



SIERRA CLUB

SAN GORGONIO

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All in-person meetings, events, and outings have been cancelled until further notice.

Palm and Pine

A publication of the San Gorgonio Chapter of the Sierra Club
Serving Riverside and San Bernardino Counties

Protect America's Environment For our Families . . . For our Future

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POWERFUL TOGETHER – SIERRA CLUB VOLUNTEERS MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

A great big Thank You !

To all of you who volunteered in the election. Sierra Club's Independent Action Campaign volunteers made over 5 million phone calls to voters in swing states, wrote 1.28 million personalized letters, and sent 20 million text messages. Over 900 of you here in San Gorgonio Chapter, both members and folks new to Sierra Club, helped make a difference in moving swing states to vote for our future.



We hope you will stay connected with us and engage in future election work, local

lobby opportunities, as well as our conservation efforts. Volunteers also worked on interviewing local candidates for endorsement and working to support their campaigns. Keep an eye on our website, Facebook Page and in your email inbox for ways to get involved locally in the coming months.

Tuesday, Jan 12 at 7 PM we will kick off the year with a general Chapter meeting to welcome new and

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JOIN US FOR TRAIL TALK: "NIGHT SKY" ON ZOOM

Ever want to know more about astronomy?

Our December program in the monthly "Trail Talk" series will be "Trail Talk: Night Sky" and will feature a presentation by



Daniel Perry of the Riverside Astronomical Society (RAS). Daniel will discuss and field questions about astronomy basics, what to look for in the Winter night sky, where to find dark skies in Southern California, and will touch on celestial photography and some tools of the trade.

As usual, the "Trail Talk" program will be on the third Wednesday of the month – **Wednesday, December 16 – at 7:00 PM.** To RSVP for the program and receive the Zoom ID, go to [http://](http://sangorgonio2.sierraclub.org)

sangorgonio2.sierraclub.org

For more information, please contact Mary Ann Ruiz (ruizmaryann@gmail.com), John St. Clair (john@stclairs.us), Karla Kellems (KarlaKellems@gmail.com), Juliann Anderson (Juliann.Anderson@gmail.com)

Powerful from Page 1 > > >

long-time activists, celebrate a New Year, and kick off 2021 with ways you can get involved. Our virtual meetings and other events will be found on our website (<http://sangorgonio2.sierraclub.org>) – COVID-19 status means no in-person meetings or outings at least through 2/28/21.

Some might ask why Sierra Club, an environmental organization, is involved in politics at the local level. Bad decisions for our climate and environmental justice are not unique to leaders at the federal level. Our County Supervisors, City Councils, Water Boards and other municipal entities make decisions that affect our lives right here. Just last week (as I write this), in spite of a major show of opposition by constituents in the city of Fontana, leaders there approved well over a million more square feet of warehouse space,

after overturning residential zoning. Sierra Club has actively opposed these projects here and in other cities; litigating and fighting harmful projects that destroy neighborhoods and add harmful diesel pollution. In contrast during this same week, the city of Riverside revised their Good Neighbor standards to include the strictest requirements for warehouse developers in the region. City Councilmembers decide these local issues – working to elect leaders who are informed and concerned about residents’ health, environmental justice, and climate change is critical! Instead of fighting bad decisions, let’s elect Climate Champions!

We hope you’ll join us at online events, in person in the future, and as a volunteer in our various local Groups and Issue Committees.



Honoring Our Young Environmental Champions *A Jono Hildner Legacy Tradition*

Lauren Jonker, Murrieta

Lauren has worked with our Santa Margarita Group for over two years. She started as an intern with our partner program at Mt. San Jacinto Community College. She completed an extraordinary project locating various amphibians in our watershed helping County biologists. From there she continued as a volunteer removing invasive plants, collecting seeds and propagating native plants on her own. In addition, she has helped with projects at the Santa Margarita Ecological Reserve, the Santa Rosa Plateau and on local Nature Conservancy



Chapter supporter and volunteer with the My Generation Campaign for the last four years. She demonstrates her leadership at numerous actions for clean air at the South Coast Air Quality management, advocating on behalf of youth voices on the Youth Leadership Committee. She has helped lead team meetings and organizing events. Roxana lives in San Bernardino with her husband and 2 year old son Leo.

Jessie Parks, Riverside

Jessie is an 18 year old student activist who is passionate about climate justice, leading in our national My Generation movement. He has been an active participant at South Coast Air Quality Management District Meetings, CA Air Resource Board, and legislative advocacy for 100% clean energy under SB 100. He looks forward to pursuing a Bachelors degree in History with an Environmental Science Minor.



properties. She is becoming an expert on local lichens, as well. She has participated in the Dr. Pratt annual native plant sale for several years offering her knowledge and her plants at each event.

Roxana Barrera, San Bernardino

Roxana Barrera has been a

Roel Zamora, Fontana

Roel was introduced to Sierra Club national work via the San Gorgonio Chapter. He immediately volunteered

Champions from Page 2 > > >

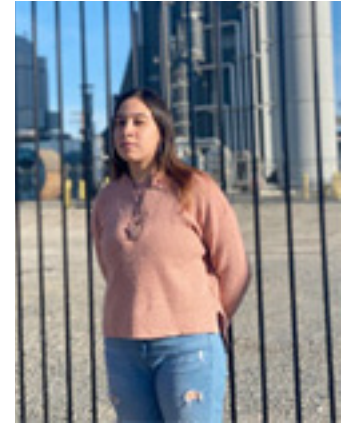
to lead a team of two other volunteers to author our Career Opportunities in Environmental Sustainability online booklet, an initiative aimed at educating college students and elected officials about pathways to careers that help to protect our lands, water, wildlife and create sustainable economies. In the process, Roel has embraced leadership development training that includes administrative support on our Sustainable Economies program, team facilitation, interviews for a half dozen real world environmental steward professionals and an application of the Jemez principles in all of his work. Lastly, he is on the path to graduating from the Sierra Club's Equity in Practice Academy by end of this year.



aimed at educating college students and elected officials about pathways to careers that help to protect our lands, water, wildlife and create sustainable economies. In the process, Haley embraced leadership development training that includes team facilitation, interviewing several real-world environmental steward professionals and an application of the Jemez principles in all of her work.

Justice Sandoval, San Bernardino

Justice Sandoval is 22 years old and a community organizer for Sigma Beta Chi, working with at risk youth in the Inland Empire. She has been volunteering with Sierra Club for the past two years in advocating for air emissions reductions and electrification of transportation policy at the South Coast Air Quality Management District. Clean air is important for Justice as she herself grew up with severe asthma and currently experiences intense allergies.



Madison Chang, Loyola Marymount

Madison has volunteered to assist the Sierra Club in authoring and providing research to create the Career Opportunities in Environmental Sustainability online booklet, an initiative aimed at educating college students and elected officials about pathways to careers that help to protect our lands, water, wildlife and create sustainable economies. In the process, Madison has embraced



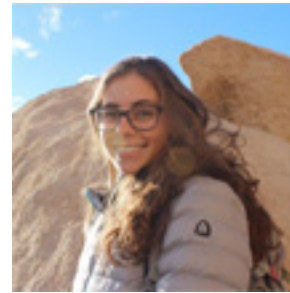
leadership development training that includes facilitating weekly team meetings, helping to write an op-ed highlighting careers in the sustainable environment fields and has interviewed a half dozen real-world environmental steward professionals for the Career Guidebook. Lastly, she is on the path to graduating from Sierra Club's Equity in Practice Academy by end of this year.

Haley Jensen, Fontana

Haley has volunteered to support a team of two other volunteers to author our Career Opportunities in Environmental Sustainability online booklet, an initiative



Callie Roach



Callie volunteers as Co-Chair of the student Environmental Club at University of Redlands. She has turned out folks to South Coast Air Quality Management and California Air Resources Board meetings for public comment and support for taking action to improve our air quality. Callie took part at the Youth

Cimate Strike in Redlands and also is a valued volunteer serving on the San Bernardino Airport Communities Coalition Clean Air Committee.

Darby Osnaya

Darby lives in Colton, CA and has supported Sierra Club work on environmental justice issues for several years. Beginning in 2014, Darby has taken action on issues including Stop the Keystone XL pipeline, defending the Arctic against big oil, and several other National campaigns through phone banking and protest actions. He has been a valued activist for MyGen work locally, showing up for South Coast Air Quality Management District public hearings and helping with community engagement.



SIERRA CLUB ELECTION BALLOTS

The efforts of the San Gorgonio Chapter of the Sierra Club to protect our local environment are overseen by a small group of elected Executive Committee members at both the Chapter and Group levels.

Below are the ballots for this year's Chapter and Tahquitz Group Executive Committee elections.

Chapter and Tahquitz Group Executive Committee Election Ballots and Ballot Instructions for 2020.

Voting may be done by printed ballot or online. Printed ballot instructions are as follows: Print your name and address and sign your name on the outside of the envelope so that the ballot(s) can be verified. If two ballots from a joint membership are enclosed, please print and sign for both.

Mail the ballots to the address specified.

All Chapter members may vote in the Chapter election. Only Tahquitz Group members may vote in the Tahquitz Group election.

San Gorgonio Chapter Ballot

Mail in the printed ballot (below) or vote electronically at

<https://sangorgonio2.sierraclub.org>

Ballot(s) must be received by 12/26/20

San Gorgonio Chapter Ballot

Please Vote for 4 or Fewer

- Mary Ann Ruiz
- Bobbi Jo Chavarria
- Steve Farrell
- Bhavin Jindal

(First Ballot)

San Gorgonio Chapter Ballot

Please Vote for 4 or Fewer

- Mary Ann Ruiz
- Bobbi Jo Chavarria
- Steve Farrell
- Bhavin Jindal

(Second Ballot - Joint Member)

Mail your ballot(s) to:

Sierra Club C/O Dave Barrie, PO Box 557, Rimforest, CA 92378

Tahquitz Group Ballot

Mail in the printed ballot (below) or vote electronically at

<https://sangorgonio2.sierraclub.org>

Ballot(s) must be received by 12/26/20

Tahquitz Group Ballot

Please Vote for 3 or Fewer

- Joan Taylor
- Kathryn Kelley
- Gary Gray

(First Ballot)

Tahquitz Group Ballot

Please Vote for 3 or Fewer

- Joan Taylor
- Kathryn Kelley
- Gary Gray

(Second Ballot - Joint Member)

Mail your ballot(s) to:

Tahquitz Group Sierra Club, PO Box 4944, Palm Springs, CA 92263

Election Successes For Tahquitz Group

Submitted By Kim Floyd, Political Chair

We had a very successful election cycle here in the Tahquitz Group area. We did not win them all but as you can see below we helped move some very good candidates into elected offices.



We were not successful with two Indio City Council candidates, one Cathedral City Council candidate, and one Palm Desert City Council candidate. All of our Club endorsed candidates ran impressive campaigns and worked their hearts out. We are very proud to be associated with all of our endorsed candidates. Only Lisa Middleton and Christy Holstege in Palm Springs were incumbents. All the other successful candidates are first time office holders and will bring a new positive focus to the issues of concern to most Club members including environmental justice, broad community engagement, habitat and species protection and climate change.

Club members and supporters are encouraged to participate in our local political processes. We can make a difference to further improve representation on our issues. Please join our local team of Club members and supporters including Sharon Mattern, John Pick, Joan Taylor, Jim Karpiak, and Gary Gray to now help our endorsed elected candidates while holding all our elected officials accountable. Contact me: Kim Floyd (he,him,his) kimffloyd@fastmail.com 760-680-9479 Political Chair Tahquitz Group to join in on the fun!



SIERRA CLUB 2021 CALENDARS



**Sierra Club 2021
Engagement Calendar**
Week-by-week format, featuring
spectacular photographs and
“wire-o” binding.

**Sierra Club 2021
Wilderness Wall Calendar**
Spiral bound, month-by-month
format, featuring 12 majestic
North American landscapes.



**Wall and Engagement Calendars may be mixed
for the quantity prices and shipping.**

Order Form

Save up to 30% off the list price. Support local conservation efforts.

Title	1 – 4 price	5 – 9 price	10+ price	Quantity	Price	Total
Wilderness Wall Calendar	\$15.00	\$14.00	\$13.00	_____	_____	_____
Engagement Calendar	\$16.00	\$15.00	\$14.00	_____	_____	_____
Shipping: Up to 5: \$10.00 • Each additional more than 5: 50¢				<i>Subtotal Shipping</i>		_____
Total					_____	

Make checks payable to **Sierra Club** and mail this coupon to:
Sierra Club Calendars, PO Box 5425, Riverside, CA 92517-5425
(Cost includes all applicable sales taxes computed to the nearest mil)

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip Code _____

Thank you for your purchase!

Santa Margarita Group

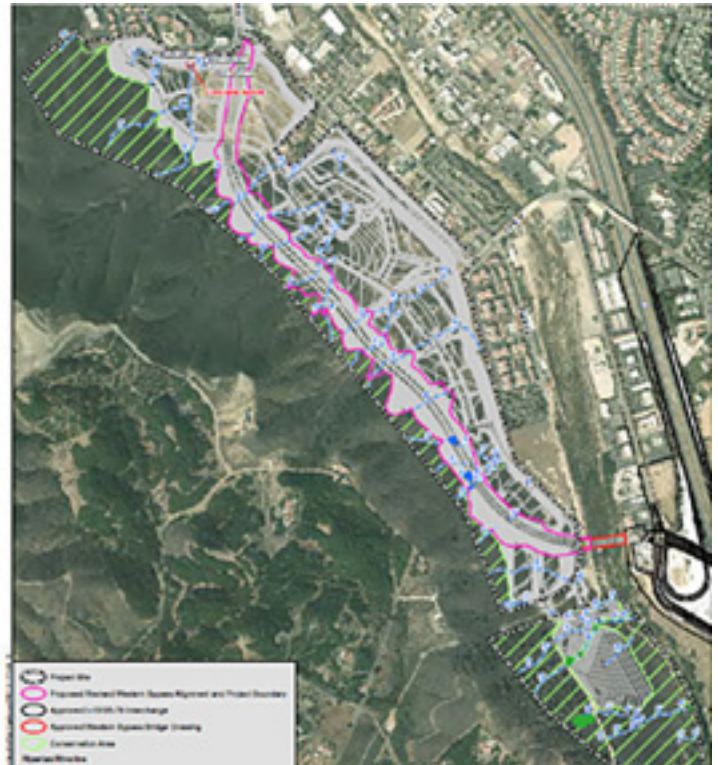
Submitted By Margaret Meyncke

A note from Pam Nelson, chair:

We succeeded! Victory!

After four years of working with Temecula City and the developers of the housing project, Altair, that included two years of litigation, we've finally protected an important wildlife crossing. Without the 55-acre parcel adjacent to the Temecula Creek I-15 wildlife crossing, wildlife would have been facing an even more problematic route for east/west movement at this freeway barrier.

Thanks to JP Rose of the Center for Biological Diversity (CBD) for leading a very precise and strategic litigation effort. His skill and determination kept us informed and optimistic. Our team included the Mountain Lion Foundation, Cougar Connection, Center for Biological Diversity, and Sierra Club. I am so happy that Vicki Long, of Cougar Connection, suggested I call CBD after the City of Temecula approved the Altair development! We've protected the critical 55 acres, as well as two other parcels to the south that may be one side of a freeway wildlife overpass someday!

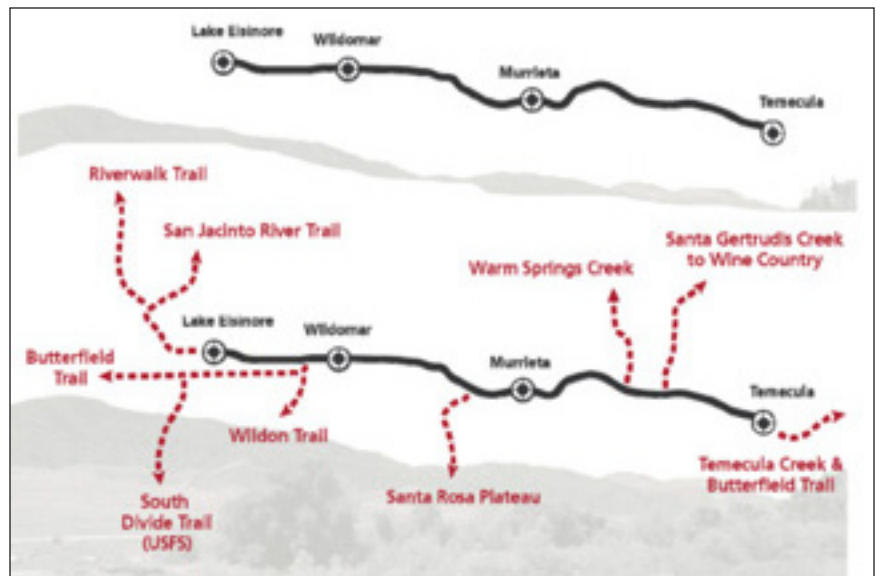


Update on the Murrieta Creek Regional Trail (MCRT)

By Gari Oddi, Chair of Trails Committee

Work continues on the 16-mile, four-city, trail project sponsored by our local Sierra Club Santa Margarita Group. We are looking into better access for bicycles, pedestrians, children, elderly, and disabled.

One thing that will definitely increase access and use on the trail will be the completion of the Santa Gertrudis underpass trail connection. The city completed the Grant process and will begin construction next year. The connecting Santa Gertrudis trail will extend all the way



to Sommer's Bend Development on Butterfield stage, (where there will be a parking lot and trailhead). Connecting these northern Temecula neighborhoods will most certainly increase access and use of the entire MCRT.

Also, when we officially connect the MCRT trail to the Murrieta border to the north along Diaz to Washington, usage should expand. I have advocated with our MCRT planning team, to create a trailhead at the new Flood Plain / Reserve area at Cherry Street, which is at the northern border of Temecula. The City of Temecula has plans to convert that flood plain into a sports park with walking paths and bike trails.

Lastly, there is a hotel going in at the triangle at the intersection of Rancho Cal Road and Diaz. We hope that the improvements that the hotel will make to the trail's access, along with the city working with County Flood Control to build the trail under the Rancho California bridge, will give people easy safe access to and from Old Town.

Moreno Valley Group

By Ann Turner McKibben, Secretary

Here is another reminder—due to Covid-19 all in-person group activities for the San Geronio Chapter and Moreno Valley Group have been cancelled through February 28, 2021. We recommend checking the San Geronio Chapter web page (<https://sangorgonio2.sierraclub.org>) for updated information.

Even though Covid-19 affects our ability to meet in person, the Moreno Valley Group executive committee is busy attending Zoom meetings, making comments both written and virtually on local planning issues. It is challenging to take part in the democratic process with these limitations, but we urge each of you to participate on whatever level you can. Emailing your comments and concerns to planners and our elected city officials is important. We need to challenge their pursuit of certain developer interests and remind them that they represent the residents instead of special interests.

Here is some updated information on projects we are following:

MoVal 2040 — Moreno Valley General Plan Update (GPU) & Climate Action Plan (CAP): The city quickly hosted three meetings in November to establish goals for the community with no other publicized meetings or workshops at this time. MoVal 2040 is being fast-tracked for approval by the spring of 2021, and will very likely dramatically change the current policies and land uses allowed by our city. We

encourage everyone to pay attention and be involved with the General Plan Update. The General Plan Advisory Committee (GPAC) is comprised of seven individuals with two



San Jacinto Wildlife Area

Photographer: Ann McKibben



San Jacinto Wildlife Area

Photographer: Ann McKibben

being local developers and three current planning commissioners. Therefore, it is extremely likely they will recommend that the city council change the land uses for a large portion of the vacant land on the east end as well as vacant land elsewhere within the city. If you care about the future direction of development near your neighborhood and throughout Moreno Valley, please take time to follow the progress of the GPU. Attend meetings (which are video conference type meetings for now) that will allow you to listen and/or speak from the comfort of your home. Speak up about what you want for our future. This is a 20-year plan so don't miss your chance to comment. Please email senior planner Chris Ormsby at chriso@moval.org or call (951) 413-3229 and ask to be put on their email list for future meetings and documents. The city's GPU website with updates to participate can be found at the following link: [http://](http://www.moval.org/cdd/documents/general-plan-home.html)

www.moval.org/cdd/documents/general-plan-home.html

Along with the GPU the city is also doing a Climate Action Plan (CAP) intended to make our city and planet less polluted—especially cutting carbon pollution which will help keep our air and water cleaner and protect our children's health. Your input is needed and can make a difference.

Los Serranos Group

By Brian Elliott, Chair

Moreno Valley Trade Center (MVTC): This proposed massive warehouse project site is located south of Eucalyptus Avenue, west of Redlands Boulevard, and north of Encelia Avenue (includes Hall Nursery and is south of the Aldi warehouse). This project for a light industrial high cube warehouse with 1,332,380 square feet and many daily diesel truck trips has begun the preparation of a Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR). According to the city planning department, the tentative schedule for the release of the DEIR has been delayed. The project site is across the street from an existing neighborhood of many homes and on land zoned for future homes.

The project requires a General Plan Amendment and a Change of Zone from “Residential: Max 2 du/ac (R2)” to “Business Park/Light Industrial (BP)” to allow it to be built across the street from existing homes. Please take time to get involved by taking part in the review of the Draft Environmental Impact Review (DEIR), providing comments to the city regarding the project and its impacts. Please contact Gabriel Diaz, Associate Planner, at (951) 413-3226 or email: Gabriel@moval.org and asked to be put on the list to receive notices about this project. The Moreno Valley Group of the Sierra Club made comments during the Notice of Preparation for the DEIR on this massive warehouse. Instead of another warehouse, this land needs to remain zoned for homes or be zoned for transitional uses between existing family homes and warehouses to separate them from operational noises, traffic, and its many diesel truck trips.

Lake Perris State Recreation Area (LPSRA): Please check the LPSRA web page (http://parks.ca.gov/?page_id=651) for detailed information regarding visiting Lake Perris as they balance recreation opportunities and maintaining social distancing and protecting the public from COVID-19. January 2021 is the best time of buy your annual limited use Golden Bear Pass (\$20.00) for those 62 years or older. It is valid except Memorial Day through Labor Day. It can be purchased at Lake Perris and can also be used at most other state parks. It is good for everyone in your car.



We are sure missing leading and participating in our outings and meetings. Let's hope that we will be able to resume all of our in-person activities in 2021. The Los Serranos Group intends to begin virtual meetings in January 2021. Look for announcements on our web page:

https://sangorgonio2.sierraclub.org/groups/los_serranos.

The recent election for Los Serranos Executive Committee (ExCom) members for 2021 has been completed and Farley Olander, Gary Charlton, and John St. Clair were re-elected to another two year term. They join Brian Elliott, Mark Rush, and Jeff Warhol on the six member ExCom.

We all hope you have been able to get out safely and enjoy our local natural areas. The heat of the summer and the fires and associated bad air quality kept us out of the mountains for a long time. The arrival of fall and cooler weather means that we can get out more and stretch our legs on hikes on our favorite trails, using Covid safety protocols.

Hope to see you in the mountains soon!



Big Bear Group

By Ellen Kesler, Group Chairwoman

Happy New Year! We are looking for so many GOOD changes in 2021! Some of the Big Bear Group ExCom have kept active and involved in the “Covid Year”; still giving our annual scholarship (this year it was two) to a local high school student; participating in the letter writing campaigns against Trump and the Georgia Run-off; supporting the groups up here who are now in litigation to fight the Moon Camp Development, both financially and physically; and in various webinars pertaining to National Sierra Club business.

Now we look forward to the changes with possible restructuring of the National Sierra Club leadership format, as well as the nation’s presidential changes. We must support the repairing of the damages that have been done by the Trump Administration to our lands, protected animals, and environment, and continue our fight for a greener world, especially in our local areas.

Our Chapter has started a wonderful virtual program which I encourage everyone to enjoy; virtual outings. Every third Wednesday of the month, Outings Chairs are taking us virtually to wonderful places we can access. I attended the first one and I am eager to explore places I’ve never known existed in our Chapter. We are given valuable information about them that we would need to know, like essential things to take with us, fees, the map, if they’re dog-friendly, etc. Look on the front page of this *Palm and Pine* for more information and how to register. Just Zoom in! It will be well worth your time and it certainly beats the TV!

Here’s to a great 2021! Ellen Kesler, Chairwoman



Congressional Representatives Takano and Ruiz Support our Veterans

Thanks to our local Congressional Representatives Mark Takano (CD 41, central and western Riverside County) and Dr. Raul Ruiz (Eastern Riverside County and Coachella Valley) our Veterans will soon have access to improved resources for mental health, wellbeing, and healing from service-related trauma. Congressman Mark Takano introduced the Veterans Comprehensive Prevention, Access to Care, and Treatment (COMPACT) Act (H.R.8247), which has now passed the House and Senate and is awaiting signature by the President. Included in this bill is the Accelerating Veterans Recovery Outdoors (AVRO) Act, which would begin the process of removing barriers that prevent veterans from accessing public lands to heal from service-related trauma.

Sierra Club’s Rob Vessels, Campaign Manager of Sierra Club Military Outdoors, stated “Our public lands are places for respite and healing, but for many veterans, those landscapes remain out of reach.”...(this bill) “is an important first step in eliminating those barriers to access, so veterans can heal on the lands they swore an oath to protect.

Dr. Ruiz introduced the recently passed “Wounded Veterans Recreation Act,” which ensures free National Parks passes for all veterans with a service-related disability. Engaging in nature provides healing and promotes mental and physical health, and our wounded veterans now will have a lifetime pass to our National Parks.

We want to thank both Congressmembers Mark Takano and Dr. Raul Ruiz for recognizing the importance of caring for our veterans, as well as the importance of access to nature in healing mental and physical harm.



Contact Us . . .

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

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***Don't Forget...
Sign up TODAY
for our "Trail
Talk" program
on Wednesday,
December 16!
It's "out of this
world"!***

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