to the John Muir Trail and the High Sierra*. I still drink from a Sierra Club cup. I live in Vallejo and roam our hills and shorelines.

I have served two years with a special emphasis on affordable housing in accord with the Club's Housing Policy and Jemez Principles for Democratic Organizing. The Principles are: *Be Inclusive; Organize from the Bottom Up; Let People Speak for Themselves; Work Together in Solidarity and Mutuality; Build Just Relationships Among Ourselves; and Commit to Self-Transformation*. I gain Solano Group approval in a collaborative process before advocating publicly for the Club.

I helped the Club's Highway 37 Working Group's efforts on equitable tolling, traffic mitigation and wetlands protection. The Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) responded to the Club's advocacy and modified its plans, which now include enhancing more than 10,000 acres of threatened San Pablo Bay wetlands.

I have represented the Club before the MTC's Highway 37 Policy Committee, the California State Housing and Community Development Agency, the Solano County Community Action Partnership, the Solano Working Families Coalition, the Napa-Solano California Jobs First Subregional Table, and the City of Vallejo.

I'm currently working with others on affordable housing within existing city limits, renter protections, and the preservation and extension of the Mare Island Preserve.

I am grateful for the support of Sierra Club Solano members Quinton Craw-

ford, Bonnie Hamilton, James DeKloe, Riitta DeAnda, Marilyn Farley, and Duane Kromm.

Sonoma Group

Shirley Johnson: I have been a Sierra Club Member since 2003. I will serve the Sonoma Group and Sierra Club as a whole with as much energy as I can muster.

It has been a long haul serving in various roles for our group and chapter for nearly two decades.

My journey began with an internship for Friends of SMART in 2003 for college credit. I was starting my second career at college with environmental an undergrad and then graduate degree. I reported to Steve at the Environmental Center when we were downtown Santa Rosa (remember)?

There I met Veronica who was the Climate and Energy Chair; she was also running for public office. Somehow, she wrangled me into Co-chairing the committee—we do that a lot. I don't regret one minute of it. From that time on, I've been up to my ears in Sierra Club this and Sierra Club that. Am I whining?

I would if it didn't seem petty because:

The people I work with for a better tomorrow are tirelessly striving—to enjoy, protect, and advocate for our planet.

Tom Conlon: *We the People* of the Sierra Club work tirelessly to hold our leaders accountable. For every small victory we win (e.g., banning gas stations or fossil-gas construction, new funding for quick-build bike/ped fixes, CEQA and public trust lawsuits, etc.) it seems we get forced back a step by exercises of raw power, or increasingly sophisticated greenwashing campaigns. Inertia often arises from well-meaning but

Candidate Statements

(cont'd from page 10)

Tom Conlon, cont'd

outdated thinking. But sometimes accommodationist views find their way inside our own Club committees. This can lead us to take no position on endorsement matters where our policies are clear and our voice should be making a difference. This can be demoralizing, but generational change and climate reckoning are all around us. Even our adversaries know the center cannot hold.

"Power concedes nothing without a demand. It never did and it never will." - Frederick Douglass, 1857

An applied anthropologist and energy consultant, I have worked on organic farming, social justice, energy efficiency, and climate issues for over 40 years. At the state-level, I support the Sierra Club CA Energy & Climate, Agriculture, and Forest Committees. Locally I am active on the Sonoma Group Political and Executive Committees, and liaison to the Redwood Chapter Executive Committee. I am Vice Chair of the City of Sonoma's Climate Action Commission, serve on the Sonoma County Transportation Authority Citizens Advisory Committee, and was just reappointed to the Regional Climate Protection Authority's Climate Action Advisory Committee.

I would be honored to continue to serve, and humbly ask for your vote.

Chapter ExCom

Vote for four

- Jeanne Chinn
- Neil Hancock
- Peter Hess
- Maya Khosla
- Dan Mayhew
- Teri Shore

Lake ExCom

Vote for three

- Eliot Hurwitz
- Ed Robey
- JoAnn Saccato

North ExCom

Vote for one

- Dana Utman

Solano ExCom

Vote for four

- Quinton Crawford
- Jim DeKloe
- Joe Feller
- Bonnie Hamilton
- Myrna Hayes
- Gordon McMahon
- Belinda Seideman
- Paul Theiss

Sonoma ExCom

Vote for two

- Tom Conlon
- Shirley Johnson

Note: Mendocino and Napa Groups did not submit candidates for the election.

Please mark your choices for Redwood Chapter and your local group executive committee on the ballot above and mail to:

Redwood Chapter Sierra Club, PO Box 466, Santa Rosa, CA 95402

Or save paper and postage by casting your ballot electronically at:

<https://www.sierraclub.org/redwood/redwood-chapter-and-group-elections>



SIERRA CLUB

BAY ALIVE

Part two of the "Shape the Bay's Future Now! A Two-Part Series on the upcoming Regional Shoreline Adaptation Plan" — Wed, Oct 9, 2024; 7:00 PM - 8:30 PM (Pacific)

Now's your chance to protect our Bay from sea level rise! The public draft of the Regional Shoreline Adaptation Plan (RSAP) is expected on September 16.

Capitalize on this unprecedented opportunity to help shape how our entire region prepares for sea level rise! Join the Bay Alive Campaign at 7pm on October 9 for Part 2 of our webinar series on the RSAP. We'll discuss what's in the draft, how it can better prioritize nature-based solutions for community resilience, and how you can be equipped to deliver an impactful public comment to the Bay Conservation and Development Commission (BCDC).

Register for the second part of the series here: <https://bit.ly/3zni2Hj>

Watch the first part of the series here: <https://www.sierraclub.org/sf-bay-alive/educational-programs-1>

Redwood Needles

Sierra Club

Redwood Chapter

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Volunteer with Us!

NEW MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE—COME JOIN US!

We're seeking committee members who want to help recruit new members and volunteers and invite them into the Chapter. Committee members will help current members, Theresa Ryan and Elayna Trucker, build the committee and put into place policies that will make all new members feel welcomed, informed, and ready to help with this important work.

As the committee grows, we hope members will help with tabling and other recruitment events, as well as host regular orientation and onboarding meetings. We're especially looking for members who have worked within the Sierra Club framework for some time, but all assistance is welcome! Please reach out to us at redwoodmembership@gmail.com.

COMPLIANCE OFFICER

Redwood Chapter needs to recruit a Compliance Officer to help our political program follow Sierra Club rules and state and local law. Working closely with the Political Chair and other volunteer leaders, the Compliance Officer needs to be willing to become familiar with the latest version of the Political Compliance Guidelines prepared by the national Sierra Club political team, as well as any local ordinances in any of the chapter's nine counties that may restrict our political work. Familiarity with state election law would also be helpful though the state compliance officer can be relied up to provide guidance on that subject.

Time commitment depends on issues that may arise, but is ordinarily very slight. A full job description is available on the chapter website, at <https://www.sierraclub.org/redwood/help-wanted>. Chapter Political Chair Victoria Brandon is also glad to answer questions: feel free to call her at 707.994.1931 or to send an email to vbrandon95457@gmail.com.

OUTINGS CHAIR

We're looking for a committed, well-organized person to provide direction and oversight to the chapter outings program -- it is NOT necessary to be an Outings Leader to fill this crucial role. Work to make outdoor activities an integrated and vital element of chapter efforts. Responsibilities include ensuring all chapter and group outings follow Club policies and procedures, officially approving all outings, taking responsibility for publicizing outings in the Redwood Needles and elsewhere, and ensuring that active leaders meet training and first-aid certification requirements. *Estimated Time Commitment: 5 hours a month and up.*

Interested? Contact Chapter Chair Dan Mayhew at drmayhew356@gmail.com to find out more.