



**SIERRA CLUB**  
SAN GORGONIO

# Palm and Pine

A PUBLICATION OF THE SAN GORGONIO CHAPTER OF THE SIERRA CLUB  
SERVING RIVERSIDE AND SAN BERNARDINO COUNTIES

Volume 54 Number 1

PROTECT AMERICA'S ENVIRONMENT FOR OUR FAMILIES ... FOR OUR FUTURE

OCTOBER, NOVEMBER 2024



## Celebrating 92 years Planning for 100!

### In This Issue

*Event at the Cheech*  
1

*2024 Election Endorsements*  
2

*2024 Local Candidate Endorsements*  
3

*Chapter Director Update*  
4

*Photos from "Capturing Time"*  
5-6

*Trail Talk October and November*  
7

*Chapter Meetings October and November*  
8

*Salton Sea Litigation Case*  
9-10

*Sierra Club CA News*  
11

*Moreno Valley Group Big News*  
12

*Bloomington Win - Warehouse case*  
13

*Calendar Orders, Info page*  
14-16

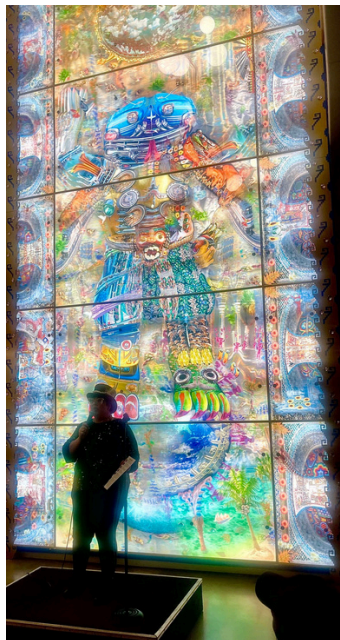
**Celebrating Time** was a special night on September 18th at the Cheech Marin Center for Chicano Art and Culture. Friends of the San Gorgonio Chapter gathered to share stories, learn about our history, and contribute to a time capsule. It was a memorable evening for all!

Joz Sida, Summer Davidson, and Enrique Flores led the planning team, and their inspiration to hold the event at The Cheech Museum was the perfect choice! Thanks to this team for all their work and ideas to make this night a success. Much appreciation to our entertainers, who provided their talent as their gift to our chapter.

Thanks also go to our sponsors: Assembly Majority Leader Emerita Eloise Gomez Reyes; the Rural Association of Mead Valley, and Chapter members Ladd Seekins, Bryan Baker and Summer Davidson, as well as many other members who provided extra tickets.

**Event photos and more on pages 5 & 6**

**2024 ELECTION ENDORSEMENTS INSIDE!**



**YOUR VOTE MATTERS**



# 2024 Sierra Club Endorsements

Sierra Club endorsements “ are targeted at candidates who have shown unwavering commitment to environmental conservation and climate action. These are individuals who will advocate for renewable energy, enhance protections for public lands, and implement sustainable practices across various sectors. The time has come for strong leadership, as climate change is no longer a distant threat—it’s a reality demanding immediate action.” (Bobbi Jo Chavarria, former San Geronio Chapter Chair and now Acting Director at Sierra Club California).

When we endorse candidates, we are looking for environmental champions to lead at all levels, from local municipalities to the White House. When our endorsed candidates are in office, we work with them advance solutions to climate disruption and environmental injustices.

## California Legislature:

### Federal Candidates:

**President: Kamala Harris**

### **Congressional Districts:**

**District 23: Derek Marshall**

**District 25: Raul Ruiz**

**District 28: Judy Chu**

**District 33: Pete Aguilar**

**District 39: Mark Takano**

**District 40: Joe Kerr**

**District 41: Will Rollins**

### Assembly:

**AD 47: Christy Holstege**

**AD 50: Robert Garcia**

**AD 58: Clarissa Cervantes**

### Senate:

**SD29: Eloise Gomez Reyes**

**Conservation Bond-**

**CA Ballot Measure 4**

**YES on Proposition 4!**

**Find Local candidates on the  
next page!**



**WHY?**

Sierra Club’s tax exemption status - 501(c)(4) - allows us to make endorsements for candidates and ballot measures.

# Local Candidates

## Tahquitz Group:

Denise Delgado for City of Coachella City Council

David Ready for Palm Springs City Council District 5

Russell Betts for Mayor of Desert Hot Springs 2024.

Karina Quintanilla for Palm Desert City Council District 1

Mary Jane Sanchez for Area 2 Board of Trustees of Desert Community College District

Greg Rodriguez for Desert Health Care Board Zone 1

## Los Serranos Group:

Bobby Omari for Chino Valley School Board Trustee Area 5

## Perris:

Lupe Gomez for Mayor of Perris

Elizabeth Vallejo for the Perris City Council District 2,

**\*\*BEFORE YOU VOTE\*\***  
**check our website for**  
**additional endorsements!**

---



**Update from our Chapter Director,  
Jocelyn (Joz) Sida**

**Reflecting on my first year as your  
Chapter Director**

I just want to say thank you! I am truly grateful for this experience thus far. I have learned a lot from all of you. From your commitment to this group to your investment in our vision. We have so much work to do in our communities but it would be harder if we did not have each other. This first year we increased our membership with young activists making change who are mentored and guided by our organization's legends. We have built community with organizations on the ground who are doing social justice work on the ground. We continue to be strong allies to our community as we fight an epidemic of warehouses in our cities. We stand strong with our members as we fight against those who are working with warehouses developers.

In the light of despair there is always hope in the eyes of the next generation. Together we can inspire the mindset to not give up. We came together this past September 18th to recommit ourselves to our values to the mission of Sierra Club San Gorgonio. An idea that started in the parking lot after one of our meetings at the San Bernardino Museum by Enrique Flores and Summer Davidson evolved to become the event of the year. Incredibly proud to have led and been a part of such an amazing moment. We experienced the best of the TIME we have together. We captured time. Time Capsule, comedy, music, food and drinks at the Cheech Marin Museum of Chicano Art in the heart of Riverside, CA.



## Capturing Time in Pictures



Joz inspiring the volunteer crew! thanks to Ben Weiner, in the shirt and tie, National Chapter Fundraising team, for coming out to help!



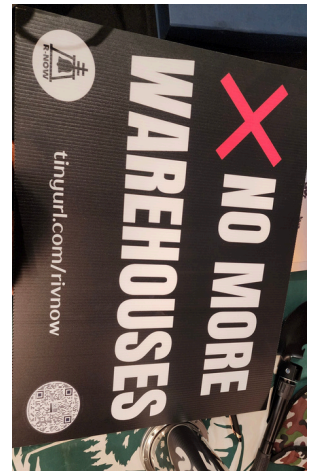
Maria Brunner from Assembly Member Gomez-Reyes office presenting appreciation for Sierra Club



Marla Matime, singer extraordinaire



Joz presenting Bobbi Jo with her Lifetime Achievement Award



Time Capsule Treasures





Inland Valley Environmental Justice Coalition members, sharing their story as Joz presents their award



Artist Denise Silva, creator of the beautiful art piece with Summer who donated it for the event.



The view from above



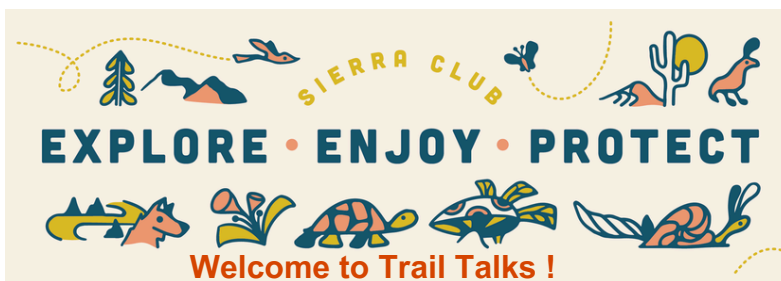
Comedy team led by Joz - George Ferido, Steven Espinosa, Alvin O'Neil McCray and Thomas Mayes



Event planning team with Bobbi Jo, tired but happy after an amazing night!



Gail and Ladd Seekins, who met on a chapter outing in 1979! with daughter Heather Lee, and granddaughter Clare Rich.



## October - Backpacking!

### October Trail Talk: Hiking the John Muir Trail Wed. 10/16 at 7:00

Rachel Wilkin will present her experience hiking the John Muir Trail. The JMT spans 211 miles from Yosemite Valley to the summit of Mt. Whitney. Rachel hiked 100 miles of it from Cottonwood Pass to Bishop Pass in 12 days this July. Her Trail Talk will include her planning process, meal prep, risk management, and lessons from the trail. We look forward to having you join us!

**RSVP HERE**

Find all our events and RSVP on our website at : <https://www.sierraclub.org/san-gorgonio>

## November - Outdoors for All

### November Trail Talk: San Gorgonio Chapter Outings Program Wed. 11/20 at 7:00 PM

Karla Kellems will present an overview of the San Gorgonio Chapter Outings program. Join us to learn about the types of outings offered and the benefits of being an outings leader. Karla will also explain how to become an outings leader, the Leadership Training Course for new outings leaders, as well as advocacy and education through outings.

**RSVP HERE**



## Support Your Passion for a Just and Sustainable World

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



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



Julia Curtis • (800) 932-4270 • [giftplanning@sierraclub.org](mailto:giftplanning@sierraclub.org) • [myplan.sierraclub.org](http://myplan.sierraclub.org)

## October 8 Chapter Meeting

It's ON! the election is happening and we need to elect Environmental Champions! Come find out how you can help elect the candidates you care about!

**YOUR VOTE  
MATTERS**



Get involved! help out in a campaign you care about!

Join us to learn how you can help candidates win. Take an action at the meeting, and get involved in a campaign to GOTV for environmental champions. PLUS, get an update from our Outings Leaders about upcoming outings and trainings.

*Meetings begin at 7 pm, refreshments will be served!*

## November 12 Chapter Meeting

Election recap and what's ahead t

**What just  
Happened?  
Now What?**

Join us to take a look at how election results will affect the work we do. Many races may still be undecided at the time of this meeting. We'll get together and share our collective understanding of what's ahead for the environmental movement.

Location: San Bernardino County Museum, 2024 Orange Tree Lane, Redlands



## IMPERIAL IRRIGATION DISTRICT Litigation for Salton Sea



Salton Sea playa, photo by Brian Elliott

### Sierra Club Sues to Protect Salton Sea Ecosystem and Communities

At the behest of the Tahquitz Group, San Geronio and San Diego Chapters, this September Sierra Club filed a challenge to the decision by the Imperial Irrigation District (IID) to enter into an agreement with the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation which fails to protect the health of the Salton Sea and communities surrounding it. That agreement will reduce critical inflows that support the Salton Sea as a result of IID forgoing up to 900,000-acre-feet of its Colorado River water allotment from 2024 to 2026.

Though the agreement represents an important commitment to conserve water and protect the Colorado River, it will also result in serious environmental and public health impacts. That's because the Salton Sea relies heavily on agricultural runoff from Imperial County to maintain the water level. The existing 2003 transfer of 500,000 acre feet of water a year from IID to urban areas has already deteriorated the air quality around it by exposing vast stretches of dusty lakebed, and driven the lake's salt levels to more than twice that of the ocean.



Sandhill Cranes, photo by Mary Ann Ruiz

The Salton Sea's fishery on which birds migrating on the Pacific Flyway rely is in jeopardy, and the health impacts of hazardous dust are being suffered disproportionately by the underserved communities nearby.



Salton Sea (photo in public domain)

...IID Litigation continued :



Salton Sea Sunset, photo by Steve Kremadis

“Decades of inaction by the state of California have left the ecosystem at the Salton Sea on the brink of collapse. Petitioned by Sierra Club and others, in 2018 the state was forced to promulgate a “Ten Year Plan” which mandated the creation of 29,800 acres of remediation projects on the receding shoreline, half of which must be habitat for birds and fish. By the end of 2023 that would translate to 11,500 acres of remediation, with 5750 of those acres being habitat. To date halfway into the ten years, only 2300 acres of dust control projects and a meager 167 of habitat have been accomplished; despite recent efforts to accelerate projects, the state is woefully behind schedule.

Though the feds are beginning to infuse money into the state, that will just help the state catch up on its acreage mandates – which will take years. Meanwhile, this new reduction in inflows caused by the IID-Bureau of Reclamation agreement will rapidly compound the problem starting now. In the next three years an additional 13,000 acres of lakebed stand to be exposed and the concentration of salts driven to levels where even what the already-decimated fishery will not survive to support migrating birds.



Desiccated playa and fish, Sierra Club photo

To be clear, Sierra Club at all levels strongly supports water conservation to bolster storage on the Colorado River. However, we cannot ignore the significant additional and accelerated impacts to people and avian migration that would be caused by this substantial reduction of inflows to the Salton Sea. IID has a responsibility to mitigate the collateral damage of this new agreement, and that’s the intent of the lawsuit

*by Joan Taylor, Tahquitz Group Chair and Desert Committee Chair .*



Birders at Salton Sea, photo by Brian Elliott



## Sierra Club California Support for Proposition 4, Climate Bond

Update from Bobbi Jo Chavarria,  
Acting Director

As we approach the crucial November election with ballots out in less than three weeks, I write to you from Sacramento with a pressing issue at hand—our collective future and the steps we must take to ensure a sustainable and resilient California. Sierra Club California is standing firmly in support of Proposition 4, a vital measure that seeks to protect our environment, enhance safe drinking water, prevent devastating wildfires, and safeguard our natural landscapes from the threats posed by climate change.

Proposition 4 represents a crucial investment in our natural resources and climate resilience, authorizing the state to issue a \$10 billion bond aimed at addressing urgent environmental needs. With this measure, we can expect significant strides in several key areas:

- **Water Supply and Flood Management:** Nearly \$3.8 billion is earmarked to enhance both the quality and quantity of our water, repair vital infrastructure, and mitigate flooding risks.
- **Wildfire Prevention:** A dedicated \$1.5 billion will focus on improving forest health, protecting our ecosystems, and reinforcing safety measures for communities at risk from wildfires.
- **Coastal Protection:** With rising sea levels threatening our coastal regions, Proposition 4 allocates \$1.2 billion for restoration efforts and the protection of vulnerable shorelines.
- **Parks and Recreational Areas:** An investment of \$700 million will enhance recreational opportunities, allowing us to expand and renovate our parks while addressing the impacts of climate change.

These funding allocations highlight a comprehensive approach to environmental stewardship. Importantly, the measure mandates that at least 40% of the bond funds benefit lower-income communities, an essential step toward achieving environmental justice. This commitment mirrors a provision in the Inflation Reduction Act which has created hundreds of thousands of green jobs.

However, as we advocate for Proposition 4, we must remain vigilant against the potential for this bond to be misused or diverted into projects that primarily benefit industry and corporate interests with minimal climate gains. We cannot afford to borrow against our future to fund initiatives that do not align with our vision for a sustainable California.

Our support for Proposition 4 goes hand-in-hand with an insistence on transparency and accountability regarding fund allocation. It is imperative that these funds deliver tangible environmental benefits and enhance the resilience of our communities in the face of climate challenges.

California is at a crossroads. We face unprecedented environmental issues, from water shortages to wildfires. Proposition 4 is a monumental step toward addressing these crises, and with the right leaders in place, we can ensure its effective implementation.

As November approaches, I urge all Californians to closely examine Proposition 4. Vote YES, support our endorsed candidates, and, together, let's forge a sustainable future for our state. Let us unite for our planet and our communities, committed to ensuring that our investments yield real and lasting climate benefits.

## **Big News for Moreno Valley Group !**

*Compiled by George Hague, Conservation Chair*

In the next few months, our Moreno Valley Group will be expanding to include Sierra Club members who live in the city of Riverside. Our new name will be the Box Springs Group. It seemed fitting to choose that name as the panoramic view from the top of Box Springs includes all of Moreno Valley and Riverside.

Our current Moreno Valley Group Executive Committee (ExCom) has been working with four Riverside Sierra Club members for the past year to make expanding into Riverside a possibility. Along the way we have worked with Sierra Club National to fulfill their requirements to make this possible. The Riverside Sierra Club membership is many times larger than Moreno Valley's and as a result we will not be able to mail our Fall Group Newsletter with ballots for our fall ExCom election and also the opportunity to donate to our group.

This November or December you will be mailed our San Geronio Chapter's Palm and Pine newsletter. Please look for it and use the ballot to vote for the Box Springs Group ExCom candidates.

The Box Springs Group will continue to work on Moreno Valley issues with your dedicated help. It is especially important that we work to make sure the city of Moreno Valley produces a General Plan Update (GPU) and Climate Action Plan (CAP) that is valid and represents you. The Sierra Club litigated the City's 2021 GPU and CAP and won in court. It now appears the city is trying to give the impression that they are only redoing the Environmental Impact Report (EIR) and Climate Action Plan (CAP)

The court decision requires the city to rescind all the 2021 General Plan land use designations and zoning. This means such areas as the half acre lots in the northeast part of the city are again the current zoning and not the 10 units per acre on both sides of Moreno Beach Drive approved in 2021. It is likely that the city is intending to readopt the 2021 zoning unless you speak up.

The court decision requires the city to rescind all the 2021 General Plan land use designations and zoning. This means such areas as the half acre lots in the northeast part of the city are again the current zoning and not the 10 units per acre on both sides of Moreno Beach Drive approved in 2021. It is likely that the city is intending to readopt the 2021 zoning unless you speak up.

Please email Planning Division Manager Robert Flores at ([robertfl@moval.org](mailto:robertfl@moval.org)) and ([planningnotices@moval.org](mailto:planningnotices@moval.org)) to request notices of all documents and meetings related to the Revised EIR for MoVal 2040, GPU, Zoning and CAP — also Cc City Clerk ([cityclerk@moval.org](mailto:cityclerk@moval.org)). Climate action plans (CAP) are comprehensive roadmaps that outline the specific activities that our city must undertake to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Climate action plans build upon the information gathered by greenhouse gas (GHG) inventories and generally focus on those activities that can achieve the relatively greatest emission reductions.

Our city lost in court in part because they use words like “should” and “consider” instead of “shall” and “must” when explaining how they will reduce GHG. The city must use words that are measurable as well as monitor how they are doing in reaching their goal to reduce GHG and adjust their requirements every few years.



Scenic View at the San Jacinto Wildlife Area” photo by Ann McKibben

## Judge Orders San Bernardino County To Redo Environmental Review of Bloomington Business Park

Bloomington, CA —

A Superior Court judge ruled in favor of community and environmental groups who challenged San Bernardino County's approval of the Bloomington Business Park Specific Plan in violation of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). If constructed as planned, industrial operations would have brought 1,300 heavy-duty diesel trucks and additional pollution to a predominantly working class Latino community that is already overburdened by similar warehouse developments.

**The court's ruling instructs San Bernardino County to set aside its environmental impact report for the project and perform a new one that complies with CEQA.** The court determined the county's CEQA analysis was faulty across a swath of areas, including the range of alternatives considered, air quality, greenhouse gas emissions, energy and noise impacts. In the meantime, construction of the project must stop. The county must also provide a plan to avoid or mitigate against any significant environmental impacts. As proposed, the project would displace over 100 households, and once constructed, the nearest residence would have been only 11 feet away from the project.

The decision was issued nearly three months after the groups, residents, and other community supporters gathered before the courthouse at the hearing, demonstrating their commitment to protect their community from the proposed 213-acre development.

Mary Ann Ruiz, the **San Gorgonio Chapter Chair of the Sierra Club** reaffirmed the significance of this decision for residents. "San Bernardino County Supervisors have ignored the health and quality of life of Bloomington community members in favor of warehouse developers for too long. This decision requires them to reconsider the impacts of this harmful project on the lives of residents. This also serves as a reminder that county leaders are only held accountable when legal action is taken; otherwise residents and environmental protection agency comments are ignored."

"The court's decision is crystal clear: San Bernardino County wronged the Bloomington community in the approval of this project. The county and the developer will need to fix the serious defects that underpinned the decision to cram more warehouses so close to schools and residences. Bloomington has consistently been targeted by polluting, industrial projects, and this decision recognizes the community's struggle for their health. Earthjustice will continue working with our clients and partners to ensure that Bloomington does not get shortchanged by the county and entrenched developer interests," said Candice Youngblood, Earthjustice attorney.

used with permission of Earthjustice, for the full press release visit:

<https://earthjustice.org/press/2024/judge-orders-san-bernardino-county-to-redo-environmental-review-of-bloomington-business-park>.)

# 2025 Sierra Club Calendars

Order By October 30 From Your San Geronio Chapter

## Sierra Club Wilderness Calendar 2025

The original nature calendar and a bestseller for over thirty years, the Sierra Club Wilderness Calendar once again sets the standard with its breathtaking images of North America's wild, natural beauty. Great care and only top-quality materials go into the production of this exceptional Sierra Club wall calendar, now sealed with a removable sticker and no individual plastic wrapping. Our new environmentally conscious saddle stitch binding ensures easier recycling, and the photos and grids are printed on elemental chlorine free, Forest Stewardship Council®-certified paper containing a minimum of 60 percent pre and post-consumer waste. FSC® certification guarantees that the virgin component of the paper has been sourced from forests managed in an environmentally and socially responsible manner. Each and every spread of this monthly wall calendar features a unique, vibrant photo of one of North America's most spectacular wild places. This is a calendar you'll be proud to own and proud to give. In fact, it is the perfect holiday gift for everyone on your list, since one size fits all and it is sure to be appreciated. Best of all, a portion of the proceeds from sales goes to support the Sierra Clubs work at the local and national level to preserve and protect the planet.

## Sierra Club Engagement Calendar 2025

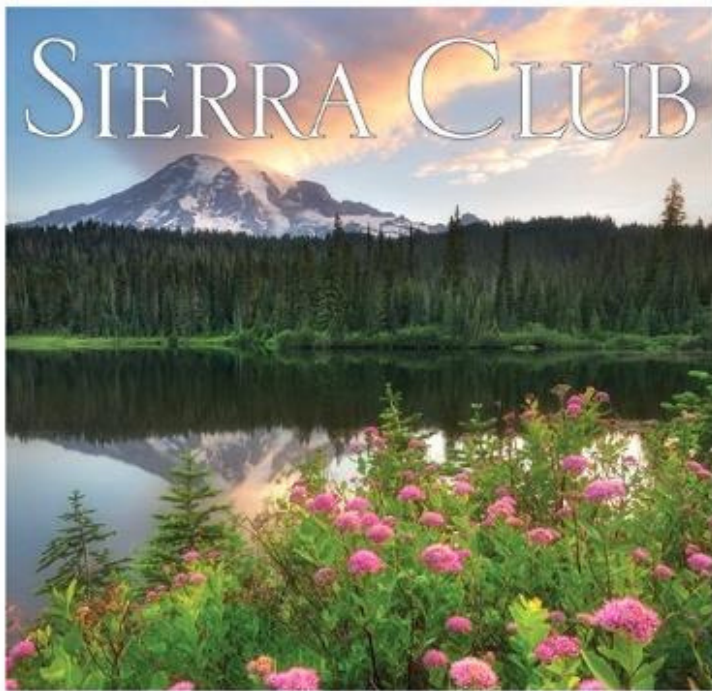
As much at home on your desk as in your briefcase, bag, or daypack, the Sierra Club's week-by-week engagement calendar is all about variety! In addition to featuring spectacular wild landscapes from all across the continent, this 120 page planner includes delightful images of wildlife, as well as amazing close-ups of nature's most vibrant colors and intricate patterns. The 2025 edition contains 58 full color images.



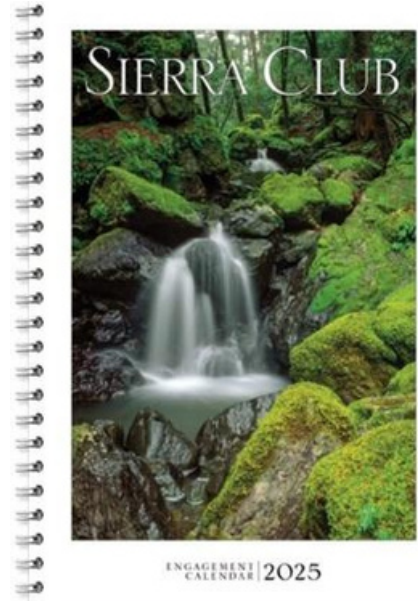
Whitewater Preserve

# 2025 Sierra Club Calendars

Order By October 30 From Your San Geronio Chapter



WILDERNESS CALENDAR 2025



ENGAGEMENT CALENDAR 2025

The desk calendar has a photo for each week of 2025, including wilderness, wildlife, and miniature photography.

## Order Form

Mix titles for quantity pricing.

Title	1-4 Price	5-9 Price	10+ Price	Quantity	Price	Total
Wilderness Wall Calendar	\$16	\$15	\$14	_____	_____	_____
Engagement Desk Calendar	\$17	\$16	\$15	_____	_____	_____

Shipping [to one address] First calendar - \$9.50, each additional calendar - \$0.50

Shipping: \_\_\_\_\_

Make checks payable to "Sierra Club" and mail this form to:

Total: \_\_\_\_\_

Sierra Club Calendars, c/o Ladd Seekins, 22418 De Soto St., Grand Terrace, CA 92313  
 [The prices include all applicable sales taxes computed to the nearest mil.]

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

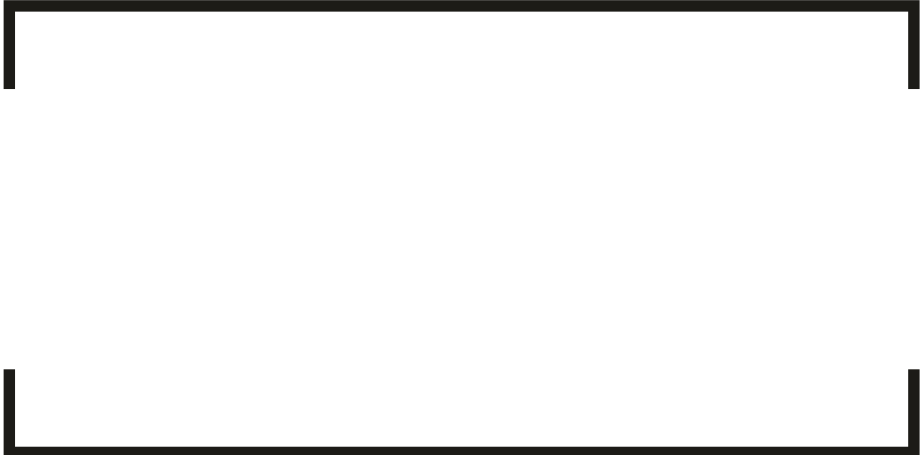
Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State and Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Orders must be received by October 30. Thanks.



**Send your contribution today to celebrate nearly a century of work.**

Sierra Club San Gorgonio Chapter  
P. O. Box 5425, Riverside, CA 92517-5425



San Bernardino Mountains, with Mt. San Gorgonio in the background

**Contact us:** San Gorgonio Chapter Website: <https://sangorgonio.sierraclub.org>



**Editor**

Shelby Reeder  
[shelbydreeder@gmail.com](mailto:shelbydreeder@gmail.com)

**Chapter Chair**

Mary Ann Ruiz  
[chair@sangorgonio.sierraclub.org](mailto:chair@sangorgonio.sierraclub.org)  
909.215.9379

**Chapter Director**

Joz (Jocelyn) Sida  
[jocelyn.sida@sierraclub.org](mailto:jocelyn.sida@sierraclub.org)  
773.627.0229

The outings and event calendar is at our website:  
<http://sangorgonio.sierraclub.org>

The Palm and Pine is a bi-monthly publication released in January/February, March/April, May/June, July/August, September/October, and November/December. All articles should be submitted to the Editor no later than the 5th of the month preceding the issue. Submissions must be sent through email; please note that the Editor reserves the right to edit all submissions for space, clarity, or libel.

Palm and Pine  
(ISSN 1090-9974)17-5425

The Palm and Pine is published bi-monthly  
Published by Sierra Club San Gorgonio Chapter  
P. O. Box 5425, Riverside, CA 92517-5425

Member services (address or info changes or questions):  
Contact [member.care@sierraclub.org](mailto:member.care@sierraclub.org)  
or Visit [myaccount.sierraclub.org](http://myaccount.sierraclub.org)  
or call our office at 951-684-06203

Not a member? Join online through our [website](#) or call our office and we'll mail you a membership form.

For all other inquiries, check our [website](#) or send an email to [chair@sangorgonio.sierraclub.org](mailto:chair@sangorgonio.sierraclub.org)