**The Climate Emergency**

*Sierra Club And The Green New Deal in The Inland Empire*

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**Palm and Pine**

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

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**Membership Meetings**

**Tuesday, May 7th 7:30 PM**

“Sierra Club, the Green New Deal, and the Inland Empire”
Presented by a Panel of Local Activists and Leaders

(see write up on Page 2)

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**Tuesday, June 4th 7:30 PM**

“Creating Fire-Safe Communities”
Presented by Chad Hanson

(see write up on Page 5)

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Programs are held at the San Bernardino County Museum, 2024 Orange Tree Lane, Redlands

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**This year the My Generation team in the Inland Valley of Southern California celebrated many victories. From growing its leadership base into new territory, to creating intersectional partnerships with grassroots labor networks. The biggest wins came manifested in community based policies to solve the epidemic of pollution from warehousing, railyards, and new development. We also won statewide policy for 100% clean energy SB 100.**

Over the years the valley has seen a severe increase of mega warehousing especially near homes and schools. Many of the My Gen team have also worked in these facilities, with poor working conditions. In May of this year, after years of organizing for a fair Air Quality Management Plan, we won a rulemaking to regulate warehousing, railyards, and new development at the South Coast Air Quality Management District. This couldn’t have happened without the commitment from My Gen youth showing up bright and early turning out their peers, participating for public comment, writing letters to the editor, and creating pressure on social media. We also had many of these same youth leaders participate in mobilizing for 100% clean energy in California, Senate Bill 100.

SB 100 barely passed the approval of two moderate assembly members in our district. Last year this bill failed to move out of committee. This year we worked with partners, activists, and staff of members in the district and in Sacramento to ensure it passed. Our college and high school organizers came in with energy and determination to get the job done. We had several Letters to the Editor, two major Op-eds, and Twitter rallies to put the media pressure on our targets. The activists organized turn out of community members to show up in person in district office to flyer and lobby about SB 100 at last minute during the voting period. Finally on voting day we had hundreds of phone calls coming in collaboration with Sierra Club California and our digital team. Our activists also mobilized the chairs of democratic clubs, other elected officials, and their peers to call in and make phone calls. We barely made the votes but we did it and CA is on its way to clean energy by 2045!

Our campaign is special in that it provides a youth platform to advocate for cleaner air, energy, and a just future. We appreciate their bravery as they enter spaces that are technical and often leave community out of the decision making process. We hope to continue to support and grow our leaders for the future.

Thus, I am so excited to provide this update about Jessie Parks (left photo), a brilliant 17-year-old My Generation youth organizer!

Jessie is a resident of Riverside, California, and has seen the goods movement logistics industry encroach more and more near his high school. Mega where houses in Perris, California, contribute to tons of air pollution and greenhouse gas emissions. Jessie had the opportunity to speak at the state capital recently for the Climate Strike representing the Inland Valleys of Southern California. He spoke about the need to clean up our air, to hold the AQMD (Air District) accountable, and the health effects in the region because of air pollution. He was also quoted in a podcast by the Washington Post and profiled in the Guardian.
JOIN US . . . Chapter Meeting May 7
“Sierra Club, the Green New Deal, and the Inland Empire”

Join us Tuesday May 7th at the San Bernardino County Museum for a program on the Sierra Club, the Green New Deal and the Inland Empire. We will see a presentation describing just how the Green New Deal fits into the Sierra Club’s vision for action on the climate crisis.

After the presentation, we will hear from local activists and leaders about work happening now in Riverside and San Bernardino Counties to advance the promise of a Green New Deal.

Come and learn more about what is happening here in your region and how you can help. The meeting starts at 7:30 PM.

Back in school, we learned about the “New Deal” in the 1930s. President Roosevelt acted quickly upon election to stabilize the economy and provide relief and jobs to people suffering from the Great Depression.

Fast forward to 2019 and we are talking about the Green New Deal at a time when the threat is not economic but to all life on the planet.

We know the current federal administration will not act to confront the climate crisis. We must work at the local and state level to change the course of our climate.

We are finally seeing lawmakers and public opinion move in the direction of a Green New Deal that will help offset climate disruption as well as provide a more equitable economy. We can act locally to make a difference.

HOPE TO SEE YOU ON THE 7th!!

Outings Leader Training June 1-2

If you enjoy healthy exercise and the abundance of special places to visit in the San Gorgonio Chapter, then you have probably participated in our extensive Outings Program. Coming up is the opportunity for you to become a Chapter Outings Leader beginning this June 1 & 2 at the Sierra Club-owned ski cabin near Running Springs.

Outings need not be limited to hiking, biking and cross-country skiing. The chapter encourages a wide range of outings; perhaps you are more interested in family outings or special focus outings such as those emphasizing flora and fauna or photography. These outings oftentimes are shorter and slower and chapter members particularly request more outings of this nature.

The June training involves an overnight stay and includes instruction in outdoor leadership, Club Outings Administration, Map and Compass, Psychology of Leadership and environmental considerations. Sunday will include a field exercise where you put into practice your newly acquired skills.

For this year fees are being waived and only a $15 refundable deposit is required. Additionally, participants will be asked to contribute one food item for the Saturday night dinner.

Early enrollment is highly encouraged, as upon receiving your application with payment you will immediately be provided some pre-course material to study at your own pace. For late enrollees, it is not necessary to complete this study material prior to the class; however, it will greatly aid you in doing so.

For an application form or general questions, please email Ralph Salisbury, LTC Chair at ralphsalisbury@att.net Alternately you may use mail to Ralph Salisbury, 2995 Floral Ave, Riverside, CA 92507.

Island Hopping in Channel Islands National Park

May 5-7 June 9-11, July 14-16
August 18-20, September 22-24, October 20-22

Join us for a 3-day, 3-island, live-aboard tour of the enchanting Channel Islands. Hike wild, windswept trails bordered by blazing wildflowers. Kayak rugged coastlines. Marvel at pristine waters teeming with frolicking seals and sea lions. Train your binoculars on unusual sea and land birds—and an occasional whale. Watch for the endangered island fox. Look for reminders of the Chumash people who lived on these islands for thousands of years. Or, just relax at sea. This cruise departs from Santa Barbara. The cost, $730, includes an assigned bunk and all meals, snacks, and beverages. Kayaking will be overseen by our concessionaire; all hikes will be on trails, class 1 terrain. This trip is a fundraiser to support the Sierra Club political program in California. To reserve space send a $500 check, written to California Sierra Club PAC to Joan Jones Holtz, 11826 The Wye St, El Monte, CA 91731.

For more information contact leaders: Joan Jones Holtz: jholtzhln@aol.com; 626-443-0760 Wayne Vollaire: avollaire@gmail.com; 909-327-6825

A Sierra Club Concern:
The Rains and the 2019 Super Bloom
By Maryellen (Elena Garcia), Santa Margarita Group

The unusually rainy weather that the Inland Empire was treated to in the early part of the year was both a boon and a bane. While the inundations replenished our reservoirs, rivers and creeks, they also undermined some roads and hillsides. The same rains that watered our lawns and gardens also gave rise to stubborn weeds. But what a wealth of color they brought to our hillsides! Most of the members of the Santa Margarita Group (SMG) live within close striking distance of I-15, the main artery that links San Diego to the South and points West and North. The amazing Super Bloom of poppies painted hill after hill a bright orange along our freeway in Lake Elsinore, but it unfortunately snarled traffic on a few weekends and brought out the worst in some purported nature-lovers who trampled the flowers in order to get the perfect photo. Clearly, we as Sierra Club groups need to do more to educate the general public as to how best to enjoy nature while respecting its boundaries.
Big Bear Group Executive Committee Election

This year’s Nominating Committee wants you to know that if you wish to be considered for nomination, or know someone that you want to present for nomination, you can contact Ed Wallace at rushewallace@yahoo.com or mail to P.O. Box 3048, Big Bear Lake, CA 92315. Before you do, please look over this year’s Election Rules.

ELECTION RULES

- Nominees must be Big Bear Group members who give their consent to be nominated.
- Requests for nomination must be received by September 1.
- If the Nominating Committee chooses not to place a willing candidate on the ballot as a nominee, the candidate may seek placement on the ballot as a Petition Candidate
- The name of any Big Bear Group member may be proposed by written petition (with candidate approval) containing the signatures of at least 10 Big Bear Group members.
- Petitions with valid signatures must be received by 6:00 pm on September 20.
- Ballots will be mailed as part of the Palm and Pine newsletter by October 5.
- Final receipt date for ballots shall be November 22nd at 12 noon.
- Ballots will be verified, opened, and counted in Ellen Kesler’s home, Big Bear City, CA, on December 3 at 6:00 pm.
- The two-year term of office for the newly elected ExCom members will commence on January 1, 2020, and will run through December 31, 2021.

Everything accomplished by the Big Bear Group is done by volunteers and this is one way that you can help make a difference. If you want to know more about the duties of an Executive Committee member, please feel free to contact Ellen Kesler at jrick47@yahoo.com.

Moreno Valley Group
By Ann Turner McKibben, Secretary

The Sierra Club has endorsed Darrell Peeden for the Moreno Valley Unified Board of Education Trustee Area 5 Special Election on May 9, 2019. The recommendation is the result of all interested candidates submitting their answers to a questionnaire, being interviewed by four Sierra Club members, and the group being voted on by four levels of the Sierra Club. Scrolling down his website (www.Peeden2019.com) allows you to learn more and to see the many leaders who have endorsed him and to offer help and/or donations. Please take time to vote for Darrell in the upcoming election.

Please look at our calendar of outings listed on our group web page: http://sangorgonio2.sierraclub.org/groups/moreno_valley_Here is a huge thank you to Christina Torres, Group Outings Chair, Nancy Power and Beatriz Vindiola for organizing and leading our group’s outings!

We are sad to report that our former group chair, Michael Millsap passed away suddenly in February. Please look for a separate article about Mike on Page 6 of this Palm and Pine.

Mystic Lake has reappeared in the northern San Jacinto Valley (south of Highway 60 between Moreno Valley and San Jacinto) because our wet winter. The safest place to view Mystic Lake is from the San Jacinto Wildlife Area, 17050 Davis Road, Lakeview. Take the Ramona Expressway east to Davis Road in Lakeview; turn north and drive to the wildlife area headquarters. For more information contact the SJWA office at (951) 928-0580; https://www.wildlife.ca.gov/Lands/Places-to-Visit/San-Jacinto-WA Please do not drive on the roads if there is rain and the roads are muddy.

Here is some updated information on projects we are following:

Developer Highland Fairview submitted an application to expand the Skippers. The enlarged 768,000 square foot building would connect to the existing Skippers building by a conveyor bridge. It was approved by a 7-0 vote of the Planning Commission. The project may be considered by the Moreno Valley City Council in April. For more information on the project or to email comments, contact city planner Jeff Zwack, at jeff@moval.org.

San Jacinto Wildlife Area Land Management Plan:
No new news. A letter from the Moreno Valley Group commented on the proposed Land Management Plan (LMP) for the San Jacinto Wildlife Area (SJWA). The LMP will be the guiding document for managing the 19,000 acre SJWA in the future.

World Logistics Center (WLC): The developer wants to avoid further delays as a result of our latest appeals and has requested settlement talks. In late November the California Supreme Court denied hearing the WLC’s appeal of our August Court of Appeal victory on using initiatives for development agreements. Despite three court decisions in our favor in 2018, the WLC is still very much alive. Although the judge ruled that the city’s Environment Impact Report was deficient as to the energy impacts, biological impacts, agricultural impacts, noise impacts and cumulative impacts of the project, the city issued a Revised Final Environmental Impact Report for the WLC in July 2018 to address those issues. Please contact the Planning Department and request that you be put on their mailing list to receive information on the project: Patty Nevins, Planning Manager, (951) 413-3206, patty@moval.org.

Palm and Pine
By Ellen Kesler, Group Chairwoman

Mojave Valley Group
Santa Margarita Group

By Elena/Maryellen Garcia, Ph.D.

ECENT SUCCESSES

We expect our Earth Day Festival, held on April 6, to have been a big success. It is the third time that our Group has organized it and the second year it has been held at the Vail Ranch Headquarters at its heritage site on Temecula Parkway. With 30+ vendors or sponsors, all advocates for an environmentally aware lifestyle; a games area for the younger set and a series of speakers on the main stage on the theme of “Healthy Diet, Healthy Planet,” the day offered something for everyone. It was held in advance of the traditional date for Earth Day, April 22, in order to jump-start awareness of environmentalism for the whole month.

Our education projects continue to be effective in bringing along younger environmentalists. Our Intern program, in partnership with Mount San Jacinto Community College (MSJC), has some students monitoring water bodies for fairy shrimp and various toads and frogs and others monitoring burrowing owl colonies. They are working with biologists from Riverside County Regional Parks, who contribute their hands-on expertise. Interns are also working with Eve Cannella at the Butterfly Garden at the Vail Ranch Headquarters, open to the public as well as to butterflies.

NEW VENTURES

Boundaries concern us when it comes to the right of big cats to roam freely in the face of human encroachment on habitat that was once solely theirs. For several years we have been cleaning debris and trash from under the freeway bridge over the confluence of the Temecula and Murrieta creeks to encourage mountain lions and other wildlife to use it to cross to the other side. We hope that this will increase their gene pool and forestall in-breeding as well as freeway fatalities. The Santa Margarita Group is forming a Wildlife Crossing Coalition in collaboration with local staff from the Nature Conservancy and the Santa Margarita Ecological Reserve. Leaders from the SMG are Teri Biancardi and Pam Nelson, who held the first meeting of the new coalition on April 5. Our long-term goals will be to find ways to fund and do studies, explore crossing designs and effect acquisitions to make the north San Diego and south Riverside Counties more functional for wildlife movement.

Our political committee is spreading the word about LEAPS, the Lake Elsinore Advanced Pump Storage project that has been proposed—and rejected—time after time. Proposed by Nevada-Hydro Corp, it would take water from Lake Elsinore, run it uphill to Decker Canyon in the Cleveland National Forest to an upper reservoir and send it to...
Mike Millspaugh was a member of our Chapter’s Executive Committee (ExCom) and Chair of the Moreno Valley Group for many years. On February 10th he unexpectedly died at age 70. While many of us know one another as Sierra Club members we many times do not learn about other aspects of people’s lives.

Mike grew up in West Covina. After graduating from Edgewood HS he spent four years serving in the Air Force during the Vietnam War. He was then able to earn his degree in Sociology at CSU Fullerton in 1972 and later his Master’s degree in Public Administration from Pepperdine University. Mike worked as a probation officer and also as an aerospace financial analyst before going back to school to earn his teaching credential from Chapman. It was in teaching special education at Moreno Valley HS (1990 — 2011) that Mike found his passion.

He was also involved in his community. Besides helping the Sierra Club, he was very involved with his Riverside Universalist Unitarian Church, two Toastmasters Groups and the UCR Osher Extension Learning Group. All of these groups as well as those from his school were well represented at his services and his burial at the Riverside National Cemetery.

As Chair of the Moreno Valley Group he helped us raise the necessary money to challenge projects that impact the environment and/or impact the health of people — especially the children he taught. He helped maintain our Group’s membership by writing letters to those who allowed their membership to lapse and also welcomed new members. He joined others to help elect politicians friendly to the environment. He collected signatures on petitions, knocked on doors, placed door hangers, talked directly to people and telephoned people to encourage them to vote for candidates like Congressman Mark Takano. He joined rallies like the First Woman’s March, and other Sierra Club members to help the Center for Community Action and Environmental Justice (CCAEJ) protest Redland’s Mountain View gas-fired power plant. To Mike, democracy was not a spectator sport. He would appreciate if others would follow his example.

Mike also enjoyed traveling to different parts of the world with his wife, Jan. He would take pictures and share them. He did so several times at our Chapter’s first Tuesday membership meetings in Redlands. This was part of his enjoyment of life with his interests in photography, technology, music and good wine. It was, however, his family that Mike loved the most and about whom he would talk — his wife, children and in the past few years his grandchildren. He also helped in his grandchildren’s classrooms.

There was so much more to Mike and what he brought to many lives. He was a gentle person who acted to benefit others. A teacher’s influence never ends and all his work with students will be felt for generations.
of color who have to grapple with low wages and toxic pollution are now also getting hit hardest by climate-related storms, wildfires, and flooding. We can’t fully tackle climate change or inequity without addressing the other. A “Green New Deal” would take on both.

Here in the Inland Empire, we are tackling the climate crisis from several fronts including promoting local renewable energy. The Chapter supports Community Choice Energy, providing good jobs and affordable housing in existing communities that need it. We are working with a coalition of social and environmental justice groups in the Coachella Valley, and major conservation organizations to stop this horrific land grabs. (Please see enclosed box: “Save Joshua Tree - Stop Paradise Valley”).

Green House Gas emissions are causing climate change as well as health hazards in our communities. LA Times quotes Rev. Leo Woodberry, a pastor from South Carolina, during a panel titled “Ensuring Climate Equity – “There would be no need for us to battle climate change if we had not closed our eyes when communities of color, and low-income communities, were being poisoned.” Here in the Inland Empire, emissions are worsening with the advent of the logistics industry. Open space along transport corridors is being converted to massive warehouse facilities with the approval of local city governments. Many communities, were being poisoned.”

The electricity generated would be directed to north San Diego County. The project would endanger the natural ecology of the lake and threaten its abundant avian population while providing no benefits to local residents. We encourage members to join the Facebook page to stop LEAPS: https://www.facebook.com/groups/1640975875966542/

A new undertaking of the SMG is the Wildlife Connections Art Show, with opening and reception on May 3rd at The Gallery at Warner Springs, 31652 Highway 79, House #1. It features scratchboard artist Heather Lara’s work, which employs various media and methods to create representations of wildlife. For a demonstration of the technique see her website: http://www.heatherlara.com/home Lectures on wildlife connectivity will be given on June 1, 8 and July 13 at the gallery from 4-6 pm, featuring experts from the Wildlife Research Institute, the Santa Margarita Ecological Reserve, UC Davis and the Nature Conservancy. Cost is $20/person, to include local wine, appetizers and artist’s demonstration. The Gallery will be the staging area for hikes on May 3rd and May 16th, as well as in June (non-Sierra Club). Contact Pam Nelson for questions at pamela05@yahoo.com.

Mark Your Calendars For Our Chapter Meeting on Tuesday, June 4th

Subject: Creating Fire-Safe Communities

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Chad will also discuss why the current fire management focus on backcountry fire suppression and commercial logging is based on myths that are not only harming habitat in wildlands but are also dangerously diverting resources and attention away from protecting communities from wildland fire.

Chad was elected last spring to a three-year-term on the Sierra Club national Board of Directors, receiving the highest number of votes among the five who were elected. He has a Ph.D. in ecology from UC Davis and is a research ecologist with the John Muir Project, based in Big Bear City. He previously served two terms on the Sierra Club Board from 1997 to 2003. Chad previously presented The Ecological Importance of Mixed Intensity Wildfires at the August 2018 chapter meeting.