

SoCal Now

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SIERRA CLUB
ANGELES CHAPTER

ORANGE COUNTY OIL SPILL TOWN HALL

Town hall event examines recent oil spill, features prominent local elected officials, community activists

By Angeles Chapter

On Saturday, October 2nd, 2021, an oil spill from a pipeline connecting an offshore oil platform to the mainland began its long and destructive path down the coast, spreading oil from Huntington Beach to San Diego. The spill was estimated to be at least 25,000 gallons, resulting in a 13-mile wide oil slick off Orange County, California, roughly the same size as the spill that hit Refugio State Beach in Santa Barbara in 2015.

The environmental and economic impacts of the spill are huge and long-lasting. Hundreds of birds, fish, and other wildlife along the coast have been killed outright, with thousands of others harmed. Tarballs have been found as far south as Mission Beach in San Diego County. Local fishers have lost their income from fishing closures, and businesses have lost tourist income. This accident is yet another stark reminder of how dangerous and dirty offshore oil and gas drilling can be.

In response, the Sierra Club Angeles Chapter hosted a town hall event in Costa



Photo by Kim Orbe

Mesa, CA, to discuss spill response, regulation, and how the local community can take action to assist with the clean-up and stop future spills.

Guest speakers at the event included United States Senator Alex Padilla, California Senator Dave Min, California State Assemblymember Cottie Petrie-Norris, Huntington Beach Mayor Kim Carr, Acjachemen Activist, and Culture Bearer Rebecca Robles, Bolsa Chica Land Trust Executive Director Kim Kolpin, UCI Ph.D. student researchers Joana Tavares-Reaquer and Melissa Brock, and Senior Associate Director of Sierra Club's Beyond Dirty Fuels Campaign, Monica Embrey.

"Oil spills are a constant threat to California's lifestyle and environment. The recent 'small' spill offshore of Orange County caused significant ongoing damage to our environment and economy in Orange and San Diego Counties," said Orange County Conservation Chair, Ray

Hiemstra.

Hiemstra and a handful of other dedicated Sierra Club volunteers and chapter staff helped organize the town hall event.

"Spills will continue on and offshore unless we take action. The Sierra Club is responding by activating the public to help our elected officials take appropriate action to end the threat of future spills."

The only good to come out of this spill is a renewed focus on the need to stop offshore drilling. The Sierra Club position on this is clear, we oppose all drilling, on and offshore. In response to the spill, the cities of Huntington and Laguna Beach passed resolutions opposing offshore drilling, and state and federal elected officials are proposing action. We need to support these efforts and more.

You can watch the event in its entirety by following this link: fb.watch/9qBkD210Ei/

BUILDING DECARBONIZATION

Town hall event examines recent oil spill, features prominent local elected officials, community activists

By Kim Orbe

On Wednesday, December 8th, L.A. Mayor Eric Garcetti along with Los Angeles City Council members demonstrated their commitment to combat Climate Change and eradicate existing air pollution that plagues communities all over Los Angeles by introducing an Energy Justice motion. The motion calls on recommendations for carbon emission elimination strategies in new and existing buildings in accordance with energy and housing justice principles. Environmental Social Justice (ESJ) groups have been advising these elected officials on how LA should be engaging in climate and energy policies.

Building decarbonization, a goal



Photo by Aura Vasquez

outlined in the city's Green New Deal, represents one of the biggest opportunities to cut over 43% of the city's carbon emissions. The Sierra Club is excited to work in coalition with the ESJ groups and the Climate Emergency Mobilization Office (CEMO), which was established to incorporate the voices of vulnerable communities into policy decisions, advocate for climate policy that centers on equity and justice.

If you are interested in learning more about energy justice issues, there are many opportunities to get involved. One way is by joining one of the upcoming Climate Action committee meetings or attending one of the committee's upcoming webinars. The Angeles Chapter invites you to be a part of this movement that advocates for a clean and resilient economy, without creating burden or harm to our most vulnerable communities.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ELECTIONS

Angeles Chapter welcomes five new members-at-large to its Executive Committee (ExCom)

By the Angeles Chapter

Five members-at-large have been chosen to represent the Angeles Chapter's Executive Committee in elections that ended November 15th, 2021.

Steve Dunwoody, John Monsen and Aura Vasquez will serve for the first time, while Liliana Griego and Bettie Pearson have been re-elected. They have all been elected to two-year terms.

Elections were also conducted for the governance committees of the chapter's 14 Regional Groups. The Elections Committee counted the ballots for all groups and informed the group chairs of the results.

"I'm grateful to be re-elected and given the opportunity to continue serving on the ExCom," says Liliana Griego. "It's been an honor to collaborate with dedicated Sierra Club members and volunteers, and I'm eager for us to continue working to connect people with nature, grassroots campaigns, and foster an inclusive and resilient community."



grow our

"Our chapter is involved in some interesting and important work on behalf of the environment," said Bettie Pearson. "And so I am pleased to continue serving on our ExCom, helping to provide direction and leadership to our membership."



"I thought it might be helpful for ExCom to add a member with 20 years of experience making change happen who likes to see other people grow and succeed," said John Monsen. "The Sierra Club needs to quickly become a more inclusive organization to survive and increase its influence. Part of this effort



will be building on our strengths, bringing in more diverse, accountable, and empowered grassroots volunteers and adding more new members with a safe but expansive outings program."



"I have been dedicated to environmental justice my whole life and the mission and values of the Sierra Club are in line with my own vision," said Aura Vasquez. "I ran for a leadership position because I wanted to bring my diverse voice, organizational abilities, and penchant for action to this chapter. My priorities during my tenure will be to bring more youth and BIPOC communities into the fold to expand our membership into the most underserved communities, who happen to be the most affected by pollution and climate change."

"I am honored to have been elected to the Angeles Chapter of the Sierra Club Executive Committee," said Steve Dunwoody. "I'm looking forward to advancing equity-centered policies, environmental justice, and work to grow our membership by engaging communities that have been historically underserved."



The Sierra Club, the Angeles Chapter, and the regional groups within it, are all democracies, whose highest decision-making bodies are elected by the members. In addition to these elected representatives, on December 5th the ExCom appointed Dyana Peña to fill the vacancy left after Dennis Loya's resignation.

Newly elected members of the Executive Committee will take office in January at the first board meeting of the year. They will join at-large Marcia Hanscom, Jason Islas, and Lynne Plambeck as well as delegates from each of the 14 regional groups, on the board.

The Chapter thanks all who ran to provide vital leadership for the Chapter. Big thanks, too, to Jason Islas, chair of the Elections Committee, committee members Margee Hills, Donna Specht plus ex-officio members Chapter Senior Director Morgan Goodwin, and past Elections Chair, Jay Schnieder for running the election. To be considered for a group or executive committee position, contact the relevant nominating committee chair well in advance of the next election to express your interest.

Get Outdoors and Enjoy



Photo by LA County Parks
Vasquez Rocks Hike (Level: Easy)
Sun, Jan 16, 2022, 9:00 AM

Easy 3-4 mi stroll along Pacific Crest Trail through world-famous Vasquez Rocks. Known for its outstanding geology and film location, the rocks were once a hideout for the infamous outlaw Triburcio Vasquez. Meet at 9 AM at the entrance to Vasquez Park, park on the street. Take I-5 to 14 Fwy N, exit Aqua Dulce Rd. N and follow signs to entrance. Led by the Santa Clarita Vallet Group. For more information contact the trip leader Kate Okamoto kate.okamoto@gmail.com



Photo by Brian Balam via AllTrails
China Flat Hike (Level: Moderate)
Tues, Jan 18, 2022, 8:00 AM

Moderately paced 6 miles, 1000 ft gain hike in scenic Simi Hills with panoramic views, through chaparral and sandstone outcroppings up to an oak-dotted grassland meadow and seasonal pond. Meet 8:00 AM at Lindero Cyn Rd trailhead. From 101 Ventura Fwy take Lindero Cyn Rd exit N, proceed 4 miles, past Kanan Rd to King James Ct, and park just north on Lindero Cyn. Rd. Bring water, snack, lug soles, hat, sun-screen. For more information contact the trip leader Richard Shamban richshamban@gmail.com

ACTIVITY SPOTLIGHT

Inspiring Connections Outdoors



Photo by Mark Allen

By Mark Allen

On Saturday, October 23rd, the Sierra Club and Hearts for Sight Foundation walked through the city park hand-in-hand with people of limited sight. It was a day of cool weather providing an enjoyable experience for all.

The Hearts for Sight Foundation (HFS) is a non-profit 501c(3) organization whose mission is to break down barriers to health and fitness that restrict the blind and visually impaired, that they may experience the physical, mental, and emotional wellness



Photo by Mark Allen

benefits that come with exploring the great outdoors.

Our pace on this walk was slow as we left the north part of the park and walked to the Eldorado Nature Center; a series of concrete pathways. All in all, twenty-eight people attended the outing. There was some mandatory paperwork for me to join the hike, but well worth it for the experience of helping others.

Although this was my first outing with Inspiring Connections Outdoors (ICO), I observed the group seemed to comfortably know

Our Hikes and Activities!



Wilders Point, Fermin Park Photo by LAParks.gov

Point Fermin Hike (Level: Moderate)

Sat, Feb 26, 2022, 8:00 AM

7 miles long, 450-foot gain, 2.5 hours. Meet at 8:00 AM in the parking lot at the northwest corner of 22nd Street and Miner Street in San Pedro. We will walk on surface streets to the west end of Pt. Fermin Park and maybe down to the beach. Wear footwear with good support, bring a snack and water. If you anticipate rain, wear rain gear. Minors are permitted if accompanied on the hike by a parent. Leaders: This is a front country outing. This is a front-country outing. For more information contact the trip leader Steven Morris stevenmorris1032@gmail.com



Photo by Donna Specht

Telegraph Canyon Hike (Level: Moderate)

Sat, Mar 1, 2022, 9:00 AM

Hike along Telegraph Canyon and South Ridge in the Chino Hills State Park for 7 miles and 700 foot gain. Meet at the Discovery Center (\$5 parking) at 9:00 AM. Bring water, a snack, and sturdy shoes. Rain within 48 hours cancels. For more information contact the trip leader Fred Reed fkreed@msn.com



each other from previous outings. For every pair of hikers there was a leader matched to a person of limited sight explaining what was in front, above, and really all around them. Trip hazards, overhead clearance was kept in the dialogue to prevent a mishap.

As we approached an egret resting upon a railing we stopped to talk about the birds at rest around the park in the cool weather, a perfect afternoon. Lunch was taken on the way back to the parking lot. I certainly look forward to more ICO events in the future.



Leave an Environmental Legacy

Consider naming the Angeles Chapter in your will or trust. Join our Planned Giving Luncheon Wednesday, January 26th at noon at the backyard of David Haake's house in Culver City - RSVP for the address (or online as a backup option.) Learn how the Sierra Club benefits from planned giving and how you can make a transformative impact for the environment.

Bequest.angsc.org

Travel Adventures and Fundraising Trips

Travel Adventures offer an unparalleled opportunity to visit special places throughout the world, with domestic and international trips longer than a week to prized destinations, and are led by our most experienced volunteer leaders. Proceeds for these Travel Adventures are important fundraisers which provide vital support for the work of the Angeles Chapter while Featured Events directly support the work of the hosting Sectional Group or Entity.

For more adventures, go to: https://angeles.sierraclub.org/outdoors/featured_events

CANADIAN ROCKIES NATIONAL PARK & FIREWORKS FINALE - AUGUST 20 - 28, 2022

Join us for a grand tour of 4 National Parks in the Canadian Rockies, Banff, Jasper, Kootenay, and Yoho on our expanded trip with 8 nights in Canada. This trip has great opportunities for wildlife viewing with the spectacular mountains, glacial lakes, and glaciers. The trip wraps up with two nights in Calgary where on the last night, you will see the Fireworks Finale of the Calgary Globalfest 2022 International Fireworks competition.

For reservations and more information please contact Fred Dong madelinesdad@earthlink.net (818) 545-3878, Cathy Kissinger ckissinger105@verizon.net (818) 281-4455, or Stephanie Gross madelinesmother@gmail.com (818) 545-3878

CHURCHILL POLAR BEAR ADVENTURE - NOVEMBER 6 - 12, 2022

Join us for a repeat of last year's ten-day, nine-night tour to see the wonders of ancient Egypt. Our tour will be led by an English speaking Egyptologist. In Cairo, you will see the pyramids of Giza and the Sphinx, Egyptian Museum of Antiquities, Citadel of Saladin, the Mosque of Muhammad Ali one of the grand mosques of Cairo, the Temple of Philae and visit the worlds oldest market-place.

For reservations and more information, please contact Fred Dong madelinesdad@earthlink.net (818) 545-3878 or Stephanie Gross madelinesmother@gmail.com (818) 545-387821-3

(FEATURED EVENT) ANZA-BORREGO DESERT STATE PARK CAMPOUT - MARCH 20-22, 2022

SPONSORED BY: ANGELES CHAPTER, ORANGE COUNTY SIERRANS SECTION

Hike the ancient trails of the Cahuilla and the Kumeyaay people who came before us in this wonderland of nature's beauty. Spend 2 nights at our favorite Borrego Palm Canyon group tent camp-site. Drinking water, flush toilets, showers, 3 picnic tables, shade ramada. Day hikes include the 3 - 5 mile round trip Borrego Palm Canyon trail through bighorn-sheep habitat to a large palm grove. Other hikes include an interpretive trail hike to the Visitor Center and other easy soul restorative desert hikes.

For reservations and more information please contact Donna Specht donnaspecht@juno.com (714) 625-2839

California Sellers of Travel # CST 2087766-40

Registration as a seller of travel does not constitute approval by the State of California



Lake Louise, CA

Photo by Mark Koch via unsplash



Polar Bear Adventure at Churchill, Manitoba, CA

Photo by Dan Bolton via unsplash



Anza-Borrego State Park, CA

Photo by Donald Giannatti via unsplash

Sierra Club Sues to Stop Harmful Sprawl

The Angeles Chapter Joins Lawsuit Defending Rejection of Harmful Southern California Development

As part of a long struggle to curb unneeded sprawl development and to protect vital wildlife corridors, the Sierra Club, Center for Biological Diversity, and California Native Plant Society filed a motion to defend a Calabasas City Council's denial of a residential and commercial development proposed for the city's fire-prone hillsides.

The intervention, filed in Los Angeles County Superior Court, is in response to lawsuits from the Building Industry Association of Southern California and the project's developers. The lawsuits seek to force the city to approve the project.

In May city leaders unanimously voted against the 180-unit West Village at Calabasas project—only 10% of which would be classified as affordable housing—citing wildfire risks and the loss of open space. The entire site burned in the 2018 Woolsey fire and is anticipated to burn again at least every 20 years.

Further, the project is not tailored to housing demand in Calabasas—which is a predominantly wealthy community outside of Los Angeles—making it not a direct or significant solution to housing affordability in California or in Los Angeles in particular.

In the greater Los Angeles area, sprawl into open spaces destroys wildlife habitat and natural spaces, increases greenhouse gas emissions from car dependence, and puts communities in the path of worsening climate disasters like wildfire. While our region is in dire need of new housing, the Sierra Club supports development in resource-rich areas close to transit, jobs, infrastructure to support the development.



The site of the proposed project at the intersection of Agoura and Las Virgenes roads in Calabasas, CA.

Typical of sprawl projects, the negative impacts of this plan will be amplified by inducing and encouraging other similar plans that will, as in this case, open up more of the protected side of Calabasas' growth boundary to incremental development.

"City leaders were right to protect their community from unneeded sprawl developments, which increase wildfire risks and local air pollution," said Sierra Club Angeles Chapter Director Morgan Goodwin. "Instead, Calabasas should focus on building the infill housing Californians need desperately near resource-rich areas close to transit and jobs. This is the only realistic way to prevent sprawl."

Read the full joint press statement with the Center for Biological Diversity and California Native Plant Society: angeles.sierraclub.org/protectopenspace

In Memoriam

Duana Miller (d. 2021)

Ed Hunsaker (d. 2021)

The Sierra Club is indebted to the contributions of members who are no longer with us. To access a collection of obituaries written in recent years to honor some of our leaders who have hiked over the Great Divide, follow the link angsc.org/remembrances. If you have recently lost a loved one and would like them to be remembered here, please let us know at angsc.org/livesweremember

Environmental Justice in Tobacco Control Team



Efraim Lopez
Project Manager



Adelita Serena
Community Engagement
Coordinator



Amanda Simpson
Policy Analyst



Ethan Kissock
Community Engagement
Coordinator

[Image: team.jpg]

Tobacco Control Project

We are excited to bring you Sierra Club's newest team, The California Tobacco & Environmental Justice Project, which includes a Young Adult Advisory Board (YAAB)! The YAAB will help organize at the intersection of tobacco control and environmental justice. Cigarette filters are the most littered object in the US. They are a single-use plastic (cellulose acetate) containing toxic forever chemicals. Tobacco Product Waste can get into waterways, kill wildlife, start fires, and disproportionately affect low-income, rural, and BIPOC communities. Tobacco is environmentally damaging to produce, hazardous to consume, and toxic to clean up after being used. Our Young Adult Advisory Board (YAAB) will receive training to be advocates with the Sierra Club and our project, gain networking opportunities, earn a free membership to local Sierra Club Chapters, and help amplify their voices to help protect our environment. 18-25 year olds interested in joining the YAAB should contact Efraim Lopez efraim.lopez@sierraclub.org Learn more at stoptoxtobaccowaste.org

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