

# Sierra Club YODELER

THE NEWSPAPER OF THE SAN FRANCISCO BAY CHAPTER ♦ WINTER 2024-25



- ♦ SF SUES EPA, RISKS CLEAN WATER ACROSS THE NATION ♦
- ♦ NUCLEAR ENERGY ISN'T ALL IT'S CRACKED UP TO BE ♦
- ♦ PLANNING FOR SEA LEVEL RISE: THE FUTURE IS IN OUR HANDS ♦
- ♦ ELECTION SEASON IS HERE – GET OUT THE VOTE! ♦

## LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

As autumn settles on the Bay Area in fits and starts, between the fog and the heat waves, I'm reminded that this is one of my favorite times of year. It is a time of great transition; the days noticeably shorten, the morning air grows crisp, and we are drawn to warmth and light. Of course, transition also brings uncertainty. With a major election and several critical environmental items on the ballot, this is a decisive environmental moment, and I'm sure I'm not the only one feeling both optimism and anxiety around what November may bring.



This makes me all the more proud of the role that the San Francisco Bay Chapter is playing on the local and national level. Over the past few months, the Chapter has worked in close collaboration with community and coalition partners to call on San Francisco to stop its reckless lawsuit against the EPA - a lawsuit that was heard by the Supreme Court in mid-October. Through petitions, rallies, public comment, and press strategies, we helped draw local and national attention to the lawsuit and its risk to the Clean Water Act across the country. Read more about those efforts on page 8 and see how you can get involved with whatever happens next.

One of the most important things you can do this season is **VOTE** — in your local election, of course, but also for our Chapter and Group Executive Committees. The Sierra Club is a volunteer-led democratic institution, with leaders voted in by our membership. Yet, historically, typically just 2-4 percent of our members vote in the Chapter election. That means a small number of our members have an outsize voice in who leads our Chapter. Voting in our election is a critical way to make your voice and values heard!

I'm thrilled we have a strong group of candidates running for your Group and Chapter leadership roles this year. Hear from the candidates directly on pages 11-30, and learn what they'd like to bring to the Bay Chapter. Then, fill out the paper ballot on the back page, or look for the digital ballot available online starting November 11th, and submit it as soon as you can! Our Chapter elections run from November 11th to December 11th, with results announced in late December.

I wanted to end with this final thought: I had the great pleasure of spending Labor Day Weekend backpacking with my family in the Golden Gate National Recreation Area, a place that wouldn't exist without the advocacy of SF Bay Chapter members. I found myself reflecting, as I often do, on just how much good we can do when we show up and make ourselves heard. I'm looking forward to seeing what our Chapter takes up next.

Wishing you and yours a restorative changing of the seasons,

Sarah Ranney  
CHAPTER DIRECTOR

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# Sierra Club YODELER

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### Address Changes

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### Cover Photo

Under a hazy sky, a juvenile Egret extends a toe to find the surface of the glass-like water. Photo by Richard Rainbow Pavak. Website: [pbase.com/shenmaker](http://pbase.com/shenmaker)



# WINTER 24-25 CHAPTER NEWS

## Endorsements Out Now

Election season is here, and this is a very important moment to get out there and vote. Our climate, our communities, and our rights are on the line, and the Sierra Club is here to help you choose the candidates and ballot measures that will keep people and the environment the priority from the local level on up. We take endorsements very seriously, and the SF Bay Chapter is responsible for endorsing candidates at every level of our region. To find out more about our endorsement process and to see our updated endorsements as they roll in, please visit our endorsements webpage at [sierraclub.org/sfbay/november-2024-endorsements](https://sierraclub.org/sfbay/november-2024-endorsements).



## An Indirect Source Rule Means Clean Air for All

The fight for an Indirect Source Rule at the Bay Area Air Quality Management District (BAAQMD) continues! A new report from UC Irvine explored existing ISR and environmental justice policy and analyzed the socioeconomic impacts and trends of trucking and its air emissions impacts. It is clear that we still have more to do to achieve clean air in our communities. We're working with partners to build a coalition to ensure that

BAAQMD continues progress on these regulations— they are an important tool to protect communities from the pollution that warehouses, ports, railyards, and more bring in. Interested in clear air and lowering pollution levels in already overburdened communities? Reach out to Mars Keith at [mars.keith@sierraclub.org](mailto:mars.keith@sierraclub.org) to get involved.

## It's Time for the Next Industrial Revolution

Did you know that industries like food, beverage, glass, paper, medicine, and clothing rely on fossil fuels to power their manufacturing processes? That's right: so much of manufacturing uses fossil fuel-based heating for things like commercial ovens, water heaters, boilers, and other process heaters that account for about 10 percent of all emissions.

While we've made huge strides in residential heating and cooling, it is now time to start exploring how to reduce emissions from light to medium industry. Thankfully, we have electric options and the agencies to help us transition toward electric manufacturing. South Coast Air Quality Management District in Southern California is already working on rules to clean up heat, and it's time for the Bay Area to get to work as well! Interested in learning more? Check out Sierra Club's campaign launch video at [bit.ly/cleanindustrialrevolution](https://bit.ly/cleanindustrialrevolution) and email Mars Keith at [mars.keith@sierraclub.org](mailto:mars.keith@sierraclub.org) to get involved.

## Shoreline Volunteer Needed

Northern Alameda County Group is looking for volunteers to help a small committee of dedicated shoreline advocates in Oakland, San Leandro and Alameda to lobby for and work on trash and litter reduction in the East Bay.

The new volunteer should be prepared to attend stakeholder meetings every other month (or as often as needed); advocate to City staff, elected officials, and the Regional Water Quality Control Board by writing emails, making phone calls, or attending meetings; and help us advance efforts to clean up our streets, waterways and Bay!

Contact Kent Lewandowski at [kentlewan@gmail.com](mailto:kentlewan@gmail.com) or Pat Lamborn at [patricia.lamborn@aol.com](mailto:patricia.lamborn@aol.com).

## ABOUT THIS CALENDAR

Activities listed here are abbreviated. For full listings, registration, and waivers 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 in 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 [tinyurl.com/outingswaiver](http://tinyurl.com/outingswaiver).

### COVID-19 Protocol

Masks are optional for adults in outdoor areas but required in indoor close quarters such as vehicles, public transport, restaurants, or visitor centers. Vaccinations are not required, so please be aware you may be on trips with unvaccinated individuals. Masks are required at all times for unvaccinated minors. If you are experiencing any possible COVID-19 symptoms, do not attend the outing and contact the outing leader. Report any positive COVID-19 tests after an outing to the outing leader.

### Carpooling

Carpooling helps the environment and allows people without cars to participate. You can arrange carpools on our Meetup group: [meetup.com/sanfranciscobay](http://meetup.com/sanfranciscobay). Outings will be listed there 2 - 3 weeks prior to the event. Masks are required in carpools.

# WINTER 24-25 OUTINGS CALENDAR

## WEEKLY • TUES

**Lake Chabot Reservoir 1A Hike.** Scenic weekly 3-mile hike. Park free on street, \$5 in lot, or annual pass from East Bay Regional Park District. MEET: 4:00 pm at boathouse/cafe. LEADER: Dolores Gruenewald, (510) 798-7897 or [doloresgru@aol.com](mailto:doloresgru@aol.com). (Solo Sierrans)

## WEEKLY • WEDS

**Lafayette Reservoir 1A Hike.** Enjoy the lovely weather while walking around the beautiful reservoir. We have both faster and slower walkers, or you can walk at your own pace. Participants are generally over 50 years of age, and most do not walk during bad weather, when temperatures in Lafayette are above ~85 degrees, or when there is heavy rain. COST: 5 quarters for 1hr, 15 minutes of parking. MEET: 4 pm (**start time changes to 3:30 pm beginning Nov. 6th**) at the west end of the parking area near the picnic tables and permanent bathrooms. LEADER: William Gilbert, [wmgbrt@gmail.com](mailto:wmgbrt@gmail.com). (Solo Sierrans)

## NOV 3 • SUN

**Bike Ride Colma Necropolis.** Of all the special attractions available to people visiting the Bay Area, none is more unusual than its city of souls, San Francisco's necropolis at Colma. This bike tour will take us through a variety of cemeteries where we'll visit the final resting places of both notable and notorious former citizens of San Francisco. Expect to see private mausoleums from the likes of the Hearst and Flood families, massive marble angels, and strange sarcophaguses. Nearby are dead clowns, Alcatraz inmates, Emperor Norton, Joe Dimaggio, Tina Turner's dead dog, and Wyatt Earp. Hear stories of intrigue, quests for power, and all the dirt behind why San Francisco buries its dead in Colma. Only 10 miles, but several steep hills. Helmets are mandatory. Limited to 10 participants. Mandatory sign up on Meetup or contact leader directly. BRING: Water, snacks, patch kit. MEET: 10:30 am at Colma BART. LEADER: Paget Valentzas, (415) 271-2945 or [pagetvalentzas@gmail.com](mailto:pagetvalentzas@gmail.com). (Rainbow Sierrans)

## NOV 10 • SUN

**Nature Easy Morning Hike to Celebrate Veterans Day!** Join us at the Visitor Center parking area at Coyote Hills Regional Park. Lisa Barboza

will be conducting a birdwatching, botany observation and fun day hike in the wonderful Coyote Hills Park, which is right on the eastern edge of San Francisco Bay. The visitor center is fun to visit and there is a butterfly garden. The hike is about 4 miles in length, and will gain about 200 feet. We will be making frequent stops to observe migratory waterfowl, and other birds, as well as the local botany. We will also be respecting the indigenous people inhabitants of this area, the Ohlone Muwekma Tribe. This event is open to Veterans and their families, and any other members of the public who wish to attend. We will be honoring Veterans service to our great country. **BRING:** Binoculars, a sun hat, clothing appropriate for the weather, water, and snacks. **COST:** \$5 per vehicle entrance fee. **MEET:** 9:00 am at Visitor Center parking area at Coyote Hills Regional Park, Fremont. Look for the Sierra Club green tablecloth. **ENDS:** 1:00 pm. **LEADER:** Lisa Barboza, *lisa.barboza@gmail.com*. (Hiking)

#### NOV 10 • SUN

**Rush Ranch Roundup.** Our 3-mile roundtrip 1A hike begins with a saunter along the Marsh Trail to an overlook along the edge of Suisun Marsh, one of the best remaining examples of a brackish tidal marsh habitat in the United States. Next, we'll put out to pasture on the South Pasture Trail where we will view Patuin (Native American) grinding rocks and enjoy the sights and sounds of autumn in this beautiful open space preserve. Wetlands like Suisun Marsh are valuable wildlife habitat and a critical buffer to protect our communities from sea level rise. After our hike, we'll visit the Solano Land Trust nature center and historic barn. **BRING:** Water and lunch. Bring poles if you normally use them. Wear good hiking footwear. **MEET:** 9:30 am at Rush Ranch Open Space, which is located at 3521 Grizzly Island Road, off Hwy 12, 2 miles south of Suisun City. From I-80 in Fairfield: Take Hwy 12 East toward Rio Vista/Suisun City. Proceed on Hwy 12 approximately 3 miles to the intersection with Grizzly Island Rd (south) and Sunset Ave (north). Turn south (right) on Grizzly Island Rd and proceed approximately 2 miles to ranch entrance on right. We'll meet at the Visitor Center. **ENDS:** 12:00 pm. **LEADER:** Ken Lavin, (925) 852-8778 or *mtdiablohiker@gmail.com*. (Mt. Diablo Group)

#### DEC 6 • FRI

**SF GLOW Light Festival-City Walk.** The ever-popular annual Holiday Lights Hike is having a major face-lift this year. Instead of following our normal route above the Castro, we'll be walking around downtown, joining SF Glow, an outdoor holiday lights art festival. The FREE outdoor holiday event will use high-tech Panasonic projectors and lasers to project large-scale art concepts across the facade of five iconic SF buildings. After our final stop on the SF Glow route, we'll continue on to Union Square, enjoying festivities on the Square and enjoying some of the amazing hotel lobbies and window decorations (Westin St Francis's colossal Sugar Castles, Macys, Maiden Lane etc.) Depending on the mood of the group, there may be some caroling as well. There will be an optional extension up to Nob Hill to see the Gingerbread extravaganza at the Fairmont for those who want a little more cardio. **MEET:** 6:00 pm at Embarcadero Plaza, San Francisco. **LEADER:** Paget Valentzas, (415) 271-2945 or *pagetvalentzas@gmail.com*. (Rainbow Sierrans)

## BECOME AN OUTINGS LEADER

If you enjoy exploring wild lands, meeting new people, and leading adventures for them, you could make a great Sierra Club outings leader!

The Sierra Club's outdoor activities aim to connect all people with the natural world and with the Club. As an outings leader with the San Francisco Bay Chapter, you can join others in exploring wild lands, grappling with conservation issues, and even changing perceptions. Because trips are often specialized around a unique theme or activity, you could be hiking, backpacking, kayaking, bicycling, or doing service work – it's up to you to choose, because you ultimately design and lead your very own trip.

To be an outings leader, you must be a current Sierra Club member, at least 18 years of age, and have completed First Aid training and the Sierra Club Outings Leader Training. You then must choose a current outing leader to act as your mentor and lead your provisional outing with them in attendance. Following the outing, the mentor leader will provide feedback. After a positive evaluation, you will be a full-fledged outings leader and able to lead outings on your own. And then, Happy Trails!

You can choose what type of outing you would like to lead and which activity section you would like to affiliate with. You can find a list and descriptions of our activity sections online at [sierraclub.org/sfbay/activities](http://sierraclub.org/sfbay/activities).

For more information head to [sierraclub.org/sfbay/how-become-outings-leader](http://sierraclub.org/sfbay/how-become-outings-leader).

## DONATE YOUR UNWANTED VEHICLE

Donate your vehicle to support the Sierra Club Foundation's SF Bay Chapter! Not only will your generous donation continue to help us make a difference, but it can also help you qualify for a tax deduction. It's easy, the pick-up is free, and our partners at CARS accept cars, boats, motorcycles, RVs, and more. To get started, visit our website at [scfch.careasy.org](http://scfch.careasy.org) or call (844) 674-3772.

# WINTER 24-25 EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

## Wilderness First Aid in Palo Alto

SAT, DEC 7 - SUN, DEC 8  
8 AM - 5 PM

Location: Peninsula Conservation Center, 3921 East Bayshore Road, Palo Alto



Learn how to recognize and avoid wilderness hazards and do first aid outdoors with wilderness emergency expert, Stephen Donelan. There is an opportunity for a one-day class to receive the Basic Wilderness First Aid certification of the National Association for Search and Rescue, which is essential knowledge for any frequent backpackers, hikers, or outdoor enthusiasts. You can also sign up for a two-day course and receive the higher-level WFA certification. For more information, go to [wildernessemergencycare.com](http://wildernessemergencycare.com). Certification by the National Association for Search and Rescue is valid for two years and is included in the course fee.

### Registration:

1. Send an email to instructor Steve Donelan at [donelan@sonic.net](mailto:donelan@sonic.net) and CC [lisa.barboza@gmail.com](mailto:lisa.barboza@gmail.com). Steve will email you a schedule and instructions.
2. RSVP online on the Loma Prieta Chapter Calendar at [sierraclub.org/loma-prieta/calendar](http://sierraclub.org/loma-prieta/calendar).

### Fee:

Basic Wilderness First Aid — Saturday only. \$50 for Sierra Club members, \$60 for non-members.  
Wilderness First Aid — Both days. \$80 for Sierra Club members, \$100 for non-members. The second day is highly recommended and covers almost all necessary wilderness first aid skills and scenarios.

**Payment:** Pay the instructor in class. Either cash or a check made out to Steve Donelan are acceptable.

### Textbook:

*Wilderness Emergency Care, Third Edition Revised* by Steve Donelan. Available from NASAR. Older editions of this textbook will also suffice.

### Current Bay Chapter Outings Leaders:

The SF Bay Chapter will pay for your instruction! Please RSVP as normal and email [fristaid@sfbaysc.org](mailto:fristaid@sfbaysc.org). Then, mail a \$50 deposit check (payable to Sierra Club SF Bay Chapter) to: Sierra Club, Attn: WFA, PO Box 2663, Berkeley, CA 94702. This check serves to hold your place in the class. It will be destroyed if you attend the class, but will be cashed if you do not show up. Include your mailing address, email, phone number, and which activities section. Indicate if you will be attending the one- or two-day session. The Chapter will pay for both days.

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## Make a donation to support your local chapter's work here in the SF Bay Area!

\$25    \$50    \$100    \$200    Surprise us! \$ \_\_\_\_\_   Make my gift monthly!

Make your check payable to **Sierra Club SF Bay Chapter**, or use your credit card.

Please select a payment method:  MasterCard    Visa    Discover    AmEx

Credit Card Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. (mm/yy): \_\_\_\_\_

Name on Card: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Contributions to the Sierra Club are not tax-deductible; they support our effective citizen-based advocacy and lobbying efforts.

### Return instructions:

Cut out this card and return it (in an envelope) to:



P.O. Box 2663  
Berkeley, CA 94702

### Donate online:

[sierraclub.org/sfbay/donate](http://sierraclub.org/sfbay/donate)

# Learn to Snowcamp with the Sierra Club!

JANUARY 11, 2025

Different people come to snowcamping for a variety of reasons. Do any of these sound like you?

- You wish the backpacking season didn't end with the first snow.
- You want to learn to build an igloo or snow cave — and sleep in it!
- You are eager to get into the outdoors early in the season when there is still snow in most areas.
- You've had wilderness permits, but the weather has stopped you or made you change your plans.
- You're an experienced backcountry skier who wants to extend your season.
- You're training for higher elevation hikes where snow can be an issue, and you have questions on how to prepare.
- You're afraid that you don't have the appropriate gear for cold weather in the backcountry when it is too cold.
- You want to see our parks in their winter attire.

If any of the above describes you, come join the Bay Chapter's Snowcamping Section for our upcoming 2025 training program. Our snowcamping training is now in its 55th year and has prepared more than 4,000 people to extend their backpacking adventures into the winter months in a safe way. For us, there is no "off" season!

The snowcamping training program includes a full-day in-person orientation (this season on January 11th, 2025) and two mandatory field trips (multiple dates offered). We will give you the basic knowledge you need to prepare for colder nights while outdoors, help you take the right gear to keep you warm and safe, get you ready to handle unforeseen weather and snowy terrain, and teach you to build snow structures as shelters.

Our training is in a group format with leaders who will escort you on field trips (with adult, family, and youth options available). The group experience allows each student to see and experience a variety of techniques and equipment.

PHOTO CREDIT: Tim Surber



## APPLICATIONS:

We began accepting applications on October 15th, 2024. The early-bird application deadline is November 30th, 2024, with a final due date of December 14th, 2024 (at 5:00 pm). Prospective students should be experienced backpackers in good physical shape. A limited number of scholarships are available. Find applications and more information at [snowcamping.org](http://snowcamping.org).



**WHAT WILL YOUR LEGACY BE?**

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

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

**MATT BIELBY**  
[matt.bielby@sierraclub.org](mailto:matt.bielby@sierraclub.org)  
(510) 848-0800 x 321

# SF Lawsuit against the EPA puts the Clean Water Act At Risk; Our Chapter Fights Back

SCOTT WEBB

You may have heard about the curious case of San Francisco suing the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). San Francisco's Mayor Breed and City Attorney David Chiu are suing the EPA over rules about how San Francisco treats its sewage and stormwater before releasing it into the Pacific Ocean.

The case revolves around how the City and County of San Francisco manage the release of untreated sewage into the Pacific Ocean, the San Francisco Bay, neighborhood streets, and nearby waterways during periods of heavy rains. Agencies at every level, the EPA, Cal-EPA, and both state and local water regulatory agencies have repeatedly cited San Francisco over significant sewage releases into neighboring waters, the legacy of an outdated combined system.

The City argues that the EPA's requirements lack certainty, yet those requirements are what have protected our waters from polluters of all kinds for decades. After being caught discharging untreated sewage into the Pacific Ocean, SF sued the EPA on these grounds, subsequently losing their lawsuit in the ninth circuit. Now, San Francisco has taken the reckless move to take this to the Supreme Court, where it was heard on October 16th with a decision expected in June 2025, unless any resolution is reached between SF and the EPA before that time.

This lawsuit is dangerous and City Attorney Chiu knows it, despite claims that the brief filed with the Supreme Court was narrow. The case is not narrow, and even if it was, the current Supreme Court has shown that it will take any available opportunity to push its deregulatory agenda. This Court has actively taken recent litigation opportunities to gut public environmental protections across the nation<sup>1</sup>.

What's more, if San Francisco wins, it could make it much harder for the EPA to enforce clean water standards across the entire country including communities already impacted by mountaintop extraction mining, clear cutting, and climate change-amplified storms. Water is a basic human right and the Sierra Club is committed to protecting and defending clean water everywhere for people to safely drink, fish from, recreate in, and live near.

In response to the lawsuit, the SF Bay Chapter has mounted a public advocacy campaign. Staff and volunteer leaders built a powerful coalition of more than fifty environmental groups and hundreds of Bay Area activists and residents to fight for the Clean Water Act and encourage SF to "clean up its act". Meanwhile, the Sierra Club filed an amicus brief with organizations like Earthjustice, NRDC, SF Baykeeper, Surfrider, and Southern Environmental Law Center. Other amici include the California Attorney General and more than 13 states across the United States.

Over a matter of weeks, the coalition sent out action alerts and brought dozens of people to public comment, spoke with local and national media, and met with elected leaders at the local, state and federal levels. This has resulted in significant pressure, culminating in a resolution passed by the San Francisco Board of Supervisors demanding that the city drop its lawsuit.

But the work doesn't stop there. The preferred outcome would have been for San Francisco to find a resolution with the EPA that kept this from being heard by the Supreme Court on October 16th. Unfortunately, the City Attorney and the Mayor seem set on taking this case all the way. Thankfully, there is still a chance for resolution until the Supreme Court releases its ruling in 2025. Resolution between San Francisco and EPA could mean improved sewage treatment and release, support to update the City's aging infrastructure, and the preservation of the Clean Water Act.

The Sierra Club will continue to advocate for a resolution of that nature, to draw attention to the risks and consequences of this case, and to highlight the communities that will be most affected by a ruling in San Francisco's favor: communities in the Bay Area and around the country who rely on the Clean Water Act's permit controls to ensure access to clean water. Stay informed with the latest developments and ways to get involved on the SF Bay Chapter website at [sierraclub.org/sfbay](https://sierraclub.org/sfbay).

## SOURCES

[1] [sierraclub.org/sierra/supreme-court-overturns-chevron-doctrine-gutting-federal-environmental-protections](https://sierraclub.org/sierra/supreme-court-overturns-chevron-doctrine-gutting-federal-environmental-protections)

Scott Webb is the Vice Chair of the SF Bay Chapter.



# Not-So-Green Nuclear: AVA and MCE Break their Clean Energy Promise

MARS KEITH

In September, Ava Community Energy and MCE (Marin Clean Energy) voted to begin accepting nuclear allotments from PG&E despite Sierra Club members and community partners speaking out against this decision. This shift not only represents a departure from their commitment to truly renewable energy, but also threatens the environmental and safety standards that our communities have fought so hard to uphold.

The Sierra Club opposes this decision, which allows nuclear power from PG&E's Diablo Canyon nuclear plant to be included in the Bright Choice tier, Ava's default energy offer. Many customers, especially those who opted for the Renewable 100 plan, believed their energy was coming from genuinely green sources. Now, not only is it not green, but founding principles of these organizations have been shattered. MCE in particular cited their own core tenet being a commitment to anti-nuclear energy, yet still made the decision to accept a nuclear energy allotment, a choice that could entrench nuclear energy for years to come.

In addition, this decision could disproportionately impact low-income customers, who are less able to switch to

more expensive energy plans. These communities, that suffer the most from environmental degradation, may now bear the burden of nuclear energy's risks without having the resources to opt out. There are also several communities within both jurisdictions that are declared "nuclear-free zones".

Ava and MCE's decision to label nuclear energy as "carbon-free" is misleading. While it's true that nuclear power does not produce direct greenhouse gas emissions during electricity generation, this definition ignores the broader environmental harms caused by the nuclear energy process. From uranium mining, which devastates ecosystems and endangers indigenous communities, to the toxic, long-lasting waste that remains radioactive for thousands of years, nuclear energy poses unacceptable risks to our health, safety, and environment. Not to forget that there are multiple examples of nuclear plant disasters like Three Mile Island, Chernobyl, Fukushima, and many others.

Ava and MCE's decision to accept nuclear energy is not the end of the fight. Together, we can still take action and urge these community energy leaders to reverse course. Our focus must now be on pushing for a future that prioritizes truly clean energy, including advocating for the closure of Diablo Canyon. Let's continue to raise our voices and demand a commitment to sustainable, safe, and renewable solutions.

Would you like to get involved? Email Mars Keith at [mars.keith@sierraclub.org](mailto:mars.keith@sierraclub.org).

Mars Keith is an organizer for the SF Bay Chapter.



Read the earliest issues of the Yodeler online!

GO ALL THE WAY BACK TO THE VERY FIRST YODELER FROM 1939

ON THE SIERRA CLUB COLBY LIBRARY'S INTERNET ARCHIVE AT

[ARCHIVE.ORG/DETAILS/SIERRACLUBLIBRARY](https://archive.org/details/sierraclublibrary)

# The Sea is Rising and So Are We: Sierra Club Bay Alive's Year Long Campaign for Strong Sea Level Rise Planning

CAROLYN CHENG

This fall, we've been taking action to ensure that the Bay Area has robust guidelines to plan for sea level rise that center community and ecosystem well-being. The Bay Conservation and Development Commission (BCDC), an agency that regulates shoreline land use and development activities, is developing its Regional Shoreline Adaptation Plan (RSAP) guidelines, which will be finalized at the end of this year. The RSAP will shape how cities and counties all over the Bay Area plan for sea level rise adaptation for years to come, and we're in the final stages of making sure BCDC gets them right.

Our Bay Alive Committee members have been reviewing the guidelines throughout the process, providing feedback, and meeting with key BCDC Commissioners to make these guidelines as strong as possible. We've identified three main priorities we want to make sure are incorporated:

1. Prioritize the protection of the Bay's shoreline habitats and the use of nature-based solutions, which benefit both ecosystems and communities;
2. Promote equitable solutions and further environmental justice, including addressing how pollutants from contaminated sites along shorelines can spread due to sea level and groundwater rise.
3. Ensure plans are responsive to the uncertainty of future sea level rise.

Our staff and volunteer leaders are working hard to make the RSAP the best it can be before it's too late. On September 11th, Bay Alive hosted a webinar for Sierra Club members and the public to learn about sea level rise, nature-based solutions, our takeaways from the guidelines so far, and our vision for a robust plan, in anticipation of the draft guidelines being released. Days later, BCDC posted the Draft RSAP for public engagement. The Committee got to work identifying the strengths in the guidelines to lift up and the changes necessary to make the plan even stronger. In no small part due to our advocacy, this draft included important language about valuing Bay habitats and ecosystems, using nature-based

solutions to the greatest extent possible, including adaptation pathways in the minimum required standards, incorporating equity requirements into each section of the guidelines, and prioritizing contamination cleanup and avoidance in environmental justice communities.

However, the plan still has room for growth in order to truly and equitably prepare our Bay for sea level rise and its impacts on all fronts. We identified a need to further emphasize the risk of sea level rise to the Bay habitats and ecosystems we depend on, not just our human communities. We also need these plans to consider nature-based solutions before traditional hardscape solutions for all shoreline projects, including housing and transportation in addition to sea flooding control. On top of that, the plan needs to further discuss the risks of groundwater rise and contaminated sites and include an analysis for how that will impact toxicity and the spreading of contaminants. Lastly, the plan needs to create metrics to ensure that all these goals are met and create pathways to respond to the uncertainty of sea level rise.

Building momentum, we hosted a second webinar on October 9th about these takeaways from the public draft and to prepare the larger Sierra Club community and public to submit strong public comments and letters about the RSAP by the public comment deadline of October 18th. We then mobilized our members to show up for the BCDC public hearing on October 17th to speak up and ensure our feedback was incorporated into the final draft of the RSAP.

Now, we have to wait and see. We're expecting the final RSAP guidelines to be released and come to vote in early December. Thank you to Sierra Club members and volunteers for your advocacy throughout this important yearlong process! Visit the campaign at [addup.sierraclub.org/campaigns/sfbayalive](http://addup.sierraclub.org/campaigns/sfbayalive) to stay updated on our advocacy efforts to get a strong RSAP across the finish line for the end of this year.

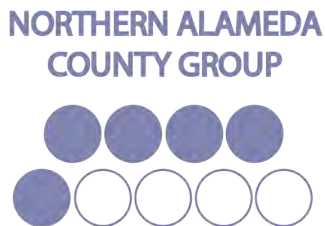
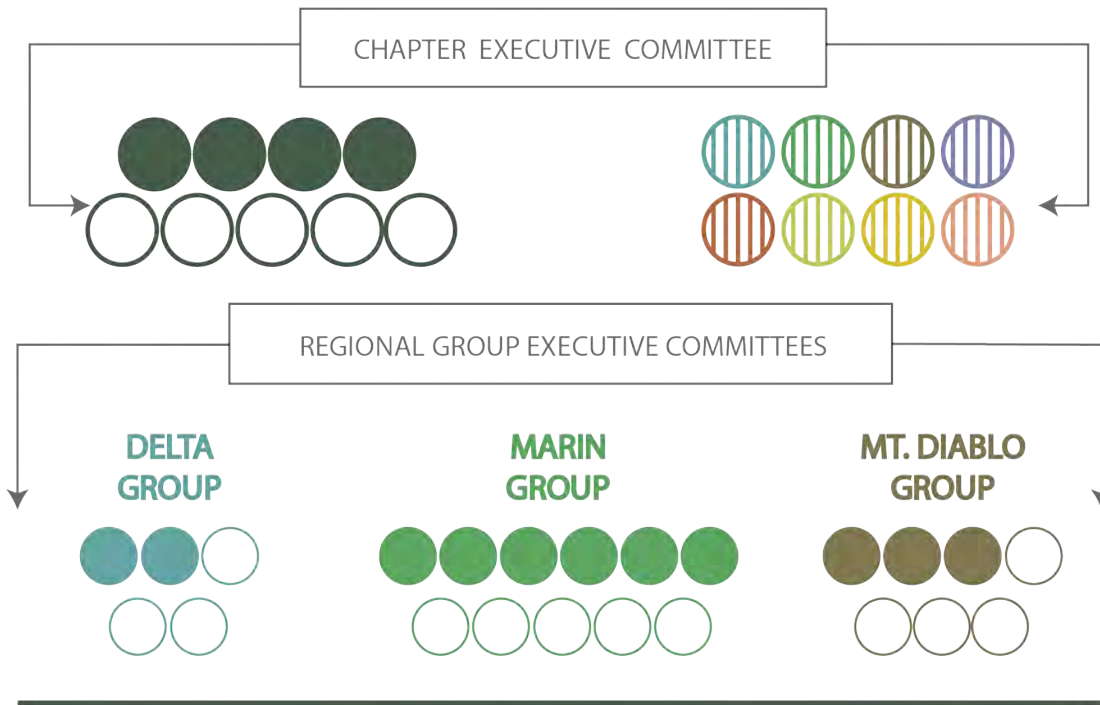
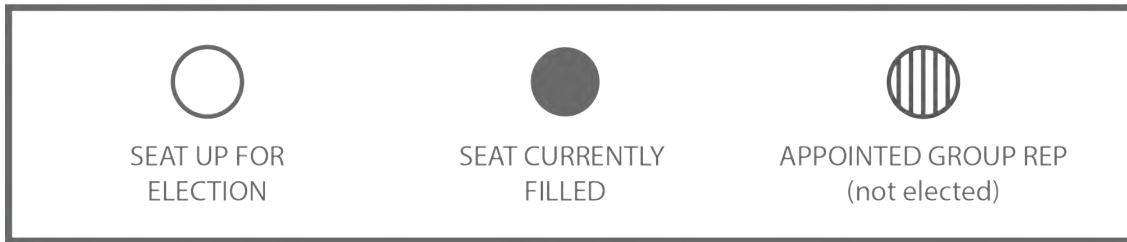
Carolyn Cheng is an organizer for the SF Bay Chapter.



## SUPPORT THE CHAPTER BY GOING SOLAR

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

# Sierra Club San Francisco Bay Chapter and Groups 2024 Elections



VOTING INSTRUCTIONS AND STATEMENTS ON FOLLOWING PAGE

# 2024 CHAPTER ELECTION

## Voting Instructions:

All members of the Sierra Club who live in Alameda, Contra Costa, San Francisco, or Marin Counties, and who were registered as a member of record in the Club database as of November 1st, can — and are encouraged to — vote. Each Bay Chapter member can vote in the Chapter-wide Executive Committee election and in the election for the Executive Committee of their local group (see below for finding your group affiliation).

All ballots must be **received** by Wednesday, December 11th.

Questions? Contact the Chapter office at (510) 848-0800 or email the Elections Committee at [elections@sfbaysc.org](mailto:elections@sfbaysc.org).

### VOTE BY MAIL OR ONLINE:

You may choose to vote by paper ballot or online. If we receive both electronic and paper ballots for the same membership number, only the electronic ballot will be counted.

Your paper ballot is on page 27. Once you have made your selections, cut out the page, place the ballot in a stamped envelope, and mail it to: Ballot Submission, Sierra Club SF Bay Chapter, P.O. Box 2663, Berkeley, CA 94702. Paper ballots sent by fax or email will not be counted. The mailing label printed on the reverse of your ballot, which includes your unique membership number, will indicate it's valid.

The Chapter will also email a link to the online ballot to all members whose email addresses we have on file. If you do not receive this email but wish to vote electronically, go to the Chapter election webpage at [sierraclub.org/sfbay/chapter-elections](http://sierraclub.org/sfbay/chapter-elections).

### WHAT GROUP DO I BELONG TO?

To determine which group you belong to, look at the mailing label on this *Yodeler*. If you are a Bay Chapter member, a three-digit number beginning with "10" should appear in the line above your name, following your eight-digit membership number. This number designates your local group: 100 = No group membership; 102 = Marin; 103 = Mount Diablo; 104 = San Francisco; 105 = Delta; 106 = West Contra Costa County; 107 = Southern Alameda County; 108 = Northern Alameda County; 109 = Tri-Valley.

### WHAT IF I HAVE A JOINT MEMBERSHIP?

Just after your group number, your mailing label also indicates whether your household has a single (SNGL) membership or a joint (JNT) membership. Each section of the ballot has two columns for votes. If you have a single membership, mark only in the

first column. For joint memberships, each member makes their selections in one column. Both members in a joint membership must vote in the same medium (either paper or electronic ballot).

### WHAT CAN "SPOIL" MY BALLOT?

Your ballot will be considered spoiled and will not be counted if:

- you vote in the incorrect group election (spoils group vote);
- you vote for more candidates than the maximum indicated;
- your ballot is illegible; or
- you already cast your ballot online.

## Bylaw Amendments:

*No bylaw amendments for this 2024 election season.*

## Candidate Statements:

*The Chapter Executive Committee candidates are first, then the Groups are listed in alphabetical order. Candidate statements within each section are listed in alphabetical order by last name. Statements appear as written by candidates.*

**\*\*\*Please note that all candidates marked with "P" are petition candidates.\*\*\***

## CHAPTER EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

There are thirteen candidates. You may vote for up to five.

### Eric Brooks

**Residence:** San Francisco  
**Occupation:** Full Time Grassroots Organizer  
**Sierra Club member since:** 1994  
**Contact:** [brookse32@sonic.net](mailto:brookse32@sonic.net)



#### Activities:

- SF Group: Conservation, Housing, Transportation
- Bay Chapter: Water, Energy-Climite, Federal Parks
- California: Energy-Climite, National: Grazing Team

#### Statement:

I've worked four decades as a fulltime grassroots environmental, consumer, and justice organizer for CALPIRG, Sierra Club, Human Rights Campaign, Forests Forever, In Defense of Animals, Our City SF, and I co-coordinate the SF Bay Shoreline Contamination Cleanup Coalition (see [sfbayshorelinecc.org](http://sfbayshorelinecc.org))

I've helped, often as a lead coordinator, to: Save Headwaters old growth redwood forest, block anti-environmental/worker global 'free trade' deals, launch several community clean energy programs and defend them from PG&E attacks, stop a natural gas plant being built in SF's Bayview Hunters Point, defend frontline Environmental Justice communities from dangerous housing development on toxic and radioactive waste sites, stop the pro coal Trump administration and Berkshire Hathaway

taking private fossil fuel industry control over California's publicly managed clean energy-based electricity grid, and win scores of other campaigns.

I am a native Californian, grew up in the Eastern Sierra mountains, and have a deep concern and love for nature, forests, and watersheds to the core of my bones. I spent my childhood in the forests Sierra Club was founded to save, protect and restore.

My top priorities are to:

- Reverse the climate and extinction crisis through local, state and national action for 100% localized clean renewable energy and transportation, and by eliminating destructive, wildlife destroying industrial agriculture.
- Anchor Sierra Club's work in Environmental and Economic Justice. While Sierra Club has made this a priority, it's vital we go beyond words and actually make this change happen. I'll continue to use my work with frontline EJ communities to help make this real.
- Solve the housing crisis by transforming our unused transit-ready urban office space, and tens of thousands of existing vacant housing units, into affordable housing, so we don't generate massive greenhouse gas emissions building new housing with cement, logged trees, and diesel powered construction machines.

## Garen Checkley <sup>P</sup>

**Residence:** San Francisco

**Occupation:** Product Manager

**Sierra Club member since:** 2015

**Contact:** [GarenCheckley@gmail.com](mailto:GarenCheckley@gmail.com)

### Activities:

- Committees
  - SF Bay San Francisco Group Executive Committee Member
  - San Francisco Group Conservation Committee Member
  - Rainbow Sierrans Member
  - San Francisco Group Housing Committee Member
  - San Francisco Group Executive Committee Member
  - San Francisco Group Events and Growth Committee Member
- Outings
  - I also attend and organize outings. My interest is issue-based outings, combining Sierra Club members' love of being outdoors with learning about local issues. To this end I have organized the following in 2024:
    - SF Port Sea Level Rise Mitigation Plan Walk, in partnership with the SF Port and attended by 30+ existing and interested Sierra Club Members
    - SF Botanical Garden Walk, to learn about about the urban gardens and the evolution of the funding and visitation of the Botanical Gardens (low attendance due to stormy weather)

### Statement:

I'm grateful for the opportunity to serve at the Sierra Club Chapter level.

Climate Change is my top priority. While the problem is global, there are plenty of opportunities locally to mitigate and adapt. This means focusing on two key issues:

- 1) Transit and transportation – we need accessible, reliable,



safe and well-funded public transit as an alternative to private transportation, and we need to support a rapid EV transition. I'm also interested in ensuring public transit is a viable option to enjoy the outdoors, from local parks to Yosemite.

2) Buildings and housing – we need to decarbonize buildings rapidly, which means making it easier and cheaper to install heat pumps and stoves. We also need to accelerate the construction of new infill housing in transit-rich areas to reduce car-dependent sprawl.

In addition to advocacy as a member of the San Francisco Group Executive Committee, I also lead issue-based outings. These outings combine Sierra Club members' love of being outdoors with learning about local politically-relevant issues. In 2024, I organized the SF Port Sea Level Rise Mitigation Plan Walk (in partnership with the SF Port and attended by 30+ existing and interested Sierra Club Members) and the SF Botanical Garden Walk. I believe in the power of outings to welcome new Sierra Club members and bring together existing members.

Personally, you're likely to find me walking the dog in Golden Gate Park, watercoloring in Yosemite, or making a batch of salsa with fresh produce from a local farmers market.

## Shawn Danino <sup>P</sup>

**Residence:** Oakland

**Occupation:** Housing Policy Manager at City of San Jose

**Sierra Club member since:** 2024

**Contact:** [shawn.danino@gmail.com](mailto:shawn.danino@gmail.com)

### Activities:

- I learned about participation opportunities at Sierra Club through multiple friends and colleagues in the housing and environmental justice movement, but have long been familiar with the impact and legacy of the organization.
- I serve on the board of Transport Oakland and Transform, advocating for sustainable, walkable, mixed-use communities that deeply aligns with the Sierra Club's work and mission.

### Statement:

My name is Shawn Danino, I use he/they pronouns, and I come with over a decade of experience advocating for environmental justice, affordable housing, and safe, walkable streets. I am a dues-paying union member, a child of immigrants, and a civil servant. I spent the last five years at the State Housing Department, where I planned for over a quarter million homes across California, and had the pleasure of reviewing Oakland's housing element, the 8-year housing plan where they would outline their plan to accommodate nearly 30,000 new homes. As part of this work, I founded a \$100 million grant program to finance affordable backyard homes, got the Rockridge neighborhood desegregated to accommodate an additional 5,000 mixed-income homes, and launched the Prohousing Designation program, where I advocated to include menu items that rewarded Cities for advancing Vision Zero, protecting bike lanes, and planning Bus Rapid Transit Routes. I care deeply about building affordable infill housing, as well as planning more mobility lanes for bikes, scooters and wheelchairs. I am a candidate for Oakland City Council At-Large running on a



CONTINUED ON FOLLOWING PAGE

deeply prohousing, pro-mobility platform that centers climate change and affordability, above all. I have concrete plans to streamline the approval of these mobility lanes, target tree canopy and other capital improvement programs to areas of disinvestment, and legalize neighborhood markets on Day One so that Oaklanders have more commercial options that do not require a car trip. I currently serve on the Board of TransForm and Transport Oakland, where I advocate for safe streets and environmental justice, and would be thrilled to work with the Sierra Club to use my expertise to plan for sustainable, walkable human-scale Cities that set us up to address the climate crisis.

## Maxwell Davis <sup>P</sup>



**Residence:** Oakland

**Occupation:** Hardware Engineering Manager

**Sierra Club member since:** 2021

**Contact:** [maxwellwdavis@gmail.com](mailto:maxwellwdavis@gmail.com)

**Activities:**

- Member, Sierra Club Northern Alameda County Conservation Committee
- Chair, Northern Alameda County Executive Committee

**Statement:**

As a passionate advocate for livable, sustainable cities, I am seeking a position on the Chapter Executive Committee to further champion the environmental causes that are critical to our region. When people have reliable, accessible transportation options, streets designed for walking and biking, and the ability to live near jobs and services, we can reduce car usage, improve air quality, and lower greenhouse gas emissions, creating more resilient and equitable communities.

As Chair of the Northern Alameda County Group over the past year, I have been a strong advocate for these causes. I established a Housing Committee and Transportation Committee at the Group level, and together we have written powerful letters advocating for safer streets, more housing, and cleaner, more vibrant cities. For a full list of the letters the NAC Group worked on this year, please visit our blog here:

[sierraclub.org/sfbay/northern-alameda-county/nac-northern-alameda-county-group-blog](http://sierraclub.org/sfbay/northern-alameda-county/nac-northern-alameda-county-group-blog)

In my free time, I am an avid hiker and camper, enjoying the beauty of the regional parks and national parks that the Sierra Club has fought to protect. These green spaces are vital for our well-being and must be preserved and expanded for future generations. Together, we can create greener, healthier communities for everyone.

## Becky Evans



**Residence:** San Francisco

**Occupation:** Paralegal/retired

**Sierra Club member since:** 1969

**Contact:** [rebecae@earthlink.net](mailto:rebecae@earthlink.net)

**Activities:**

- San Francisco Group Conservation Committee member,

1975-2023

- Sierra Club staff - 1972-1987
- Chair, San Francisco Group - 2005, 2022, other
- Chapter Political Committee, at-large member
- Chapter Finance Committee, member
- Federal Parks Committee
- Council of Club Leaders - Delegate/Alternate 2015-2022
- Chapter Executive Committee - several terms from 2011, as dictated by Bylaws
- Chapter Chair - 1981-84; 2014-16
- Sierra Club Colby Library volunteer 2005-present
- People4/Parks
- Jack Morrison Medal, 2014, San Francisco Tomorrow
- SF Board of Supervisors' Certificate of Honor, 2018 - for advocacy promoting the health of San Francisco Bay and Waterfront. Ed Bennett Lifetime Achievement Award.

**Statement:**

Nominated by the SFBay Chapter Elections Committee, I am a candidate for the SFGroup's Executive Committee.

I am running for for the Executive Committee for three reasons: 1) to combat climate change in every possible way (see priorities below); 2) increase Club monitoring of City, regional and state agencies which protect our environment; and 3) increase the Executive Committee's gender and ethnicity diversity.

My environmental priorities are parkland preservation, protection of San Francisco Bay, support for good public transportation, affordable housing and environmental laws. As a leader, it is essential to listen to all points of view, ask good questions and to mentor potential activists.

I am proud to be a Life Member of the Sierra Club. As a Club activist, I have served on the San Francisco Bay Chapter Executive Committee, national committees protecting Yosemite and the Canyons of the Colorado River. I worked on the Sierra Club's Centennial Celebration, the 2005 International Assembly and Honors & Awards.

I am among the many founders of the GGNRA; I served on the first SF Environment Commission. My community work has focused on open space, parks, waterfront, water issues (including wastewater) and transportation (Doyle Drive and SFTEP). I was the official proponent of 2014's Proposition B to lower the height limit on SF's waterfront.

We must step up to the challenges of climate change - making personal choices every day - cutting energy use, recycling, driving less and participating in public processes to protect disadvantaged communities. It truly takes a village.

Please vote for me for the San Francisco Group Executive Committee.

Thank you.

## Stuart Flashman



**Residence:** Oakland

**Occupation:** Public Interest Environmental Attorney (retiring)

**Sierra Club member since:** 1978 (Lifetime member since 1980)

**Contact:** [stufash2@gmail.com](mailto:stufash2@gmail.com)

**Activities:**

- Member, S.F. Bay Chapter Executive Committee 1997-1998
- Member, S.F. Bay Chapter Legal Committee 1997-present.
- Founder & Co-Chair of the Emeryville Shoreline Committee 1986-1991 • Board Member, Citizens for the Eastshore State Park 1986-1992
- Represented the Sierra Club in numerous lawsuits and other legal proceedings from 1995 through the present
- Emeryville City Council 1984-1985
- Emeryville Planning Commission 1989-1990
- Member, East Bay MUD Board of Directors 1990-1994 (President 1994) • Member, Association of California Water Agencies Board of Directors 1992-1994 • Member, Alameda County Mosquito Abatement District Board of Trustees 1985- 2009 (President, 1991, 2000)
- Member, Board of Directors, Rockridge Community Planning Council 2008-2022 (Chair 2008-2012, 2016-2018)

**Statement:**

Humanity has long looked at the Earth as something to be subjugated and exploited. The result has been massive environmental degradation and destruction. 130 years ago, John Muir, seeing that nature needed to be respected and preserved – not exploited – founded the Sierra Club. That change in perspective is now even more essential for our survival.

In the 40+ years I've lived in the East Bay, I have worked on many environmental issues, including water supply, open space and wildlife habitat preservation, transportation and land use issues, and cleanup of toxic waste sites. I've also represented the Sierra Club in numerous legal battles.

Right now, our biggest problem is climate change and its impacts. The Bay Area is not exempt from those impacts. Sea level rise, drought, increasing wildfire risks, loss of wildlife habitat, and species extinction are already affecting us. The Club must confront these issues both nationally and locally.

However, the Club must not allow itself to become a single issue organization. There are also many other important environmental issues to confront, including eliminating toxic chemicals, promoting efficient, sustainable, and livable urban areas, and maintaining species diversity. But we also need to listen to other viewpoints so we can remain flexible.

What's more, the environment is not just about parks and wilderness areas. Even the Bay Area's most urban parts, like San Francisco and Oakland, should have healthy environments, including urban wildlife. The Club's grassroots nature and its member activities are also important. They keep the Club in touch with its membership and with nature.

Finally, the Club must address equity. We should be an ally to BIPOC, LGBTQ, and frontline communities, especially those that have been underresourced. We need to promote equality. Only by working together cooperatively can we hope to save our planet.

**Martha Kreeger****Residence:** Fremont**Occupation:** Grassroots Organizer**Sierra Club member since:** 2019**Contact:** *marthakreeger@gmail.com***Activities:**

- Most beloved activity working with the team on SF v EPA - helping to activate the coalition, work closely with chapter organizers, leaders in local, state and national teams write copy, spread the word and talk non-stop about why the Clean Water Act is the most important thing to our coalition happening right now in the bay area. The work hits our shared mission, builds the environmental movement and brings all of us who love the waters of our home to the table. Meeting and working with a team I respect every single day from organizers like Carolyn, Jacob, Sarah, Scott, Bekka, Kathy Dervin, and so many many others
- Sierra Club SF Bay Executive Committee Chair
- SAC Representative to SF Bay Executive Committee
- I love working on water issues, sea level rise, water quality, and nature based solutions. I love making fundraising phone calls and texting folks to sign onto letters where they are reaching out to their leaders to weigh in making changes in their communities around clean water access, in support of work force housing, or whether that is restoring wetlands to what they need to be to survive, or building a grassroots community led coalition to build a park that give kids a route to walk safely to school in the shade of trees, or setting aside a vacant lot to allow neighbors and elders to grow fresh produce in a community garden.

**Statement:**

As Sierra Club leaders we need to continue the painstaking work to co-create a shared vision based on Sierra Club core values, 2030 strategic framework, and national priorities. We can foster a chapter structure that allows radical organizers to act in coalition with environmental partners when required, yet is stable enough to provide a strong healthy organization that builds up and trains its membership, meets and sets annual goals, and continues to attract brilliant leaders and professionals to its ranks.

It is my intention to continue working to strengthen and develop this process. We hired new organizers, a Chapter Director and accomplished major actions. As a field organizer, my most exhilarating and proudest moments this year have been working with our team to build this powerful coalition in support of the Clean Water Act and the EPAs work to protect waterways across the nation and Save the Clean Water Act. In the same week we were part of rolling out the lawsuit against EXXON Mobil for their part in decades of disinformation on the myth of recyclability for plastics.

My intention as a member of the Sierra Club SF Bay Chapter Executive Committee is to focus on our Sierra Club core values, our 2030 Strategic Framework and supporting national priorities. That is the heart of who we are as leaders, our shared mission is to build the environmental movement, to support our coalition partners and work to defend and protect environmental justice communities, biological diversity and wild spaces.

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## Matt Morrison

**Residence:** Pleasanton

**Occupation:** Civil Attorney

**Sierra Club member since:** 2002

**Activities:**

- SF Bay Chapter Compliance Officer
- SF Bay Chapter Treasurer
- Past Tri-Valley Group Chair
- Past SF Bay Chapter Finance Committee Chair
- Past SF Bay Chapter Water Committee Chair

**Statement:**

I am a life-long resident of the Bay Area and Alameda County. While I was born in San Francisco, lived as a toddler in Oakland, and raised in Pleasanton. My partner and I presently reside in Pleasanton caring for an elderly parent. My law practice for the past several years is in juvenile dependency, an area fraught with complex government structures tasked with protecting children and reunifying families.

I see the Sierra Club as a critical ally for the Bay Area's frontline communities disproportionately bearing burdens from climate change and economic disenfranchisement. The Club can alter its structure to increase meaningful leadership and political power from a broad spectrum of Club membership to tackle the effects of climate change with a foundation of social justice.

I have a key perspective of how the Club's evolving structure will intersect with the Sierra Club mission to protect the wild places of the earth and promote responsible use of the earth's ecosystems and resources. I would help the Club maneuver long overdue efforts to broaden our leadership and remain true to the Club's mission. I ask for your vote as to join me in these efforts.



when I learned about pollution and that plastic did not biodegrade. I took over the family garden with organic techniques.

In the community, I co-founded Albany Strollers & Rollers, and was a founding member of Carbon Neutral Albany (now Albany Climate Action Coalition), and Albany for Everyone, a group promoting needed housing in Albany.

While serving on the Albany City Council for six years, I continued my environmental work and advocacy. I was appointed to the League of California Cities Environmental Quality Policy Committee. I supported and campaigned for city environmental work and ballot measures, such as the 2020 Albany Measure DD which funds climate action work. I served 4 years on the East Bay Community Energy (now Ava) Board. Currently, I am currently a member of the Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee of the Alameda County Transportation Commission.

My priorities for the Club are:

- fighting climate change above all
- cordial and respectful and fruitful relationships amongst volunteers and leaders
- diversity in all aspects
  - attracting and retain young membership. Increasingly, the membership is skewing older. We can't maintain the Club if we can't continue to bring in young volunteers and leaders.
  - attracting and retaining people of color. The Sierra Club must represent the diversity of our geographic boundaries.
  - making sure the Chapter is working on all aspects of environmental work – environmental justice, and climate change including alternative transportation and energy, and resource conservation.
- finally, maintaining fiscal solvency. The Chapter depends on contributions and fundraising is imperative. I will do my part in donating and fundraising as well.

## Nick Pilch

**Residence:** Albany

**Occupation:** BART Operations

**Sierra Club member since:** 1990

**Contact:** [nicky@mindspring.com](mailto:nicky@mindspring.com)

**Activities:**

- National and Local Outings Leader, 2005-present
- Northern Alameda County Group (NAC) Executive Committee (Excom) 2010-2011, 2021-present
- NAC Conservation Committee Chair, 2021-present, Political Co-chair, 2024
- Bay Chapter Excom 2011-2016, 2022-present
- Bay Chapter Outreach Chair 2011-2012
- Bay Chapter Nominations/Elections Chair 2013, instituted the first online Chapter election
- Bay Chapter Fundraising Chair 2015
- Bay Chapter Transportation and Compact Growth Committee 2018-present
- Bay Chapter Finance Committee 2021-2, 2022-present
- Local Ballot Measure Review Committee 2016-present (Sierra Club California)

**Statement:**

I am active with both Club outings and the political side of the Club. I have been an environmentalist since I was a teen



## John Rizzo

**Residence:** San Francisco

**Occupation:** Consultant

**Sierra Club member since:** 1982

**Contact:** [jrizzo@sprintmail.com](mailto:jrizzo@sprintmail.com)

**Activities:**

- Sierra Club California Political Committee, 2024-present
- Chapter Political Committee Chair, 2007-present
- Chapter Executive Committee Chair, 2005-2007, Vice Chair 2002-2004
- Chapter Executive Committee Chair, 2005-2007, Vice Chair 2002-2004, Member 2000-2008, 2013-2023
- San Francisco Group Executive Committee Chair, 2001-2005, Committee member, 1998-2023
- Other committees in the past (Council of Club Leaders Representative, Water Committee, Chapter Communications Committee, Hetch Hetchy Liason to the Sierra Club California RCC)

**Statement:**

As a Sierra Club leader I have been active in the fight





against climate change, advocating for renewable energy, housing, and advocated for better public transit. (I don't own a car.) I've also fought for parks and open space all around the Bay Area and worked to reduce plastic waste. If elected I will work to get the chapter more active in these areas.

My successful work for the Sierra Club includes helping counties start Community Choice programs to build more green energy. I also led the effort to save the successful GoSolarSF program, a rebate program that has quadrupled San Francisco's solar energy.

In 2017, I received an award for my work on CleanPowerSF. In 2008, I received a commendation from the San Francisco Board of Supervisors for my leadership in defeating the construction of a new fossil fuel power plant in Southeast San Francisco.

In 2018, I put together and moderated a panel on plastic waste pollution at the NOAA Sixth International Marine Debris Conference for the European environmental group, the Let's Do It Foundation.

As the Chapter's Political Chair, I have led the chapter's effort to elect candidates who will make the environmental a priority. Now more than ever we need elected officials who won't compromise on the environment.

As a former member of the Board of Trustees of San Francisco City College, I led an effort to establish green jobs training programs, create an energy efficiency plan for the district, and worked for LEED Gold certifications new buildings, including several powered by geothermal energy.

I have taken environmental advocacy to our elected officials. I have experience lobbying members of Congress and the State Legislature, and have testified at hearings in Washington, Sacramento, and San Francisco to advance the protection of the earth's environment.

## Marisol Rubio

**Residence:** San Ramon

**Occupation:** Health Care Provider

**Sierra Club member since:** 2019

**Contact:** [mrubiosierraclub@gmail.com](mailto:mrubiosierraclub@gmail.com)

**Activities:**

- California, Executive Committee
- SF Bay, At-Large Executive Committee
- Chapter Delegate, CA Conservation Committee
- Chapter Member, Standing & Bylaws Committee
- Former Chapter Co-Lead, DEI/Environmental Justice Committee
- Former Vice-Chair/Interim Chair Tri-Valley Group
- Councilmember, City of San Ramon
- Former Vice President, Dublin San Ramon Services District
- Former Chair, DSRSD-EBMUD Recycled Water Authority
- National/State Board, Elected Officials to Protect America
- Contra Costa Labor Council Delegate, Climate Caucus Member, Labor-Climate Task Force Co-Chair.

**Statement:**



Protecting our environment became a personal passion in college when I worked on a forest restoration project and learned how human behavior directly impacts our ecosystem. This experience encouraged me to reduce my carbon footprint by switching to a vegetarian and then vegan diet for the past 26 years.

I've upheld these values in my leadership roles by backing bold climate initiatives such as the California Green New Deal, Protecting the Brentwood ULL, the Environmental and Climate Crisis Council Platform, and by organizing the first Contra Costa Labor-Climate Convergence and Task Force, which I Co-Chaired on behalf of Bay Area environmental groups carving a path towards Just Transition.

As a State Senate candidate and elected official, I've never accepted fossil fuel, developer, or corporate money. As a Councilmember, I established the first Climate Action Task Force charged with updating the city's CAP and chartering a prospective Sustainability Advisory Committee. As DSRSD Vice President, I led efforts to conserve water and address water contamination from PFAs/PFOAs.

As your At-Large Member, I will continue to put my science background and leadership experience to work towards protecting our open spaces, promoting our transition to renewable energy, green jobs, and more sustainable cities, and ensuring our SF Bay Chapter is diverse, equitable, and inclusionary. Thank you and I hope to earn your vote! [www.marisolrubio.com](http://www.marisolrubio.com)  
[mrubiosierraclub@gmail.com](mailto:mrubiosierraclub@gmail.com)

## Paul Seger

**Residence:** Oakley

**Occupation:** Science teacher, 7th-grade middle school in Pittsburg, Contra Costa

**Sierra Club member since:** 2017

**Contact:** [psseger65@gmail.com](mailto:psseger65@gmail.com)

**Activities:**

I chair the Delta Regional Group and formerly chaired the Chaired the Energy and Climate Change Committee, where I advocate for sustainable energy and water management policies. I am also involved with the Sierra Club's Water and Shoreline Resilience education committees, working on regional environmental priorities. My proudest accomplishment is reestablishing the Delta Regional Group and building it into an active and effective force in local advocacy. I regularly engage in environmental education outreach through my work as a science teacher, inspiring future generations to protect our planet.

**Statement:**

As a member of the SF Bay Chapter Executive Committee since 2017, I have consistently championed transparency, equity, and collaboration in our decision-making processes. As the chair of the Delta Regional Group, I've worked to rebuild it into a powerful voice for environmental advocacy in our region. My leadership focuses on sustainable water management and protecting California's natural resources from development interests that prioritize profits over long-term environmental sustainability.

I am committed to upholding the values of the Sierra Club, especially in the face of growing pressures from groups like YIMBY that seek to weaken environmental protections under



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the guise of addressing the housing crisis. I believe we can address housing needs without sacrificing the critical safeguards provided by CEQA. My focus has always been on creating equitable solutions that balance environmental resilience with responsible development, ensuring our communities remain protected for future generations.

As we navigate complex environmental challenges, I will continue to lead with integrity and advocate for open, transparent governance. I'm dedicated to ensuring that underserved regions like East Contra Costa have a voice in how resources are allocated, and that our Chapter remains accountable and representative of all communities. Together, we can protect California's natural beauty and continue advocating for climate resilience and environmental justice.

## Igor Tregub

**Residence:** Berkeley

**Occupation:** Councilmember, City of Berkeley; Strategic Partnerships Director, Reimagine Power

**Sierra Club member since:** 2008

**Contact:** [igor@sfbaysc.org](mailto:igor@sfbaysc.org)

**Activities:**

- Former Chair, SF Bay Chapter and Northern Alameda County Group; Current Co-Vice Chair, Sierra Club California and Council of Club Leaders Secretary

**Statement:**

Combatting climate change, decarbonizing every aspect of our economy, and ensuring that policy decisions are made with an equity lens and ample input from impacted communities have always been at the forefront of my work as a legislator and climate activist.

I helped craft some of the strongest housing and transportation policies in the nation; helped pass the nation's first building electrification ordinance; and took on fossil fuel and utility monopolies to advance renewable energy policies. I've fought to protect our air and water, integrate clean energy solutions with good jobs, and say "NO!" to coal traveling through our communities.

With your help, I'll continue to wage the fight and make steady progress toward the intertwined goals of saving distributed solar in California, saving our planet and those who call it home from the existential crisis of climate change, saving my homeland of Ukraine through divestment from fossil fuels that finance warmongering autocratic regimes, and saving democracy.

Having chaired our local chapter and group, I used my lived experience as an immigrant to recruit, retain, and expand the Chapter's membership and leadership base. Amid trying times nationally, we welcomed an unprecedented growth in new membership and enhanced the financial sustainability of our chapter. I've worked tirelessly to ensure that our Chapter is here for you so we can weather the storm – whether your passion is our conservation issues, expanding our climate campaigns, or joining our fantastic outings programs.

I humbly ask for your vote, so I can keep serving you as we take dramatic action to save our planet. Together we will remain



a potent and effective voice for the climate and strengthen partnerships within and outside of the Club. Please contact me at [igor@sfbaysc.org](mailto:igor@sfbaysc.org) with your questions and ideas. Thanks for your consideration!

## DELTA GROUP

There are three candidates. You may vote for up to three.

### Bruce Ohlson

**Residence:** Pittsburg

**Occupation:** Retired

**Contact:** [bruceohlson@hotmail.com](mailto:bruceohlson@hotmail.com)

**Activities:**

- Contra Costa 511's Bicycle Champion of the Year for 2024
- Bike East Bay
- Delta Pedalers Bicycle Club
- Contra Costa Countywide Bicycle Advisory Committee
- CCTA Bicycle & Pedestrian Advisory Committee
- Caltrans District 4 Bicycle Advisory Committee
- TRANSPLAN appointee to Highway 4 Integrated Corridor Management Study

**Statement:**

Bruce "0le" Ohlson ([bruceohlson@hotmail.com](mailto:bruceohlson@hotmail.com)) lives in Pittsburg. I have a bachelors in Philosophy and a masters in Recreation. I am now retired. Previously I worked in adventure travel, heavy mechanics, and construction. I was active in the Delta Group at the turn of the century and just recently returned to the Sierra Club fold. I have through-hiked the Appalachian, the Pacific Crest, and the American Discovery Trails. I have bicycled extensively including across North America five times, the perimeter of Australia, the Carretera Austral (Chile) and around the world (20 countries, 20 months, 20,000 miles). I am significantly concerned with the negative influence that human beings are having on the health of the earth. I do not own a car; I get around mostly by bicycle and sometimes by BART. I do not air condition the house and am working to eliminate the use of natural gas by fully electrifying it. My hobby is attending public meetings, paying attention, and speaking when appropriate. I was instrumental in obtaining the \$13 million ped/bike bridge over Highway 4 in Brentwood by reminding the Highway 4 Bypass Authority of their EIR mitigation to provide this crossing.

Thank you.

All best wishes,

~0le

Bruce '0le' Ohlson aka "Mister Bicycle"



### Paul Seger

**Residence:** Oakley

**Occupation:** Science teacher, 7th-grade middle school in Pittsburg, Contra Costa

**Sierra Club member since:** 2017

**Contact:** [psseger65@gmail.com](mailto:psseger65@gmail.com)



**Activities:**

I chair the Delta Regional Group and formerly chaired the Chaired the Energy and Climate Change Committee, where I advocate for sustainable energy and water management policies. I am also involved with the Sierra Club's Water and Shoreline Resilience education committees, working on regional environmental priorities. My proudest accomplishment is reestablishing the Delta Regional Group and building it into an active and effective force in local advocacy. I regularly engage in environmental education outreach through my work as a science teacher, inspiring future generations to protect our planet.

**Statement:**

As Chair of the Delta Regional Group since its reestablishment in 2017, I have worked relentlessly to turn this group into a powerful and effective force for environmental advocacy. Under my leadership, we have prioritized critical local issues such as water sustainability, environmental resilience, and climate justice, ensuring that the voices of our community are heard in decisions that directly impact our region.

My experience as a public water director has been invaluable in advocating for transparency and accountability in resource management. I have consistently pushed back against interests that seek to weaken environmental protections, especially those promoting reckless development under the YIMBY banner. These agendas threaten our local resources by undermining safeguards like CEQA, which are essential to protecting our fragile ecosystem. I firmly believe that housing and development can be addressed without sacrificing the environment and putting our communities at risk.

I am running for re-election to continue this important work. The Delta Group has made significant strides, but there is still much to do. I remain committed to building stronger coalitions with environmental partners across Contra Costa County and beyond. Together, we can protect our waterways, resist harmful development, and ensure that environmental justice is achieved for all residents.

With your support, we will keep the Delta Group a leader in local environmental advocacy and a defender of our natural resources. With your support, we can continue to grow our group's influence, protect our waterways, and ensure that environmental justice is achieved for all residents.

**Patt Young****Statement:**

Since childhood I have been aware of the beauty of our natural environment and the negative impact we humans continue to inflict on the earth. In the distant past I have been an inactive member of the Sierra Club. More recently I joined the Sierra Club to become more active in educating underserved communities about the Sierra Club's Mission by joining the Board for the Delta Group. I am a retired Senior Health Education Specialist and Program Coordinator for Contra Costa County's Fetal Infant Mortality Review. My work with marginalized communities has underscored not only how the most at risk communities are for the most part excluded from participating in public policy decisions; they as a direct result of this exclusion are not able to enjoy our parks and trails. The ongoing systemic exclusion of the



most vulnerable communities from enjoying the outdoors has fostered a disconnect that negatively impacts health outcomes and often leads to those community members adopting a belief that preservation and ecological restoration are ideals that in no way benefit them or their community. My goal is to engage youth and their families in activities in our parks as a means to educate them, model that people from all communities can enjoy nature and equally important can participate in developing policies that will benefit our natural environment. I believe it is imperative that more East County residents learn about the importance of our Delta region and understand we need to become stewards of the Delta. Residents need to access parks and trails to enjoy recreational activities in the Delta, communities are not motivated to protect what they have not been allowed to value. My intent is to develop local workshops and activities to draw families to nature.

**MARIN GROUP**

There are three candidates. You may vote for three or fewer.

**Nate McKitterick**

**Residence:** San Anselmo

**Occupation:** Attorney

**Sierra Club member since:** 1987

**Contact:** [nate.mckitterick@gmail.com](mailto:nate.mckitterick@gmail.com)

**Activities:**

- Sierra Club Executive Committee Member, Marin Group (Current)
- Director, Touchstone Climbing, Inc. (Current)
- Planning Commissioner (Former, 12 years)
- Trail maintenance/canyon cleanup days
- Sierra Club Ski Touring Section trips (Loma Prieta chapter)

**Statement:**

My work with the Sierra Club began in 1987 in high school: local voter outreach to save the Everglades from depredation. Like John Muir, after two years at the University of Wisconsin the mountains were calling, and I came to California, where I try to live and promote Sierra Club goals.

As a Planning Commissioner, I gained a deep understanding of issues important to the Club, and made a difference as a policymaker.

As a Director of Touchstone Climbing (15 gyms in California, still owned by 25 rock climbers who started it in 1995), we continue to prove that long-term success comes from valuing all stakeholders, including our employees, local communities, underrepresented climbers, and nature itself.

I've been pro bono counsel for Habitat for Humanity and Rebuilding Together, and I was honored by Community Legal Services of East Palo Alto and the State Bar for successful litigation against banks to keep low-income homeowners in their homes. Currently, I advise Marin County Bicycle Coalition on GHG-reducing transit efforts and youth programs, am an assistant coach for an Archie Williams team, and work to elect local candidates who support Sierra Club goals. In the past I've

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advocated for public access to inaccessible public properties, and fostered many dogs for the German Shepherd Rescue of Northern California.

For 30 years I usually biked, walked, or took public transit to work. I am a canyoneer (the wetter—or icier—the better), cyclist, rock climber, and occasional backpacker, skier, and pack-rafter. My wife and I spent our wedding night and honeymoon in a tent. Our proudest achievement has been raising two children with love and respect for the wild places, with the skills to enjoy—and advocate for—them.

With your vote I will continue to serve you, and our home base of Marin, on the ExComm. Forward!

## Bryan Shiles

**Residence:** San Anselmo

**Occupation:** Registered architect in the state of California

**Sierra Club member since:** 2023

**Contact:** [BryanShiles1@gmail.com](mailto:BryanShiles1@gmail.com)

**Activities:**

- Marin Group Executive Committee

**Statement:**

Marin at a crossroad

*“The choices our cities, counties, and planning agencies make to influence where these people live and how they get around are critical to reducing our impact on the earth and leaving a livable planet for future generations”*

The urgency to act on the Sierra Club’s mission and position statements has never been greater. Like many regions across the U.S., Marin County faces an affordable housing crisis. By addressing this challenge in line with Sierra Club goals, we can seize the opportunity to prevent continued sprawl while advancing equity in our community.

I believe we must envision a future that is inclusive, less car-dependent, and focused on conservation. To achieve these goals, we must advocate for compact housing at infill locations, improve our pedestrian, bike, and public transportation infrastructure, and passionately protect our open spaces and habitats.

As a member of the Marin Group Executive Committee, I would advocate for policies that help achieve these goals. With 40 years of experience as a practicing architect and educator in the Bay Area, and 20 years leading a firm at the forefront of sustainable design, I bring a deep understanding of how to harmonize the built and natural environments. Our projects have focused on habitat restoration, creek revitalization, trail extensions, as well as pioneering the use of mass timber and other sustainable building practices. It would be an honor to bring my expertise—along with my heartfelt appreciation for everything that makes Marin County unique—to this role.

## Holli Thier

**Residence:** Tiburon

**Occupation:** Attorney

**Sierra Club member since:** 2017, and years before

**Contact:** (415) 407-4843



**Activities:**

- Sierra Club Member 2017 and prior
- Sierra Club Executive Committee Volunteer 2022 to Present
- Worked with Sierra Club and MOMMA’s to prevent the spray n Ring Mountain Volunteer
- Fought with Sierra Club to ban herbicides and create a real IPM Policy, instrumental in getting Tiburon to go deep green, passed a Climate Action Plan, working to develop a Climate Element 2017-2021
- Sierra Club Executive Committee Member 2022

**Statement:**

As Mayor of Tiburon and as a Town Councilmember, I have worked very closely with members of the Marin Executive Committee, and have wanted to work more closely with the Sierra Club. I feel at home with the Sierra Club, and my passion for the planet that Sierra Club has sworn to protect since 1892, my passion for ensuring good environmental policy locally, statewide, nationally and globally makes me want to serve with such a great group of environmental champions.

None of the work I have done could have happened without Sierra Club Marin Group’s help. Whether it was banning the use of Round-Up in Tiburon, my five year effort to ban Lifeline, and other harmful pesticides from Tiburon’s parks and open spaces, getting Tiburon to go Deep Green with Marin Clean Energy, passing the Single Use Foodware ordinance, passing a Climate Emergency Ordinance, creating a Sustainability Element for our General Plan, successful in getting support to purchase new open space within one of our parks, Sierra Club Marin Group was there every step I took.

I love the Sierra Club’s mission, and it is also my mission in all of my public and private service. I remember fondly visiting Lassen National Park as a young child, and now recognize the importance of preserving our environment for future generations. Working for the good of the environment is what I am dedicated to and why I want to serve on the Executive Committee.

Please vote for me Holli Thier, and please feel free to contact me at (415) 407-4843 anytime.

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## MOUNT DIABLO GROUP

There are four candidates. You may vote for up to four.

## Rebecca Barrett

**Residence:** Martinez

**Occupation:** Communicators Director, Contra Costa Labor Council AFL-CIO

**Sierra Club member since:** 2020

**Contact:** [rebecca.faihb.barrett@gmail.com](mailto:rebecca.faihb.barrett@gmail.com)

**Activities:**

- Contra Costa Community College District, Board President
- Sierra Club Mt. Diablo, Executive Committee Member
- Sierra Club Mt. Diablo Group, Member



**Statement:**

My passion for environmental protection began in 7th grade when my science teacher led our Earth Club on coastal cleanups, teaching us about local ecosystems. That early exposure to environmental action inspired me to dedicate my work to fostering climate resilience and healthier communities.

I joined the Sierra Club Mt. Diablo Group because, after years of being involved with local education causes, government, and politics, I wanted to become more engaged in protecting our environment and promoting climate resilience—making local changes to make healthier, safer, more equitable communities.

For the past two years, I've proudly served as a Board Member of the Sierra Club Mt. Diablo Chapter. My whole career has been dedicated to community service. I began at the California Department of Education as a senior advisor to the State Superintendent of Public Instruction. I have since worked for a local children's non-profit, forming a robust environmental science program aligned to the Next Generation Science Standards. Today, I serve you as your elected representative to the Contra Costa Community College District Board, representing Martinez, Pleasant Hill, and Concord.

I hope to continue to use my experience and passion for environmental education and sustainability to inspire the next generation of environmental leaders in the Mt. Diablo region, just as my 7th—grade science teacher did for me.

I hope to earn your vote. If you have any questions or want to get in touch, please feel free to email me at [rebecca.faihb.barrett@gmail.com](mailto:rebecca.faihb.barrett@gmail.com).

**Jonathan T. Bash**

**Residence:** Martinez

**Occupation:** Environmental/Health Communications Consultant

**Sierra Club member since:** 2016

**Contact:** [jonathan.t.bash@gmail.com](mailto:jonathan.t.bash@gmail.com)

**Activities:**

- Sierra Club Mt. Diablo Group Executive Committee Member (2018-Present)
- Sierra Club Mt. Diablo Group Member (2016-Present)
- Past Sierra Club Mt. Diablo Group Chair
- Past Sierra Club San Francisco Bay Chapter Political Committee Member
- Past Contra Costa County Hazardous Materials Commissioner, Sierra Club Representative
- Past City of Martinez Planning Commissioner

**Statement:**

As a Martinez resident, I often walk past beautiful Mt. Wanda and the historic home of John Muir. This ritual reminds me of all the amazing natural resources located right here in our backyard. Our environment is precious, as is our quality of life. And both are at risk if we don't stand united.

Sprawl with no long-term strategy has worsened our commutes, harmed our environment and has barely put a dent in the housing crisis. Climate change threatens our very own existence. And all the while, our movement has taken a backseat to a multitude of short-term threats.

This coming year, I hope to continue driving the regional conversation back to urgent housing, climate and conserva-

tion issues by continuing to serve on the Mount Diablo Group Executive Committee. I also intend to further strengthen our group by partnering with like minded organizations to amplify our ability to make change. We are stronger when we stand with organized labor and local progressive organizations. We are stronger when we advocate for transit, infill development and open space.

Throughout my entire career, I have managed tough environmental and public health campaigns that improve the health of all Californians. Working in local government and nonprofits, I have advocated for tangible community change. And as Martinez Planning Commissioner and Contra Costa County Hazardous Materials Commissioner, I have fought hard for environmental justice and sustainability.

If re-elected, I will continue to bring this experience—and significant expertise in media relations and policy advocacy—to the table.

**John Chatowski**

**Residence:** Danville

**Occupation:** Attorney

**Sierra Club member since:** 2021

**Contact:** [johnchatowski@gmail.com](mailto:johnchatowski@gmail.com)

**Activities:**

- Mt. Diablo Group Executive Committee Member (2021-present)
- Chapter Sea Level Rise Committee Member (2021-present)
- Chapter Advocacy Committee Member (2021-present)

**Statement:**

I first became involved in the Sierra Club as a small child when my mother joined the club in the 1970s in Southern California. Since 2021, I have been honored to become involved in the Sierra Club, and the Bay Chapter in particular, because of its longstanding history of local engagement championing environmental issues and conservation. Our particular region (Mt. Diablo) faces several unique environmental issues of which I have been actively involved, including related to our Martinez refineries and the decommissioned Concord Naval Weapons Station. I welcome the opportunity to continue to fight for positive environmental change in our region.

**Wietske Medema**

**Residence:** Lafayette

**Occupation:** Program Manager, Department of Environmental Science, Policy and Management at UC Berkeley

**Sierra Club member since:** 2019

**Contact:** [medemarwietske@gmail.com](mailto:medemarwietske@gmail.com)

**Activities:**

- I have been the vice chair of the Mt Diablo Group since 2021, as well as the group representative and alternate for the SF Bay Chapter XCOM and POLCOM. Between 2020-2022, I have actively organized Green New Deal town halls and workshops, as well as community outreach, which led to the development of a Green-Blue Workforce

Development Plan for the City of Richmond.

**Statement:**

Wietske Medema, Ph.D. is the Program Manager for the COEQWAL Project with the Department of Environmental Science, Policy and Management at UC Berkeley. She specializes in water governance, water security and risk, water stewardship, social learning, multi-stakeholder engagement and collaborative processes. Wietske has over 15 years of project management, research, and policy experience in water and environmental projects in North America, Europe and Southeast Asia. As Associate Director for the Adaptive and Integrated Water Resources Management Program at McGill University, she developed and supervised water stewardship projects and research partnerships, including with First Nation Tribes. In California, she has worked as the deputy project manager and senior research consultant for the City of Richmond, developing a Green-Blue New Deal Workforce Development Plan to create thousands of green sector jobs, accelerating a just transition to a decarbonized and circular economy. She has also co-founded and worked with several community-based organizations in the San Francisco Bay Area, empowering youth from frontline communities through environmental programming, community science projects and civic engagement. Her passion for water and the environment has centered around science that serves to resolve socio-environmental issues affecting vulnerable and historically marginalized communities.

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## NORTHERN ALAMEDA COUNTY GROUP

There are six candidates. You may vote for up to four.

### Shawn Danino

**Residence:** Oakland

**Occupation:** Housing Policy Manager at City of San Jose

**Sierra Club member since:** 2024

**Contact:** [shawn.danino@gmail.com](mailto:shawn.danino@gmail.com)

**Activities:**

- I learned about participation opportunities at Sierra Club through multiple friends and colleagues in the housing and environmental justice movement, but have long been familiar with the impact and legacy of the organization.
- I serve on the board of Transport Oakland and Transform, advocating for sustainable, walkable, mixed-use communities that deeply aligns with the Sierra Club's work and mission.

**Statement:**

My name is Shawn Danino, I use he/they pronouns, and I come with over a decade of experience advocating for environmental justice, affordable housing, and safe, walkable streets. I am a dues-paying union member, a child of immigrants, and a civil servant. I spent the last five years at the State Housing Department, where I planned for over a quarter million homes across California, and had the pleasure of reviewing Oakland's housing element, the 8-year housing plan where they would



outline their plan to accommodate nearly 30,000 new homes. As part of this work, I founded a \$100 million grant program to finance affordable backyard homes, got the Rockridge neighborhood desegregated to accommodate an additional 5,000 mixed-income homes, and launched the Prohousing Designation program, where I advocated to include menu items that rewarded Cities for advancing Vision Zero, protecting bike lanes, and planning Bus Rapid Transit Routes. I care deeply about building affordable infill housing, as well as planning more mobility lanes for bikes, scooters and wheelchairs. I am a candidate for Oakland City Council At-Large running on a deeply prohousing, pro-mobility platform that centers climate change and affordability, above all. I have concrete plans to streamline the approval of these mobility lanes, target tree canopy and other capital improvement programs to areas of disinvestment, and legalize neighborhood markets on Day One so that Oaklanders have more commercial options that do not require a car trip. I currently serve on the Board of TransForm and Transport Oakland, where I advocate for safe streets and environmental justice, and would be thrilled to work with the Sierra Club to use my expertise to plan for sustainable, walkable human-scale Cities that set us up to address the climate crisis.

### Noelani Fixler

**Residence:** Oakland

**Occupation:** Policy and Program Analyst, SafeTREC

**Sierra Club member since:** 2023

**Contact:** [noelanifixler@gmail.com](mailto:noelanifixler@gmail.com)

**Activities:**

- Member, Northern Alameda County Executive Committee
- Former Chair, Transportation and Infrastructure Commission, City of Berkeley
- Former Resilience Fellow, Greenbelt Alliance
- Board Member, East Bay for Everyone

**Statement:**

I am a passionate advocate for protecting the environment through focusing on urban sustainability, and hope to continue my work on the Sierra Club Northern Alameda County Executive Committee to build towards a more climate-smart and resilient Bay Area.

I have worked with East Bay for Everyone and in my role as Transportation and Infrastructure Commission Chair in the City of Berkeley to further the issues of urban sustainability, and at Greenbelt Alliance, I worked on Plan Bay Area 2050, highlighting infill housing and sustainable transportation as critical climate resilience strategies.

Since joining the Sierra Club Northern Alameda County Executive Committee this past May, my priorities have included building infill housing so people can live near jobs and services, expanding and funding public transportation and safe bike infrastructure to reduce transportation emissions, and investing in infrastructure projects to ensure climate resiliency.

Outside of advocacy work I love spending time outdoors, hiking, camping, swimming, and experiencing the protected lands that California has to offer. I also enjoy visiting new cities



by train and bike to experience urban landscapes in a sustainable and immersive way.

I seek your support in continuing my work to protect our open spaces by promoting sustainable transportation and housing friendly policies.

## Stuart Flashman

**Residence:** Oakland

**Occupation:** Public Interest Environmental Attorney (retiring)

**Sierra Club member since:** 1978 (Lifetime member since 1980)

**Contact:** [stufash2@gmail.com](mailto:stufash2@gmail.com)

**Activities:**

- Member, S.F. Bay Chapter Executive Committee 1997-1998
- Member, S.F. Bay Chapter Legal Committee 1997-present.
- Founder & Co-Chair of the Emeryville Shoreline Committee 1986-1991 • Board Member, Citizens for the Eastshore State Park 1986-1992
- Represented the Sierra Club in numerous lawsuits and other legal proceedings from 1995 through the present
- Emeryville City Council 1984-1985
- Emeryville Planning Commission 1989-1990
- Member, East Bay MUD Board of Directors 1990-1994 (President 1994) • Member, Association of California Water Agencies Board of Directors 1992-1994 • Member, Alameda County Mosquito Abatement District Board of Trustees 1985-2009 (President, 1991, 2000)
- Member, Board of Directors, Rockridge Community Planning Council 2008-2022 (Chair 2008-2012, 2016-2018)

**Statement:**

Humanity has long looked at the Earth as something to be subjugated and exploited. The result has been massive environmental degradation and destruction. 130 years ago, John Muir, seeing that nature needed to be respected and preserved – not exploited – founded the Sierra Club. That change in perspective is now even more essential for our survival.

In the 40+ years I've lived in the East Bay, I have worked on many environmental issues, including water supply, open space and wildlife habitat preservation, transportation and land use issues, and cleanup of toxic waste sites. I've also represented the Sierra Club in numerous legal battles.

Right now, our biggest problem is climate change and its impacts. The Bay Area is not exempt from those impacts. Sea level rise, drought, increasing wildfire risks, loss of wildlife habitat, and species extinction are already affecting us. The Club must confront these issues both nationally and locally.

However, the Club must not allow itself to become a single issue organization. There are also many other important environmental issues to confront, including eliminating toxic chemicals, promoting efficient, sustainable, and livable urban areas, and maintaining species diversity. But we also need to listen to other viewpoints so we can remain flexible.

What's more, the environment is not just about parks and



wilderness areas. Even the Bay Area's most urban parts, like San Francisco and Oakland, should have healthy environments, including urban wildlife. The Club's grassroots nature and its member activities are also important. They keep the Club in touch with its membership and with nature.

Finally, the Club must address equity. We should be an ally to BIPOC, LGBTQ, and frontline communities, especially those that have been underresourced. We need to promote equality. Only by working together cooperatively can we hope to save our planet.

## Kees Nederhoff

**Residence:** Oakland

**Occupation:** Coastal Scientist

**Sierra Club member since:** 2024

**Contact:** [cmnederhoff@gmail.com](mailto:cmnederhoff@gmail.com)

**Activities:**

- Reviewer of >10 scientific journals in the field of coastal sciences
- Treasurer for the Introduction Week (OWee, The Netherlands)
- Chair of the Political Party Technical Students in Politics (STIP, The Netherlands)

**Statement:**

As a coastal scientist with over 10 years of climate research experience, I have focused my career on understanding how environmental changes impact our world. I have had the privilege of advising local, state, and federal agencies, helping shape policies that address these critical issues. Originally from the Netherlands, I hold a PhD in coastal engineering, specializing in research that bridges scientific understanding with real-world solutions.

I believe advocacy must be rooted in the latest evidence to effectively protect nature and vulnerable populations. My unique contribution focuses on applying science to improve our understanding while evaluating the effectiveness of solutions. I am committed to collaborating with activists and staff to ensure the Sierra Club's advocacy remains strong and equitable.

Nature conservation is central to my work. As a coastal sciences educator, I train future leaders in climate research globally. Locally, I support the Sierra Club's opposition to projects that threaten California's water sustainability, including reservoirs, the Delta tunnel, and outdated water rights. I am eager to contribute to solutions that protect ecosystems and the communities that rely on them.

With climate impacts affecting shorelines and wildfire-prone areas, I will focus on making Alameda County more resilient to climate change. From advocating for sustainable development and promoting biodiversity to reducing car dependency with safer, walkable streets, I am committed to creating a future where both people and the environment thrive.

I would be honored to serve on the NAC Group Executive Committee and work toward a healthier, more resilient environment for all.



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## Nick Pilch

**Residence:** Albany

**Occupation:** BART Operations

**Sierra Club member since:** 1990

**Contact:** [nicky@mindspring.com](mailto:nicky@mindspring.com)

**Activities:**

- National and Local Outings Leader, 2005-present
- Northern Alameda County Group (NAC) Executive Committee (Excom) 2010-2011, 2021-present
- NAC Conservation Committee Chair, 2021-present, Political Co-chair, 2024
- Bay Chapter Excom 2011-2016, 2022-present
- Bay Chapter Outreach Chair 2011-2012
- Bay Chapter Nominations/Elections Chair 2013, instituted the first online Chapter election
- Bay Chapter Fundraising Chair 2015
- Bay Chapter Transportation and Compact Growth Committee 2018-present
- Bay Chapter Finance Committee 2021-2, 2022-present
- Local Ballot Measure Review Committee 2016-present (Sierra Club California)

**Statement:**

I am active with both Club outings and the political side of the Club. I have been an environmentalist since I was a teen when I learned about pollution and that plastic did not biodegrade. I took over the family garden with organic techniques.

In the community, I co-founded Albany Strollers & Rollers, and was a founding member of Carbon Neutral Albany (now Albany Climate Action Coalition), and Albany for Everyone, a group promoting needed housing in Albany.

While serving on the Albany City Council for six years, I continued my environmental work and advocacy. I was appointed to the League of California Cities Environmental Quality Policy Committee. I supported and campaigned for city environmental work and ballot measures, such as the 2020 Albany Measure DD which funds climate action work. I served 4 years on the East Bay Community Energy (now Ava) Board. Currently, I am currently a member of the Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee of the Alameda County Transportation Commission.

My priorities for the Club are:

- fighting climate change above all
- cordial and respectful and fruitful relationships amongst volunteers and leaders
- diversity in all aspects
  - attracting and retain young membership. Increasingly, the membership is skewing older. We can't maintain the Club if we can't continue to bring in young volunteers and leaders.
  - attracting and retaining people of color. The Sierra Club must represent the diversity of our geographic boundaries.
  - making sure the Chapter is working on all aspects of environmental work – environmental justice, and climate change including alternative transportation and energy, and resource conservation.
- finally, maintaining fiscal solvency. The Chapter depends on contributions and fundraising is imperative. I will do my part in donating and fundraising as well.



## Charlene Wang

**Residence:** Oakland

**Occupation:** Environmental Justice Policy Advisor

**Sierra Club member since:** 2024

**Contact:** [charleneawang@gmail.com](mailto:charleneawang@gmail.com)

**Activities:**

- US EPA, Advisor for Environmental Justice and Civil Rights
- US Department of Transportation, Advisor for Environmental Justice and Reconnecting Communities Program Director
- Alameda County Consumer Affairs Commissioner
- (Past) Board Member, Family Violence Law Center
- Citizens Climate Lobby Volunteer

**Statement:**

As a passionate advocate for environmental justice, housing equity, and sustainable transportation, I have dedicated my career to policy that benefits people and the planet.

As an appointed official of the Biden-Harris administration, I launched a historic \$4 billion program to heal the communities harmed by the highway system, including funding two efforts in Alameda County: a study to reconnect West Oakland across I-980, and the construction of a greenway underneath the BART stations from Lake Merritt through Hayward.

Furthermore, I have had the privilege of working towards holding corporate polluters accountable at the Environmental Protection Agency, especially those harming our most vulnerable communities. I have lobbied with YIMBY organizations to advocate for greater housing density, ensuring that urban development is inclusive and sustainable.

We cannot achieve environmental justice without also addressing the housing crisis and building communities where people can thrive without needing to rely on cars. I'm a firm believer in supporting transportation alternatives like biking, walking, and public transit, which not only reduce emissions but also create more connected, equitable cities.

At the Sierra Club, I will continue to champion these values, fighting for a future where everyone has access to clean air, affordable housing, and safe, sustainable transportation regardless of their background or zip code. By working together, we can make our cities more livable and just for all.



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## SAN FRANCISCO GROUP

There are five candidates. You may vote for four or fewer.

## Kieran Farr

*No candidate statement submitted.*



## Brian Reyes

**Residence:** San Francisco

**Occupation:** Climate and Sustainability Planner

**Sierra Club member since:** 2021

**Contact:** [brian5368@gmail.com](mailto:brian5368@gmail.com)

**Statement:**

I am an incumbent currently serving as Vice Chair and Treasurer of your SF Group Executive Committee. I am a Filipino X parent raising a family in San Francisco, but first grew up in a diverse Southern California community. Recognizing and giving intrinsic value to the environment and all living things has been part of me since I can remember but growing up in a predominantly brown community, I didn't see myself reflected in the environmental movement—that is until I moved to San Francisco in 2007. Today, I find myself in the middle of that movement.

My service will continue to prioritize efforts that build community through the following six pillars:

1. Mitigate and adapt to climate change
2. Race and social equity
3. Parks and open space
4. Affordable housing
5. Sustainable transit, and
6. Having fun while doing it!

I have activated and built a bench of existing and prospective Sierra Club advocates - people that were not actively or invited to engage prior to my election in 2022. To fill that need, I started and Chair the Events and Growth Subcommittee that has organized over 20 Sierra Club hosted socials, political action and learning events as well tabling at community events that have given us visibility to thousands of San Franciscans. We also emphasize partnerships with environmental organizations focused on serving equity priority communities. I ask that you re-elect me so we may continue the work of organizing for a Sierra Club that has a valued and trusted voice in the environmental movement.



## John Rizzo

**Residence:** San Francisco

**Occupation:** Consultant

**Sierra Club member since:** 1982

**Contact:** [jrizzo@sprintmail.com](mailto:jrizzo@sprintmail.com)

**Activities:**

- Sierra Club California Political Committee, 2024-present
- Chapter Political Committee Chair, 2007-present
- Chapter Executive Committee Chair, 2005-2007, Vice Chair 2002-2004
- Chapter Executive Committee Chair, 2005-2007, Vice Chair 2002-2004, Member 2000-2008, 2013-2023
- San Francisco Group Executive Committee Chair, 2001-2005, Committee member, 1998-2023
- Other committees in the past (Council of Club Leaders Representative, Water Committee, Chapter Communications Committee, Hetch Hetchy Liason to the Sierra Club California RCC)



**Statement:**

As a Sierra Club leader I have been active in the fight against climate change, advocating for renewable energy, housing, and advocated for better public transit. (I don't own a car.) I've also fought for parks and open space all around the Bay Area and worked to reduce plastic waste. If elected I will work to get the chapter more active in these areas.

My successful work for the Sierra Club includes helping counties start Community Choice programs to build more green energy. I also led the effort to save the successful GoSolarSF program, a rebate program that has quadrupled San Francisco's solar energy.

In 2017, I received an award for my work on CleanPowerSF. In 2008, I received a commendation from the San Francisco Board of Supervisors for my leadership in defeating the construction of a new fossil fuel power plant in Southeast San Francisco.

In 2018, I put together and moderated a panel on plastic waste pollution at the NOAA Sixth International Marine Debris Conference for the European environmental group, the Let's Do It Foundation.

As the Chapter's Political Chair, I have led the chapter's effort to elect candidates who will make the environmental a priority. Now more than ever we need elected officials who won't compromise on the environment.

As a former member of the Board of Trustees of San Francisco City College, I led an effort to establish green jobs training programs, create an energy efficiency plan for the district, and worked for LEED Gold certifications new buildings, including several powered by geothermal energy.

I have taken environmental advocacy to our elected officials. I have experience lobbying members of Congress and the State Legislature, and have testified at hearings in Washington, Sacramento, and San Francisco to advance the protection of the earth's environment.

## Mark Shahinian

*No candidate statement submitted.*

## Charles Whitfield

**Residence:** San Francisco

**Occupation:** Software Engineer

**Sierra Club member since:** 2017

**Contact:** [whitfield.cw@gmail.com](mailto:whitfield.cw@gmail.com)

**Activities:**

- As SF Group Executive Committee Chair, I organize and run the ExCom's regular meetings where we discuss & approve policy, organizing activities, and goals for the SF Group. I also coordinate policy statements & organizing efforts with the chairs of the Group's other committees, other Sierra Club leaders, other environmental orgs & advocates.

**Statement:**

My #1 motivation & focus as an environmentalist is ad-



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addressing the climate crisis: to stop and eventually reverse the harm our fossil fuel dependency is doing to the planet and to our own health. No one who has lived through the past few wildfire seasons in California should have any doubt that repairing our climate is the most urgent policy priority of our time. Achieving rapid decarbonization will require policy change at every level of government and will impact nearly every part of how we live, from transportation & energy to housing & food systems. Specific policies I support include transportation & building electrification, preserving and expanding car-free park space like JFK Promenade, replacing fossil fuel electricity generation with renewable sources, and “rewilding” to convert formerly human-dominated lands into nature preserves. To support these ends, I will work to help Sierra Club grow its membership and better engage existing members to expand its influence on state & local policy.

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## SOUTHERN ALAMEDA COUNTY GROUP

There are two candidates. You may vote for two or fewer.

### Glenn Kirby

**Residence:** Hayward  
**Sierra Club member since:** 1978  
**Statement:**



I am an East Bay native, growing up in West Contra Costa County and living in Hayward for the past 45 years. My wife and I have been Sierra Club members since 1978. Over the years I have served on the Chapter Executive Committee and the Southern Alameda County Group Executive Committee, as well as other Chapter issue committees. I am currently the Chair of the Southern Alameda County Group and plan on continuing my activism in my home community.

I served as a Planning Commission for Hayward for 8 years and Alameda County for 12 years. I served on the East Bay Regional Park District’s Park Advisory Committee, Alameda County Recycling Board – StopWaste.org, the Alameda County ACTIA Bicycle & Pedestrian Advisory Committee and currently serve on the Union City Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee. I also served on the Board of Directors for the Bay Area Ridge Trail Council and the East Bay Area Trails Council.

I view preservation of open-space as fundamental to our quality of life in the Bay Area. I also support public access, where appropriate, through trails and the expansion of parklands. I also see our future quality of life dependent on our response to Climate Change.

I enjoy hiking and bicycle riding and would usually rather be outdoors than in a meeting. But whether I am monitoring a proposed development in the county or considering an endorsement for a local elected office, I know that the decisions we make today will contribute to the future for the Bay Area. The Sierra Club has provided leadership in protection of open space, parklands, agricultural lands and critical habitat as well as advocating for a sustainable economy. I am asking for your support to continue to serve on the Southern Alameda County Group Executive Committee.

### Pat Piras

**Contact:** [liarslose13@gmail.com](mailto:liarslose13@gmail.com)  
**Statement:**



At the risk of sounding melodramatic, our Chapter faces an existential crisis. There is currently some activism to try to have the Sierra Club become a subsidiary of other advocacy interests. Please be very careful in your voting, especially for Chapter Executive Committee members.

We always fully welcome “new blood.” But the Club does not need a whole-scale transfusion. What do you want from your Sierra Club? Only a very small number of members vote in these Chapter elections, so every vote makes a difference!

Some of you remember me as a previous member of the SAC Group Executive Committee. I am willing to try to help again. In the meantime, I have been active in local, Chapter, and State activities regarding transportation, environmental justice, climate literacy, and politics, as well as participating in most of our monthly Group meetings. I have always tried to increase youth involvement in the Club, since we are fighting for their future, but the Chapter needs more follow-through.

I bring energy, thoughtfulness, and strong analytical skills to everything I do, and always push for integrity among those in leadership positions. I am committed to Sierra Club values for both the natural and human environments. Our colleagues’ respect for me is reflected in the State-level positions to which I have been appointed.

Glenn Kirby and I need your vote to keep helping the SAC Group move forward. If you have any questions, please contact me at [liarslose13@gmail.com](mailto:liarslose13@gmail.com). Thank you for your consideration.

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## TRI-VALLEY GROUP

There are two candidates. You may vote for two or fewer.

### Linda Milanese

**Residence:** Livermore  
**Occupation:** English Teacher, retired (Livermore HS, Las Positas College)  
**Sierra Club member since:** 1996  
**Contact:** [Lindamilanese3@yahoo.com](mailto:Lindamilanese3@yahoo.com)  
**Statement:**



I’ve been a member of Sierra Club for almost 30 years. Despite the busy years of raising a family and teaching, I was always an active participant in every election season when open space or the Urban Growth boundary was at stake. I’m finishing two years on the Tri-Valley Executive Committee and am more convinced than ever our green hills should never be taken for granted. I’d like to continue the work and build on what I’ve learned. I have also been a member of the Sierra Club’s Bay Area Political Committee for the past two years and have learned more about the environmental issues of the Bay Area beyond the Tri-Valley.

We have a lot to accomplish in the Tri-Valley:

- We need to be vigilant and proactive in protecting the Tri-Valley cities’ Urban Growth Boundaries and also

the County Urban Growth Boundary established by Measure D.

- We need to keep our drinking water healthy and pfas-free.
- We need to get Gami-100 Unleaded Fuel at Livermore Airport immediately.
- We need to get Tesla Park permanently classified as a State Reserve.

Beyond our local concerns, we are all threatened by the looming Climate Crisis; Sierra Club is the best organization to help us address its impact. We must step up our efforts!

I ask for your support so I can continue working for the Tri-Valley.

Thank you.

## Carol Silva

**Residence:** Livermore

**Occupation:** Retired Contract Administrator

**Sierra Club member since:** 1991

**Contact:** [tsilva@comcast.net](mailto:tsilva@comcast.net)

**Activities:**

- Tri-Valley Executive Committee Chair from Jan. 2024 to present
- Tri-Valley Alternate rep for SF Bay Chapter Executive Committee from Jan. 2024 to present
- Alternate Sierra Club rep for Altamont Landfill Open Space Committee from Jan. 2023 to present

**Statement:**

My highest priorities for SC's Tri-Valley Group are protecting the earth's ecosystems and resources, encouraging distributed solar on the existing built environment, increasing affordable housing, and encouraging others, especially youth, to join the Sierra Club.

1. I want to protect the earth's ecosystems and resources by defending Tri-Valley cities' Urban Growth Boundaries and Alameda County's Measure D, which protects agricultural land and open space. My goal is to help biodiversity, minimize impacts to wildlife corridors and nesting areas, minimize pollution, encourage the availability of unleaded, 100% octane aviation gas at the Livermore Municipal Airport, and ensure the availability of clean drinking water now and for future generations.
2. I want to encourage Tri-Valley cities to provide incentives for distributed solar instead of using open space.
3. Another goal is to encourage the Tri-Valley cities to increase affordable and infill housing.
4. I have helped organize and I have participated in Livermore's September 2023 Youth Climate Summit and at Pleasanton's Quest Innovation Fair in April 2024. At these events, people have been encouraged to sign up as Sierra Club members.

I kindly ask and thank you for your support and your vote.



## WEST CONTRA COSTA COUNTY GROUP

There are eight candidates. You may vote for up to four.

### Andrew Butt <sup>P</sup>

**Residence:** Richmond

**Occupation:** Architect

**Sierra Club member since:** 2024

**Contact:** [andrew.butt@intres.com](mailto:andrew.butt@intres.com)

**Activities:**

- I am new to the Sierra Club, but I have been involved in a number of non-profits and community groups for years, including membership in local environmental organizations like Save the Bay. I have been an avid backpacker, hiker, and mountain-biker my entire life, and have served on the TRAC trails advocacy committee in Richmond for over a decade.

**Statement:**

As an Eagle Scout from Troop 104 in El Cerrito, I have long been dedicated to environmental stewardship and community service. My experience extends to serving on numerous non-profit boards, including the Mount Diablo Silverado Council of the Boy Scouts of America, where I've worked to instill values of conservation and outdoor ethics in future generations. For over a decade, I've been a committed advocate with the Trails for Richmond Action Committee (TRAC), promoting and advocating for access to green spaces and the development of sustainable trails, in particular the San Francisco Bay Trail in West Contra Costa County.

In my professional life, I own and operate an architecture firm in Richmond that prioritizes sustainable design and environmental responsibility. Our work is grounded in the belief that we can build a better, greener future by integrating ecological principles into every project.

I have two children, who attended public schools in West Contra Costa Unified School District, where I coach my son's mountain biking team at El Cerrito High school. I live in Point Richmond with my wife, our son, and our two dogs (my daughter is starting her freshman year at UCSC).

I am eager to bring my passion for environmental advocacy, my experience in community service, and my commitment to sustainable practices to the Sierra Club Western Contra Costa County Region Executive Committee. Together, we can work towards a more sustainable and environmentally conscious future for our region. I would be honored to have your support.



### Cortis Cooper <sup>P</sup>

**Residence:** Kensington

**Occupation:** Retired

**Sierra Club member since:** 1980

**Contact:** [cortisCooper@outlook.com](mailto:cortisCooper@outlook.com)

**Statement:**

As a boy growing up on a farm in Arizona, I developed a love and respect for the nature of the surrounding Sonoran Des-



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ert. This was reinforced during summer vacations spent tramping around the nearby Gila Wilderness of New Mexico. That love of nature caused me to first join the Sierra Club in 1980 with the thought that nature needed all the help it could get to protect it from Reagan and James Watt, his Secretary of the Interior

At university, I earned a PhD in civil and environmental engineering. As a nationally recognized technical expert I served on 8 National Academy of Science committees and boards, most of which focused on critical environmental concerns such as the effect of oil spills on the sea and the impact of climate change on severe weather and sea level.

Since 2013, I have gotten about 500 middle schoolers off their screens and out into nature via mountain bikes. In 2017, I started a neighborhood group which lobbied East Bay Regional Park District (EBRPD) to speed up their fuel removal. After the Paradise fire, I initiated the installation of two wildfire cameras overlooking the Berkeley Hills and started a 40-person neighborhood group to watch those cameras 24/7 during periods of high wildfire risk.

I'm eager to serve on the Sierra Club's Western Contra Costa County ExCom to bring a pragmatic, science-based, thoughtful perspective that balances the recreational, housing, and transportation needs of people with the need to conserve our open spaces.

## Ed Jerum <sup>P</sup>

**Residence:** Richmond

**Occupation:** Semi-retired, property manager

**Sierra Club member since:** 2023

**Contact:** [edjerum@gmail.com](mailto:edjerum@gmail.com)

**Activities:**

- I recently started participating in ExCom meetings

**Statement:**

I've resided in Richmond for the past six years and joined the Sierra Club in 2023. You can often find me enjoying hiking and cycling in the many wonderful Bay Area public parks and particularly those in Contra Costa county. I'm often joined by my grandson and son who also live in Richmond. I applaud the continued expansion of the trail network in Western Contra Costa county to make greater use of the amazing natural resource we are so fortunate to have.

What motivated me to become a candidate for the EXCOM was to work to ensure and promote expansion of the Western Contra Costa trail network in a fair and balanced way for all categories of users, alongside a reasonable approach that minimizes disruption to the natural environment.

My experience as trial attorney with the US Department of Justice and corporate counsel for GE should be helpful in navigating any challenges finding an equitable balance in the process of trail development that aligns with the overall goals of the Sierra Club. My principal skill as an attorney was negotiating fair outcomes for both sides both in business dealings and litigation.

I'm semi-retired. My current occupation is managing rental properties I own. Thank you for considering my candidacy for the EXCOM.

Ed Jerum



## Janet Johnson

**Residence:** Richmond

**Occupation:** Full-time volunteer

**Sierra Club member since:** 2014

**Contact:** [electricista545@gmail.com](mailto:electricista545@gmail.com)

**Activities:**

- I work closely with Sierra Club volunteers and staff on environmental and climate justice campaigns.
- I have attended and contributed to West Contra Costa Group Executive Committee meetings for two years.
- I have served twice on hiring panels for the SF Bay Chapter to interview candidates for organizing positions.
- My proudest accomplishment was organizing alongside the Sierra Club to win the Richmond Coal Ordinance, which ended shipment and handling of coal and petroleum coke from the Port of Richmond.

**Statement:**

I've always gravitated toward community involvement and volunteer work. It most likely is in my DNA: my mother did nonstop volunteer work, and my after-school activities often included licking stamps and sealing envelopes for a fund drive she was conducting.

As an environmental justice activist and Richmond leader, I've been unafraid of tackling the biggest and hardest challenges, advocating for safer, healthier communities, and demonstrating that dedication to ground-level community activism gets positive results.

I broke gender barriers in the building trades by becoming the first woman electrician at the City of Berkeley, serving as shop steward in IBEW 1245. When, decades later, I became increasingly distressed by the progression of global warming, I decided to devote myself full-time to climate and environmental justice.

As a Co-Coordinator of the Sunflower Alliance over the last decade, I've taken central roles in campaigns around the mitigation of toxic pollution and climate change. I served on the Richmond/San Pablo AB 617 Community Air Monitoring Steering Committee and co-led the No Coal in Richmond campaign, which brought together Sierra Club members and staff with local activists in a broad coalition to win passage of the precedent-setting Richmond Coal Ordinance banning coal and petroleum coke shipment from the Levin Richmond Terminal.

I'm a leader of the Richmond Shoreline Alliance, dedicated to environmental protection and remediation of the Richmond shoreline, which has been subject to over a century of toxic industrial pollution. RSA presently focuses on obtaining a complete cleanup of the Zeneca toxic waste site on Richmond's southeast shoreline.

What propels me is a deep commitment to social and environmental justice and an abiding love of the natural world. I'm a dedicated birder, and each summer I raise anise swallowtail butterflies.



## Hari Lamba

**Residence:** El Cerrito  
**Sierra Club member since:** 2024  
**Contact:** [Hlamba101@gmail.com](mailto:Hlamba101@gmail.com)  
**Statement:**



Hello, I am Hari Lamba. Please vote for me to elect me to the West Contra Costa executive committee. Here is a list of my activities:

1. Coordinator of Renew SF Bay – planting coastal ecosystems in the San Francisco Bay. We are starting with planting Oyster Reefs near Brisbane [www.renewsfbay.org](http://www.renewsfbay.org)
2. Climate Champion – author of the only quantitative actionable time bound plan to keep temperature rise below 1.5C – [www.brighterclimatefutures.com](http://www.brighterclimatefutures.com)
3. Podcast and YouTube Channel Co-Host for personal solutions to climate change; [www.jumpingintosolutions.com](http://www.jumpingintosolutions.com)
4. Chief Technical Officer (CTO) (being promoted from VP of Engineering Management) for CyberTran International Inc – innovative solar powered ultralight rail freight and transit solutions to transit and high-speed rail [www.cybertran.com](http://www.cybertran.com)
5. Owner and President of Solar Battery Hydrogen Inc, that is championing Renewable Hydrogen, and educating folks about Hydrogen [www.sunnyhydrogen.com](http://www.sunnyhydrogen.com)
6. Secretary of a US nonprofit (Punjab Agricultural Rejuvenation Initiative) helping sustainable agriculture and farmers in the Indian State of Punjab [www.pagri.org](http://www.pagri.org)
7. Parks & Recreation Commissioner, City of El Cerrito.

I pledge to you that I will do everything in my power to help the Sierra Club achieve meaningful and aggressive solutions to the climate crisis and biodiversity restoration. As I have not been successful in convincing political leaders in regard to solutions, I am attempting to demonstrate and implement micro level solutions.

Resident of El Cerrito, California. Became SC member in 2015. Proud of lobbying efforts for climate change solutions, renewable energy and coastal ecosystems.

## Jamin Pursell

### Statement:

I bring a decade of experience in environmental activism and a deep connection to nature, rooted in my upbringing in Alaska. Witnessing the impact of extractive industries on ecosystems, I developed a strong appreciation for the delicate balance between human activities and the environment. Having lived in California for over three decades, I have witnessed the growing threats of climate change and pollution. My passion drives my commitment to proactive and sustainable stewardship, aligning with the Sierra Club's mission.

In addition to my roles on the Contra Costa Hazardous Materials Commission and the Contra Costa Fish and Wildlife Committee, I am actively involved in community outreach and



creating educational programs as Co-Chair of the Richmond Shoreline Alliance. These efforts have deepened my understanding of current pressing environmental issues, such as pollution and habitat restoration, while allowing me to engage directly with impacted communities. My current work has been on protecting Richmond's watersheds, and shoreline, which are critical for wildlife conservation and climate resilience.

Throughout my career, I have championed local initiatives that set the stage for broader environmental policies. My work with environmental justice organizations, including efforts like the Citizens for a Greener El Sobrante, Wildcat Creek restoration, and saving Point Molate, emphasizes the importance of equity and inclusivity—values that the Sierra Club upholds. Further, I have the experience and skills to parse out true environmentalism from greenwashing initiatives.

My experience in political communication and environmental advocacy position me to contribute meaningfully to the Sierra Club's efforts. I am eager to continue serving on the Sierra Club's West County Executive Committee to help lead sustainable, community-driven solutions that protect our planet and create a more just, resilient future for all.

## Jeff Royall <sup>P</sup>

**Residence:** Richmond  
**Occupation:** Research Analyst/Retired  
**Sierra Club member since:** 2023  
**Contact:** [jtroyal@live.com](mailto:jtroyal@live.com)  
**Activities:**



- In my latest involvement with the Sierra Club, I've mostly been learning about the Chapter structure, monitoring the issues of concern, and writing letters at the request of the Chapter. I look forward to attending shoreline cleanup, and other events.

### Statement:

Growing up in the coastal town of Goleta, CA, I witnessed first-hand the devastation of environmental catastrophe with the 1969 Santa Barbara oil spill. Rescuing oil-soaked animals and cleaning tar from nearly everything that touched those beaches for years to come, left a strong impression. I studied Natural Resource Administration & Management and hold a M.S. in Natural Resource Economics.

I've dedicated 30 years to Higher Education working on research and analysis of complex issues for UC Berkeley. I've lived in Richmond for 20 years and am proud of the diverse environmental advocacy in our community. The popularity of our parks and open spaces are at an all-time high and a testament to environmental consciousness in our region. It is here that I believe opportunity lies for bringing diverse groups together to realize our goals.

I'm happy to again be involved with the Sierra Club now that I believe there is a path within the organization for a more modern, balanced, approach to advocacy. As a Committee member, I'll prioritize bold climate policies, strong biodiversity protections, and ensure that all voices are heard in our fight for a just, sustainable future. I will collaboratively advocate for equitable access to our existing and future public spaces, while ensuring informed and sound environmental practices.

With your support, I'll commit to fostering greater transparency and community engagement and empowering local chapters to become partners, not adversaries, in the drive for impactful change.

Thank you for your consideration.

## Sue Wilson

**Residence:** Richmond

**Occupation:** Nonprofit Advisor

**Statement:**



As a resident of the Richmond, California, I have worked on many projects to reduce pollution in our community and strengthen our environmental health.

Though I am a recent Sierra Club member, I have worked to address many local environmental issues with local organizations. I have worked on campaigns to stop coal transport through Richmond, to require the full cleanup of the toxic AstraZeneca site, to protect Pt. Molate from unsustainable development and instead create a park on that site, and to make Chevron reduce emissions and pay its fair share of taxes to the city.

I spent more than 20 years supporting working families as

an elected union leader, a union organizer and a negotiator. I now work as an advisor helping nonprofits improve our communities. I earned a BA from the University of Michigan and a PhD in anthropology from UC Berkeley.

Looking to the future, I support a Green New Deal. We need a robust program to remediate pollution in West County and develop new green industries, including offshore wind, with quality union jobs. I support comprehensive clean-up of the Astra Zeneca site and other polluted areas especially along our shoreline. When there are proposed development projects, I will prioritize infill development and the protection of existing ecosystems. I also have an interest in increasing our climate resilience. While we work to address the underlying causes of the climate crisis, we must also prepare better responses to the negative impacts we are already seeing.

**\*\*\*Please note that all candidates marked with "P" are petition candidates.\*\*\***

**ALL CANDIDATE STATEMENTS CAN ALSO BE READ ONLINE AT [SIERRACLUB.ORG/SFBAY/2024-CANDIDATE-STATEMENTS](http://SIERRACLUB.ORG/SFBAY/2024-CANDIDATE-STATEMENTS)**

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## Notes

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# 2024 Sierra Club SF Bay Chapter Election Ballot:

Please vote for the Chapter Executive Committee and your local group Executive Committee. Candidate names have been listed in alphabetical order by last name. Mark your ballot with black or blue ink. Please make your selections legible and keep your marks within the boxes. If you mismark your ballot, you may make a correction in a manner that clearly indicates your intended vote.

Once you have made your selections, cut out this page, place the ballot in a stamped envelope, and mail it to: Ballot Submission, Sierra Club SF Bay Chapter, P.O. Box 2663, Berkeley, CA 94702. Paper ballots sent by fax or email will not be counted. The mailing label printed on the reverse of your ballot, which includes your unique membership number, will indicate it's valid. Your ballot must be **received** by Wednesday, December 11th.

If you prefer to vote online, visit [sierraclub.org/sfbay/chapter-elections](https://sierraclub.org/sfbay/chapter-elections). For further instructions on voting and submitting your ballot, see page 12. The 2024 Chapter Nominations and Elections Committee thanks you for voting!

| <b>CHAPTER EX COM</b><br>(vote for 5 or fewer)     | Single member/<br>first joint member | 2nd joint member | <b>MOUNT DIABLO GROUP EX COM</b><br>(vote for 4 or fewer)            | Single member/<br>first joint member | 2nd joint member | <b>SOUTHERN ALAMEDA COUNTY GROUP EX COM</b><br>(vote for 2 or fewer)  | Single member/<br>first joint member | 2nd joint member |
|--|--------------------------------------|------------------|--|--------------------------------------|------------------|---|--------------------------------------|------------------|
| Eric Brooks  |                                      |                  | Rebecca Barrett  |                                      |                  | Glenn Kirby   |                                      |                  |
| Garen Checkley                                     |                                      |                  | Jonathan T. Bash   |                                      |                  | Pat Piras   |                                      |                  |
| Shawn Danino                                       |                                      |                  | John Chatowski   |                                      |                  |   |                                      |                  |
| Maxwell Davis                                      |                                      |                  | Wietske Medema   |                                      |                  |   |                                      |                  |
| Becky Evans  |                                      |                  |  |                                      |                  |   |                                      |                  |
| Stuart Flashman                                    |                                      |                  | <b>NORTHERN ALAMEDA COUNTY GROUP EX COM</b><br>(vote for 4 or fewer) | Single member/<br>first joint member | 2nd joint member | <b>TRI-VALLEY GROUP EX COM</b><br>(vote for 2 or fewer)               | Single member/<br>first joint member | 2nd joint member |
| Martha Kreeger                                     |                                      |                  | Shawn Danino   |                                      |                  | Linda Milanese  |                                      |                  |
| Matt Morrison                                      |                                      |                  | Noelami Fixler   |                                      |                  | Carol Silva   |                                      |                  |
| Nick Pilch   |                                      |                  | Stuart Flashman  |                                      |                  |   |                                      |                  |
| John Rizzo   |                                      |                  | Kees Nederhoff   |                                      |                  | <b>WEST CONTRA COSTA COUNTY GROUP EX COM</b><br>(vote for 4 or fewer) | Single member/<br>first joint member | 2nd joint member |
| Marisol Rubio                                      |                                      |                  | Nick Pilch   |                                      |                  | Andrew Butt   |                                      |                  |
| Paul Seger   |                                      |                  | Charlene Wang  |                                      |                  | Cortis Cooper   |                                      |                  |
| Igor Tregub  |                                      |                  |  |                                      |                  | Ed Jerum  |                                      |                  |
|  |                                      |                  |  |                                      |                  | Janet Johnson   |                                      |                  |
| <b>DELTA GROUP EX COM</b><br>(vote for 3 or fewer) | Single member/<br>first joint member | 2nd joint member | <b>SAN FRANCISCO GROUP EX COM</b><br>(vote for 4 or fewer)           | Single member/<br>first joint member | 2nd joint member | Hari Lamba  |                                      |                  |
| Bruce Ohlson                                       |                                      |                  | Kieran Farr  |                                      |                  | Jamin Pursell   |                                      |                  |
| Paul Seger   |                                      |                  | Brian Reyes  |                                      |                  | Jeff Royal  |                                      |                  |
| Patt Young   |                                      |                  | John Rizzo   |                                      |                  | Suzzane Wilson  |                                      |                  |
|  |                                      |                  | Mark Shahinian   |                                      |                  |   |                                      |                  |
| <b>MARIN GROUP EX COM</b> (vote for 3 or fewer)    | Single member/<br>first joint member | 2nd joint member | Charles Whitfield  |                                      |                  |   |                                      |                  |
| Nate McKitterick                                   |                                      |                  |  |                                      |                  |   |                                      |                  |
| Bryan Shiles                                       |                                      |                  |  |                                      |                  |   |                                      |                  |
| Holli Thier  |                                      |                  |  |                                      |                  |   |                                      |                  |



**#SierraSnapshots** | Backpack leader Alice Chung and Backpack Section Chair Roger Williams pose with a commemorative bandana that Chung designed to celebrate the SF Bay Chapter Centennial. Photo courtesy of Roger Williams. For a chance to get your snapshots featured in the next issue of the Yodeler, email photos to [yodedit@sfbaysc.org](mailto:yodedit@sfbaysc.org) or share them on Twitter or Instagram with the hashtag #SierraSnapshots. Include your name, the names of any people in the photo, and where and when the photo was taken.

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

Facebook.com/SierraClubSFBayChapter

Twitter @SFBaySierraClub

Instagram @SierraClub\_SFBay

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

Our website is home to helpful information and resources including:

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

#### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- Vote in Chapter and Group Elections (p. 11-31)
- Join an Outing (p. 4-5)
- Learn to snow camp (p. 7)
- Wilderness First Aid classes offered now (p. 6)

#### **EMAIL**

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