



SIERRA CLUB

SAN GORGONIO

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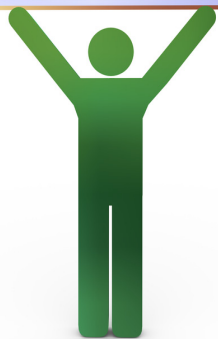
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Palm and Pine

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Serving Riverside and San Bernardino Counties
Protect America's Environment For our Families . . . For our Future

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WAREHOUSES, POLLUTION, AND SOCIAL DISPARITIES

*By Ivette Torres, Environmental Science Researcher and Analyst
for the Peoples Collective for Environmental Justice*

New report on warehouses provides analytical view of the logistics industry's impacts on environmental justice communities across Southern California.

On May 7, the South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD) in Southern California will consider approving an Indirect Source Rule for warehouses that will attempt to address the pollution impacts caused by these magnet sources by ensuring that they are built and operated in a way that eliminates emissions from diesel trucks and other mobile sources of pollution.



Photo: Anthony Victoria

Continued on Page 2 >>>



SALTON SEA – TEAMWORK AND BIG CHALLENGES

Sierra Club Mounts Effective Campaign

By Joan Taylor, longtime desert activist, currently Tahquitz Group Chair

Last week marked the State Water Board's annual oversight meeting to review progress on remediating the Salton Sea. And thanks to close coordination, the Sierra Club shined at what it does best: demonstrate an outpouring of public voices calling for change. And the state of California heard.

The Water Board's sister agency, the Natural Resources Agency, is charged with quelling the harmful dust from exposed lakebed and maintaining the ecosystem for wildlife at the ever-shrinking Salton Sea. This is no easy task, and due to prior administrations dragging their feet, Governor Newsom inherited a huge problem that was already long overdue for attention. Newsom and Wade Crowfoot, Secretary for Natural Resources, resolved a long-standing impasse

with Imperial Irrigation District to clear the way to create a massive shallow-flooded area at the south end of the Sea.

Construction has begun, to not only quell significant dust, but to eventually support huge numbers of migratory wading birds dependent of the Salton Sea. Also, agreements are being reached with the federal Army Corps of Engineers and environmental review is underway for necessary approvals of subsequent projects, such as soil stabilization, and dredging of harbors and channels as well as creation of a "North Lake" at the Coachella Valley end of the Salton Sea.

Some people may call these projects a band aid approach. These people advocate refilling the Salton Sea with imported

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Warehouses, etc. ...from Page 1

In an effort to educate the SCAQMD and the general public about the severity of the warehouse industry's impacts on local air quality and public health, advocates with the People's Collective for Environmental Justice (PC4EJ) and students at the University of Redlands worked collaboratively to produce [an analytical report](#) that looks at the logistic industry's socioeconomic impacts on our communities.

This report will serve as an advocacy tool to help raise awareness related to the warehouse industry's impacts on Southern California's air pollution issues and raise urgency for the Indirect Source Rule and other important policy levers that look to advance zero-emission technology and fight for clean air.

The following are top findings from the report:

- Existing data shows that the top 10 communities in the South Coast Basin with the most warehouses also experience pollution from other toxic facilities, such as gas plants and oil refineries.
- The report also demonstrates that the average percentile for traffic across warehouses is 67% compared to the state average of 50% and showcases how land use and zoning ordinance changes approved through local municipal and county governments have resulted in warehouses being constructed in already pollution-burdened and poverty-stricken areas.
- Of the 3,712 schools located in the South Coast Air Basin, 473 schools are located within half a mile of disadvantaged communities and 242 schools are located within half a mile of disadvantaged areas where there is at least one warehouse already sited.

From our gathered research and data, it's evident that the warehouse industry has failed to take into account the public's health when building their facilities near communities of color. From cumulative impacts on air quality to unjust land use and zoning decisions, the impact warehouses and the global goods movement has on environmental justice communities is a textbook form of environmental racism.

Therefore, we urge the South Coast Air Quality Management District to keep true to its promise of pursuing environmental justice by adopting a strong Indirect Source Rule.



Initiative Aims to Repair Damage to Nature & Uplift Disenfranchised Communities

By Moises Cisneros, Sierra Club Organizer

Natural landscapes provide restorative healing, recreation, economic vitality, cultural significance and a buffer to the climate crisis. However, it seems we are taking these benefits for granted or ignoring them altogether. According to a recent [study](https://www.americanprogress.org/issue) by the Center for American Progress, we have lost 24 million acres of nature to development and extractive industries such as oil and gas. To put it in perspective, in the lower 48 United States, we are losing a football field of nature every 2.5 minutes (at best – it could be worse according to other studies) nonstop, every hour, everyday. Another study ranks the Inland Empire as the worst in natural land degradation – San Bernardino County lost 60,013 acres of natural land over the course of a decade. To add to the disturbing news, a [report](#) by the Hispanic Access Foundation found that “nature destruction has had the largest impact on low-income communities of color: More than 76 percent of low income communities of color live in nature-deprived places.”

With this in mind, we applaud the 30x30 effort at the state and national levels to address the serious jeopardy that we have placed on nature and ourselves. The 30x30 initiative in California was launched as an executive order by Governor Newsom to protect and restore 30% of land and waters by the year 2030.

The California Natural Resources Agency (CNRA) was directed to administer this process. The CNRA has categorized nine geographic regions in the state. Hosted by the CNRA, a series of virtual workshops have been scheduled in each of these regions aimed at receiving input from the public, which will inform their layout and pathway towards implementing executive order [N-82-20](#).

Which lands do we protect, conserve and restore? How do we define these concepts? Where will the funding come from? These questions and others will be addressed in the coming months. Consider joining other Sierra Club leaders and volunteers to ensure our voice is heard and support a meaningful dialogue between all stakeholders at the next state 30x30 virtual workshops focused in your region(s) of interest:

For more information on preparing for these stakeholder workshops or to submit comments in lieu of attending the calls: Sierra Nevada Region, April 28:

Kris Hohag, kris.hohag@sierraclub.org

Los Angeles Region, May 5:

Roberto Morales, Roberto.morales@sierraclub.org

Inland Deserts Region, May 6:

Moises Cisneros, Moises.cisneros@sierraclub.org

Salton Sea ...from Page 1

water from the Gulf of California, and the state is contracting with an independent third-party reviewer to take a hard look at the feasibility of this. However viable this may prove, any such international undertaking is years if not decades off. So in the meantime, to prevent even more asthma that currently plagues nearby underserved communities, as well as to preserve this essential stopover on the Pacific Flyway, it's absolutely imperative we act now. These near-term projects are intentionally designed to be compatible with importing water, should that prove feasible.

Looking to the future, a major potential threat to the Salton Sea is record-breaking drought in the Colorado River basin, which has the feds forecasting an official "shortage." This is a big deal, triggering serious cutbacks in other southwest states. What's the nexus to the Salton Sea? Colorado River water allotted to Imperial Irrigation District is the main source for half million acres of prime agriculture whose runoff is essential to sustain Salton Sea remediation projects, in addition to providing most of the winter vegetables for the nation.

Water conservation on Imperial Valley farms that was driven by the 2003 largest ever rural-to-urban water transfer to



Will the millions of migratory birds dependent on the Salton Sea still be able to rely on it in the future? And will the many human communities in this vast air basin have safe air to breathe? The future for the Salton Sea looks more hopeful than it has in the past: these questions should be answered over the next decade.

San Diego has already diminished the amount of runoff to the Salton Sea. Future water grabs by thirsty states of the Colorado River basin could be devastating, so this is something the Sierra Club has stood fast on: any future drought plans or water transfers must be fully mitigated for impacts to the Salton Sea. It's far too important in terms of ecology and human health to be ignored.

And that brings us back to last week's hearing. Although sometimes it seems progress is agonizingly slow, the state has

broken through some legal and policy barriers and one massive project is underway, with several more, large and small, in process. We're hopefully seeing some real light at the end of the tunnel at last. Many Sierra Club activists turned out for the Zoom Water Board hearing to stress the crisis, urging the state to strive for more, and Crowfoot of Natural Resources met with the Club and other nonprofit partners to pledge increased state manpower and efforts to speed up progress.

Much credit is due activists Kim Floyd and John Pick with their traveling Salton Sea zoom "roadshow," George Courser and Craig Deutsche of the Taskforce, and Mary Ann Ruiz for online alerts. Club staff support and coordination has also been outstanding, led by Jenny Binstock, Brandon Dawson, Courtney Bourgoin, Kate Wortek and Dania de Ramon. Way to go team—and all you readers out there:

please join our ranks!



Would you like to lend your voice to those advocating for the Salton Sea, suggest an audience for our Salton Sea roadshow, or maybe just keep abreast of the situation to enlighten family and friends? All levels of activism help! To receive our Salton Sea alerts and updates please contact Kim Floyd at kimffloyd@fastmail.com or 760-680-9479. Thanks.

Palm and Pine

Big Bear Group

Spring is finally springin' forth up here at 6800 ft! Blossoms are finally being seen on the Flowering Plum trees around town and the daffodils are on the wane. No sign of iris blossoms, yet, but they're shootin' up all over. Our Xeriscape Garden committee members have been busy, too, and are working on Xeriscape Virtual Walkabout Garden Tours for June 12th, July 17th, and August 14th, noon to 1:00 pm. They will be on Facebook at www.facebook.com/groups/BigBearXeriscapeGardenTour. Not only will you be "walking" in gardens of the committee members, but they will be giving mini-workshops on making rain barrels, creating drip irrigation systems, harvesting lilacs, collecting seeds and much more. You can also check out the details on their website, www.BigBearGardenTour.weebly.com. The tour will include posts on how to create beautiful, drought-tolerant and fire-wise landscapes by experienced Sierra Club members. If you post your own Xeriscape plant/landscape photos, you will be entered into the photo contest for a chance to win a prize!

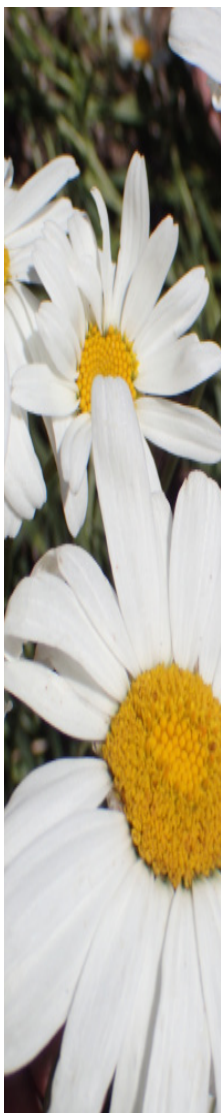
In the meantime, the ExCom is working on creating virtual General Meeting programs. Notifications will be sent out via emails, so make sure you have been receiving the monthly emails from me. If not, go to the San Geronio Chapter website and sign-up again to receive them. If you registered as a member and chose not to receive emails, you will not be receiving the *Palm and Pine* newsletter or monthly emails from our Group without signing up on the website.

If you are a hiker, remember, Outings have been curtailed by National Sierra Club until July 4th. Your Outings Chair will be notifying you of any hikes and they will start to be listed again in the *Palm and Pine*.

Our Big Bear Group now has an email address – BSierraExCom21@gmail.com.

We would love to hear from you!

Happy trails! Ellen Kesler, Chairwoman



2021 Xeriscape Garden Tours



**KEEP CALM
AND
GARDEN ON**

**Virtual Walkabout
Garden Tours**

June 12, July 17 and August 14
Noon to 1 pm

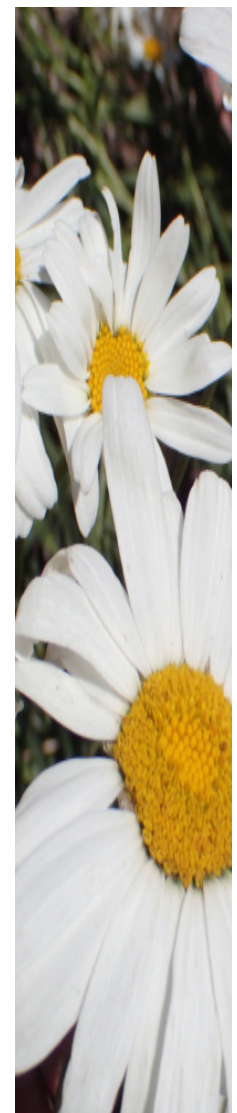
Join us on Facebook for these and so much more!
[www.facebook.com/groups/
BigBearXeriscapeGardenTour](http://www.facebook.com/groups/BigBearXeriscapeGardenTour)

Created by the Sierra
Club Big Bear Group



Join our Facebook Group to participate in a May through August series of live virtual garden tours and mini-workshops, plus read helpful posts on how to create a beautiful, drought-tolerant and fire-wise landscape. Post your own Xeriscape plant/landscape photos and be entered into our photo contest for a chance to win a prize!

www.BigBearGardenTour.weebly.com



Santa Margarita Group

By Margaret Meyncke and Pam Nelson

The Santa Margarita Group is starting some new initiatives for 2021. This is a great time to jump in and get involved. From apathy to **ACTION!**

1) FOREST RESTORATION PROJECT



Dr. Gordon Pratt, an active member of our Group and a butterfly expert, is initiating a restoration project in our local San Jacinto Mountains area. The San Bernardino National Forest site, near Lake Hemet, will restore habitat in a burned area near Lake Hemet. This project was suggested during discussions about actions that our Climate Change committee could initiate. We will be identifying and removing invasive plants. We will collect native seeds and plant them. This gives us many opportunities for field work. For those that cannot go in the field, there will be seed processing tasks that can be done at home. This will be a partnership with the U.S. Forest Service.

The first stages of this project will begin in the Spring of 2021 and continue into Fall/Winter.

Volunteers will be provided with all equipment.

Bring your own masks and practice social distancing!

Help our local Forests! Help our Butterflies!

Sign up to be placed on the Interest List

Please contact Dr. Gordon Pratt: euphilotes1@gmail.com

The above activities and meetings are not sponsored nor administered by the Sierra Club. The Sierra Club has no information about the planning of these activities & makes no representations or warranties about the quality, safety, supervision, or management of such activities. They are published only as a reader service because they may be of interest to the readers of this publication.

2) New Intern Projects

Our former intern partnership program with Mt. San Jacinto community college is on hold, but the SC Grassroots.

Network inspired us to continue with interns on our own. This Spring we have two interns receiving grants from our Group to explore two topics. Lauren Jonker (former intern) will investigate the potential of native seed propagation as a business and Ana Nieto (CSU San Marcos) will research San Diego and Riverside Climate Action Plans. We have interns helping us with our virtual trail program, as well. We're hoping to continue this program into the summer and revive our partnership with MSJC.

3) Earth Day 2021 Photo Contest!

Thanks to Caren Hanson and Kerri King, we have a new idea to engage our community in honor of EARTH DAY! This is a wonderful way to get students, teachers, and adults interacting in nature and sharing their experience.

Details on our website! Spoiler: There's cash prizes involved!

TRAILS Update

There's a new trail in Menifee! The Salt Creek Trail is multi-use and open for visitors. The goal is to extend 16 miles from Menifee into Hemet. Eventually, it will connect with the larger trail plan for bikes, horses, and pedestrians. NO motorized vehicles.

Working together to Explore, Enjoy, and Protect the planet.



Trail Talk:
"Wrightwood's
Bighorn Mine"
Norm Bossom,
presenter
May 19, 2021
7:00 PM

Sitting on the east side of Mount Baden-Powell in Wrightwood is the Bighorn Mine. The story surrounding this mine, its discovery, and the man who discovered gold in this location is the stuff of legend. Imagine the year 1895 and the wilderness where the mine is perched. This was an area where there were still grizzly bears before man induced extinction. Charles "Tom" Vincent lived in this area in a small cabin. He was out on the side of the mountain looking for bighorn sheep when he discovered gold. The story goes on Join us for the Trail Talk to hear more!

To RSVP, go to the Sierra Club / San Gorgonio Chapter website (sangorgonio2@sierraclub.org), click on "Outings and Events," click on "Trail Talk" and RSVP. You will be sent a Zoom link for the event.

Moreno Valley Group

By Ann Turner McKibben, Secretary

Here is some updated information on projects we are following:

Moreno Valley Business Park (MVBP): The Moreno Valley Business Park (MVBP) was considered by the Planning Commission and then approved by the City Council on February 2, 2021. The MVBP is not a business park but a single 220,390 sq. ft. warehouse on approximately 10 acres at the southeast corner of Heacock Street and Ironwood Avenue. In 2018 the Moreno Valley Festival Specific Plan was amended to allow alternative uses upon the undeveloped acreage behind the exiting Festival Shopping Center. This amendment added and designated Business Park uses for the undeveloped land but did not include the 10-acre MVBP site. When the 2018 Amendment processed through its approval process, the titled “Business Park” designation mislead the surrounding property owners and others who thought the proposal would include commercial business, service centers, and offices. Subsequently, the developer chose to build four small warehouses totaling more than 400,000 sq. ft. Unfortunately, the city administratively approved the development of this cluster of small warehouses in a prime commercial and residential area. At the time of the MVBP hearing the Moreno Valley Group submitted comments objecting to the project on the grounds that the Initial Study and supporting environmental documents were ill prepared and that the analyzing studies failed to address the MVBP warehouse project and the impacts that it will have on the environment and the surrounding commercial as well as residential properties. An attorney for the Sierra Club and one for a neighborhood group started the litigation process and a status hearing will be held on May 17.



San Jacinto Wildlife Area

Photographer: Ann McKibben

MoVal 2040--Moreno Valley General Plan Update (GPU) & Climate Action Plan (CAP): The city of Moreno Valley issued a Notice of Availability for the Draft Program Environmental Impact Report Moreno Valley Comprehensive General Plan Update (MoVal 2020) on April 2, 2020. This began a 45-day public review period: April 2, 2021, through May 17, 2021, at 5:30 p.m. The public can access the

documents at: <http://www.moval.org/cdd/documents/general-plan-documents.html> and on the Community Development Department’s “Current Projects” webpage at <http://www.moreno-valley.ca.us/cdd/documents/about-projects.html> We encourage everyone to take time to view the documents and make comments. Please email your comments to senior planner Chris Ormsby at chriso@moval.org or call (951) 413-3229. You can also ask to be put on their email list for future meetings and documents. You may also mail your comments

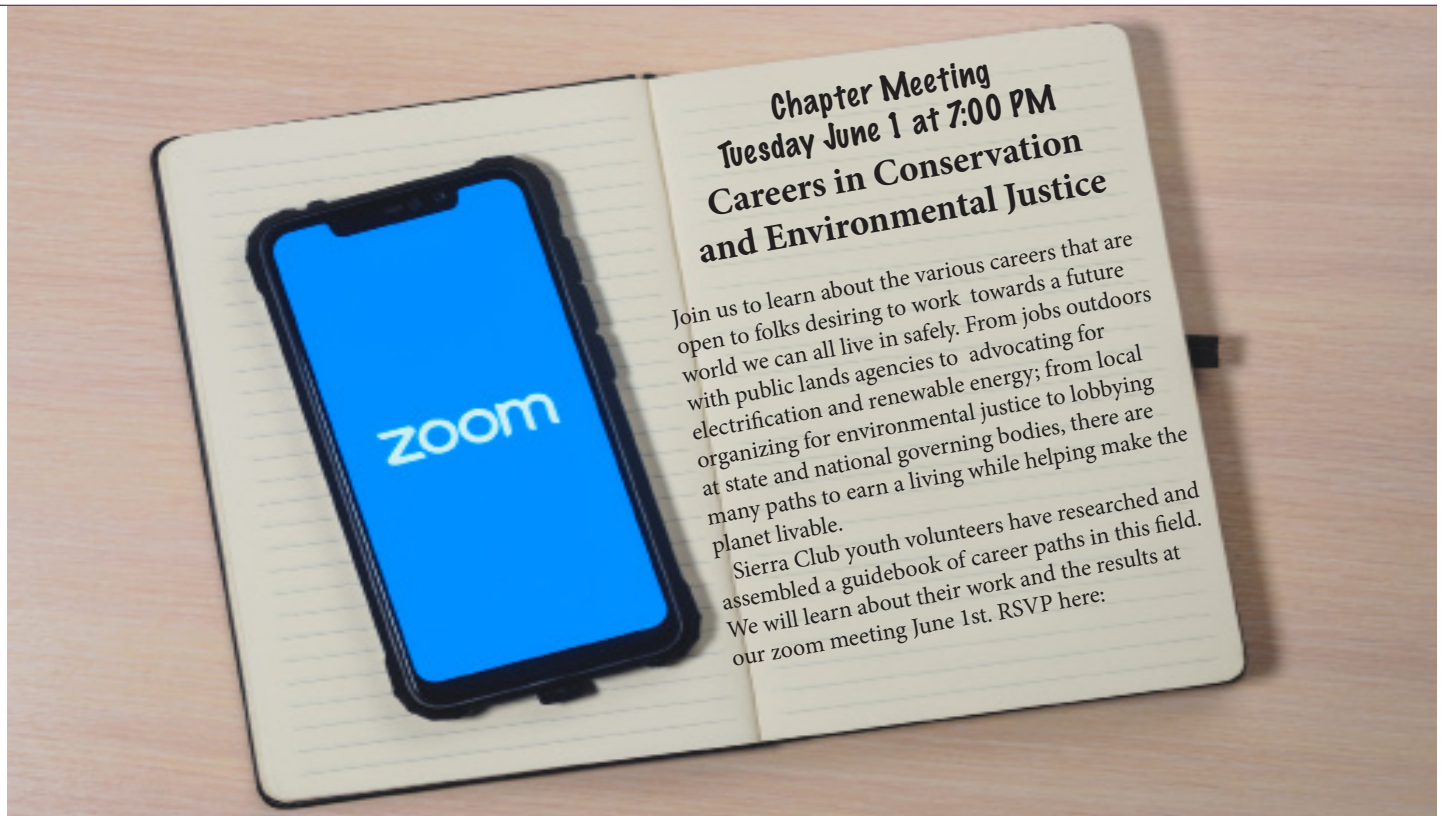
to Chris Ormsby, Senior Planner, Community Development Department, City of Moreno Valley, 14177 Frederick Street, Moreno Valley, CA 92553.

MoVal 2040 is being fast-tracked for approval by the spring of 2021, while the residents of District 2 are without representation on the City Council, and will very likely dramatically change the current policies and land uses allowed by our city. If you care about the future direction of

development near your neighborhood and throughout Moreno Valley, please take time to make comments on the document and express your concerns.

Moreno Valley Trade Center (MVTC): This proposed massive warehouse 1,321,380 sq. ft. project site is located south of Eucalyptus Avenue, west of Redlands Boulevard, and north of Encelia Avenue and includes Hall Nursery and the vacant land south of the Aldi warehouse. This project is expected to operate 24/7 generating hundreds of daily passenger vehicle and diesel truck trips. The project site is across the street from an existing neighborhood of many homes and on land zoned for future homes. According to the project planner the Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) is not complete.

Please take time to get involved by taking part in the review of the DEIR when it is released. You can contact the project planner, Gabriel Diaz, Associate Planner, at (951) 413-3226 or email Gabrield@moval.org and ask to be put on the list to receive notices about this project.



Contact Us . . .

San Gorgonio Chapter Website:
<http://sangorgonio.sierraclub.org>

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For a printed Membership Application,
call our office at (951) 684-6203



Trail Talk: Family Car Camping 101
Karla Kellems, Presenter
June 16, 2021 • 7:00 PM

Join us in June as Karla Kellems will be “walking” you through the basics of car camping with the whole family. Karla is the San Bernardino Mountains Group outings chair, and is an avid car camp outings leader. Learn about car camping strategies, techniques, and equipment to ensure that the whole family – including the kids and Fido – will have a safe and fun experience in nature.

To RSVP, go to the Sierra Club / San Gorgonio Chapter website (sangorgonio2@sierraclub.org), click on "Outings and Events," click on "Trail Talk" and RSVP.

You will be sent a Zoom link for the event.