Sierra Club’s San Gorgonio Chapter
Joined Riverside Women’s March

San Gorgonio members and supporters joined over 4,000 in Riverside to march for justice.

The Sierra Club’s mission statement says that we will “enlist humanity to protect and restore the quality of the natural and human environment.” President-elect Donald Trump, who ran the most hateful campaign in recent history with rhetoric against, women, immigrants, Muslims, the disabled and many more, threatens the human environment by endangering the safety of a sister march of the Women’s March on Washington. Chapter members also participated in the march in Los Angeles and Yucca Valley. The Women’s Marches were organized to send a bold message to the Trump administration on their first day in office, and to the world that women’s rights are human rights. Advocates came together, recognizing that defending the most marginalized among us is defending all of us. In total, more than 600 sister marches including thirty inter-national sister marches occurred globally, with an estimated 5 million marchers.

Chapter’s March Meeting Features “Friends of the Inyo”

Presented by Ben Wickham on March 7th

The March 7 San Gorgonio Chapter meeting features Ben Wickham, Membership and Outreach Coordinator for Friends of the Inyo, a conservation organization based in Bishop, California, and founded in 1986.

From the top of Mt. Whitney down to Death Valley, from Owens Lake to the Bodie Hills, and many places in between, Friends of the Inyo connects thousands of people to their public lands each year through hikes, tours, volunteer opportunities, habitat restoration, trail maintenance, civic engagement, and educational programs.

Ben took the first job out of college that allowed him to work in the mountains. That summer at Merced Lake in the Yosemite Wilderness convinced him that mountains are where he should be. He migrated between Yosemite, Idaho, Montana, and the Eastern Sierra, working in the tourism industry to afford himself the opportunity to explore high alpine terrain on skis, deep forests by foot, and rapid rivers by kayak. Over time, Ben discovered that he wanted to do more to help people engage with the landscape around them. He taught at the University of Idaho’s McCall Outdoor Science School while receiving a masters degree in natural resources with an emphasis in environmental education at the university. Ben is excited to help Friends of the Inyo connect the public with their lands in the Eastern Sierra.

For more information, visit <www.friendsoftheinyo.org>.
Palm and Pine
ISSN 1090-9974
USPS 341-430
The Palm and Pine is published bi-monthly
Published by the
Sierra Club
San Gorgonio Chapter
4079 Mission Inn Avenue, Riverside, CA 92501-3204
(951) 684-6203
Periodicals postage paid at Riverside, CA

Member Change of Address
Sierra Club, Change of Address
PO Box 421041, Palm Coast, FL 32142-1041

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to:
Palm and Pine
Sierra Club San Gorgonio Chapter, PO Box 421041, Palm Coast, FL 32142-1041

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Submission Information
The Palm and Pine is published six times per year: January/February, March/April/ May/June, July/August/September/October and November/December. Submit all articles to the Editor by the 5th of the Month prior to issue. Preferred format is electronic mail. The Editor reserves the right to edit all work for reasons of space, clarity or libel. If you wish to have your photos or disks returned, please include a stamped, self-addressed envelope. Outings must be submitted to the appropriate Outings Chair.

Member Change of Address
Sierra Club, Change of Address
PO Box 421041, Palm Coast, FL 32142-1041
(Be sure to supply Membership number)

Membership Information
There is a membership coupon in this issue and address change information above. For other questions, contact the Sierra Club at (415) 977-5500 or ralphsalisbury@att.net

Chat With The Chair . . . by Mary Ann Ruiz

Utterageous, dangerous, illegitimate; damaging, overwhelming and frightening. These words describe how many of us see the new regime in Washington. Each day seems to bring another dismaying, shocking or at worst some action taken by the regime. Environmental protections, climate change action, and basic human rights protections are not a top priority. Regulatory agencies designed to help us progress towards a safe, equitable, and healthy future are to be headed by those in direct opposition to the very agencies they will manage. Relationships with long term allies are discarded with a tweet and Senators choosing right partisanship over action. After nationwide protests, a brave Federal Judge stayed the stay and immigration and travel ban. Where this will end up by mid-March when you receive this, I don't know.

What I do know, is that action works. CongressMembers and Senators want most of all to be re-elected. If their constituents are loud, focused, consistent and involved, partisanship is trumped by the democratic process. Voices that were silent in the past are becoming vocal and learning how to affect change.

As Sierra Club members, we stand for progress. Environmental protection comes only when everyone has a voice. Insuring basic human rights for all is essential to all voices being heard. Environmental protections must extend to all our neighbors in Riverside and San Bernardino Counties. I encourage all of you to make your voices heard, prop up those who need some extra help to be heard, and do not give up!
MARCH-APRIL 2017

The outings calendar is on the Internet at http://sangorgonio.sierraclub.org

Check this out . . . Receive a $20 CA State Park Pass if you or a relative are at least 62!

(2ND WED) 7:00 PM MOJAVE GROUP MEETING
Monthly meeting except for July & August.
PLACE: Sterling Inn, Regency Room, 17738 Francesca, Victorville.
(One block north of Bear Valley Rd. on Ridgecrest.) Enter on Ridgecrest side of the building. INF0: SUSAN STUEBER, susanquintin.stueber@gmail.com
MOJAVE GROUP

(2ND THU) 6:30 PM SANTA MARGARITA GROUP MEETING
Monthly meeting except July & August.
The public is welcome. Doors open at 6:00 PM, meeting starts at 6:30. PLACE: Temeque Valley Library, 30600 Pabla Road, Temeque. INFO: PAM NELSON, susanquintin.stueber@gmail.com
SANTA MARGARITA GROUP

(3RD TUE) 7:00 PM LOS SERRANOS GROUP MEETING
Monthly except July & August. Programs on nature, conservation & travel topics. The public is welcome & refreshments are served. See Los Serranos webpage for detailed program information: sangorgonio.sierraclub.org/groups/los_serranos
PLACE: First Presbyterian Church, 869 N. Euclid Ave, Upland CA (educational building, entrance in rear).
INFO: BRIAN ELLIOTT, brianneli@aol.com
LOS SERRANOS GROUP

(3RD THU) 6:30 PM BIG BEAR GROUP MEETING
Monthly meeting except January, February and December. INFO: For current program information, please visit the Group web site <sieragor600@sierraclub.org>.
PLACE: Big Bear Discovery Center, 40971 North Shore Dr. (Hwy. 38), Fawnskin. INFO: LADD SEKINS, 909-385-1062, ljjd474@yahoo.com
BIG BEAR GROUP

(4TH TUE) 7:00 PM SAN GORGONIO CHAPTER EXCOM MEETING
Chapter governance meeting. Monthly except for December. PLACE: The meeting is by teleconference. If you wish to participate, contact Mary Ann for instructions. INFO: MARY ANN RUIZ, raizmaryann@gmail.com, (909) 815-9379.
CHAPTER

WEEKLY RECURRING FITNESS ACTIVITIES
Please read “LIABILITY WAIVER” preceding these listings

MON 6:00 PM RIVERSIDE-MT. RUIDOUSDIE ONE HOUR FITNESS WALK
PLACE: Ninth Street entrance to Mt. Rubidoux. INFO: Judy Smith 951-369-5117.
CHAPTER

FEB 27 – MARCH 5 Please read “LIABILITY WAIVER” preceding these listings (Also, refer to Weekly Recurring Outings and Activities)

MARCH 2 (THU) 8:00 AM FRANKISH PEAK HIKE
This will be a strenuous 9-mile through hike on a steep use trail up to the top of Frankish Peak (elevation 4,098 ft.), with 2200 ft. elevation gain in 2.2 miles. We will hike down the north slope into a hidden valley, hike up to the Stoddard Peak saddle, and down Barrett Canyon to Mt. Baldy Road. Great panoramic views in all directions from the peak. Rain cancels. BRING: sturdy boots, water, snack, sunscreen, layer clothing appropriate for the weather. MEET: Contact John St. Clair to confirm and for directions to trailhead. LEADER: JOHN ST. CLAIR, 909-983-8501, john@clairusa.us
LOS SERRANOS GROUP

MARCH 2 (THU) LO S SERRANOS GROUP EXCOM MEETING

MARCH 4 (SAT) 8:00 AM DEEP CREEK CANYON HIKE
Spring in Deep Creek Canyon is not to be missed. This nine-mile hike is flat but rated moderate due to the distance. It is where the historic Hesperia Water Ditch is located. BRING: Water, snacks and layered clothing. Sturdy walking shoes are a must. MEET: Victor Valley Museum, Apple Valley Road, Apple Valley 92308 by 8 a.m. LEADER: NORMAN BOSWOM, 760-912-3725. coachnorm@yahoo.com
MOJAVE GROUP

MARCH 4-SAT) 8:30 AM JT CRH&HT SEG 1: BLACK ROCK/COVINGTON HIKE
This hike was originally scheduled on January 21, but we substituted Segment #4 due to dirt road closures from the winter storms. So today we will hike Segment #1 of the four sections of the California Riding & Hiking Trail within Joshua Tree National Park. These hikes are part of a patch program, and we will repeat them next year to allow you to hike the segments you couldn’t make this year. After a car shuttle on rough dirt roads,
**MARCH 6 – MARCH 12**

**MAR 7 (TUE) 7:30 PM SAN GORGONIO CHAPTER MEETING**

MEETING: Program from front-page notice. PLACE: San Bernardino County Museum, 2024 Orange Tree Lane, Redlands. DIRECTIONS: Exit I-10 at California St. INFO: LADD SEEKINS ladd.g.seekins@gmail.com (909) 800-3911

**MAR 8 (WED) 7:30 AM SANTA ROSA PLATEAU, MURRIETA HIKE**

Come enjoy hiking through this Ecological Reserve in All its glory during the spring! We will hike several trails, encompassing Vernal Pool, Adobe Loop, Poppy Hill, and Monument Hill. Be prepared to hike 10 miles in rolling terrain while enjoying vistas & wildflowers! COST: $4 fee to enter park. Rain cancels. BRING: WATER, lunch, sturdy boots, hat, sunscreen, layer clothing appropriate for the weather, & you will want your camera for this hike! Will be carpooling from Upland. LEADER: KATHY VIOLA, 909-346-9653, kviola826@gmail.com

**MAR 8 (WED) 7:30 AM SANTA ROSA PLATEAU, MURRIETA HIKE**

MEET: McDonald's Restaurant, just east of the Cajon Pass at the junction of I-15 and State Route 138 at 8 AM. From there we will gather into as few vehicles as possible and caravan to the PCT trailhead at Lake Silverwood to begin our hike. An Adventure of 14.6 miles and 2300' gain. A good one for this time of year. BRING: water, sturdy boots, hiking sticks, and layered clothing. MEET: Friday, March 10 at Sunrise Rock Campground (12 miles from I-15 on Cima Road) at 8 AM. LEADER: JEFF WARHOL (909) 985-7868, e-mail jwmarxandj@hotmail.com

**MAR 10 (FRI) 9:00 AM SYCAMORE CANYON HIKE**

This moderate hike is in the city of Claremont. It’s an up and back 3-mile with a 600’ elevation gain. A good one for this time of year. BRING: water, sturdy boots, hiking sticks, and layered clothing. MEET: Placentia at the corner of the 55 Freeway on March 9. LEADER: JEFF WARHOL (909) 985-7868, e-mail jwmarxandj@@hotmail.com

**MAR 11 (SAT) 8:00 AM DEEP CREEK CANYON (NORTHERN SECTION) HIKE**

This is an easy five-mile hike that explores the remains of the historic Hesperia Water Ditch. Towards the end of the hike we will get our feet wet crossing the Mojave River. It is an interesting and fun hike (if you like water). BRING: Water, snacks, and layered clothing. It is a shuttle hike; all driving is on paved roads. COST: Entrance fee of $9 per person, $7 per senior. MEET: Behind Kaufman Ranch Road Trail head at 8 A.M. LEADER: CAROL WILEY, earthlingwiley2000@yahoo.com, 760-245-8734

**MAR 12 (SUN) 9:00 AM SANTA MARGARITA GROUP MEETING**

MEETING: Monthly meeting or conference call. Take part in working on important conservation issues. Please participate: we need your help! INFO: KIM FLOYD, Conservation Chair, kimfloyd@yahoo.com, 760-249-3585.

**MAR 13 (MON) 7:00 PM MOUNTAINS GROUP MEETING**

MEETING: Program from front-page notice. No meeting in August or December. PLACE: St. Francis’ Cathedral, 28708 Highway 18, Sky Forest. INFO: JARRELL MACHADO, (909) 337-0313.

**MAR 14 (TUE) 7:00 PM CHAPTER CONSERVATION COMMITTEE MEETING**

Monthly meeting or conference call. Take part in working on important conservation issues. Please participate: we need your help! INFO: KIM FLOYD, Conservation Chair, kimfloyd@yahoo.com, 760-249-3585.

**MAR 15 (WED) 9:00 AM STURTEVANT FALLS HIKE**

The trail from Chantry Flats parking area to the 50-foot Sturtevant Falls is an easy 3.7-mile round trip hike but be aware that the last 0.6 mile to the parking lot is all uphill and is sometimes referred to as “cardiac hill.” There are several stream crossings before arriving at the Falls, so trekking poles are recommended. Rain cancels. BRING: sturdy boots, water, snack, sunscreen, layer clothing appropriate for the weather. CONTACT LEADER: JOHN ST. CLAIR, john@stclairs.us or 909-895-9450, prior to scheduled date for carpooling and meeting place.

**MAR 16 (THU) 6:30 PM BIG BEAR GROUP MEETING**

Monthly meeting except January, February and December. INFO: For current program information, please visit the Group website at sierraranchbigbear.org.

**MAR 17 (FRI) 9:00 AM SB MTNS GREEN VALLEY LAKESNOWSHOE OR HIKE**

We will snowshoe or hike depending on the weather. Green Valley Lake has some of the best snow in our local mountains, so come and join me for a day of fun. No prior snowshoe experience is necessary—it is not difficult to learn—just another form of hiking. You need to provide your own equipment. MEET: Green Valley Lake across from the post office (33721 Green Valley Lake Rd, Green Valley Lake, CA 92341). WEAR: Layered clothing. BRING: Snacks and water. PLEASE CALL to check weather conditions. LEADER: CAROL KELLEMS 909-939-5790 (no text) karlakellems@gmail.com MOUNTAINS GROUP

**MAR 18 (SAT) 8:30 AM EXPLORE AROUND HISTORIC BOWEN RANCH HIKE**

Moderate 7 mile circular hike along the perimeter of Bowen Ranch and the San Bernardino National Forest. DRESS in layers. BRING: 10 essentials, snacks, at least 3 liters of water. MEET: Bowen Ranch Rd/Coxey Truck Rd at 8:30 a.m. LEADER: CAROL STUBBFLIEFELD, 760-964-0039, carolwillys1@gmail.com

**MAR 19 (SAT) 7:30 AM INDIAN CANYONS: WEST FORK MURRIETA CANYON HIKE**

This well-liked hike is in the Indian Lands adjacent to Palm Springs on the south side. We head southwest from the trading post, climbing 2500 ft. alongside a canyon on the trail that goes to Cedar Spring. At a fork, we turn north to drop into a green area in the canyon. It’s a level and easy hike except for the last 0.6 mile to the trailhead where in this wet year we should still have a little water. Total distance is 10 miles. It is a shuttle hike; all driving is on paved roads. COST: Entrance fee of 59 per person. $7 for seniors. RATED: Strenuous. MEET: At the Starbuck’s parking lot, 882 S. Palm Canyon Dr., Palm Springs, CA 92264. BRING: Ten essentials, layered clothing, sun protection, lunch, 3-liters of water. RESERVATIONS: Contact LEADER DAVE MELTON at (760) 408-2456 or dmeleon18@yahoo.com

**MAR 20 (SUN) 9:00 AM MAIDENHAIR FALLS HIKE**

A 5.5 or 6-mile moderately difficult hike with 900’ of elevation gain/loss. From the desert landscape at the trailhead we will travel past screwcromes, cottonwoods then palms to Maidenhair Falls a true oasis in the desert. We should have a great hike and the opportunity to observe the desert wild flowers. Hikers must climb over or around some large boulders. To participate in this hike you must bring at least 4 liters of water, lunch, and snacks. WEAR: Comfortable hiking shoes with soles that don’t slip, waterproof is best but some and sharp areas. DRESS in layers, wear a hat, long pants are a good idea and do not forget the sunscreen.

**MAR 21 (MON) 7:00 PM MOUNTAINS GROUP MEETING**

MEETING: Program from front-page notice. No meeting in August or December. PLACE: St. Francis’ Cathedral, 28708 Highway 18, Sky Forest. INFO: JARRELL MACHADO, (909) 337-0313.

**MAR 22 (TUE) 7:00 PM MOJA VE GROUP MEETING**

MEETING: Monthly meeting except January, February and December. INFO: For current program information, please visit the Group website at sierraranchbigbear.org.

**MAR 23 (WED) 7:00 AM SANTA ROSA PLATEAU, MURRIETA HIKE**

Moderate 4 mile loop on the Hidden Springs trail. Trail has some ups and downs but basically follows the base of the hills. We’ll go an easy pace and return on the sidewalk. BRING: WATER, WEAR sturdy shoes. Rain cancels. MEET: next to Hidden Springs School, 9801 Hidden Springs Dr., Moreno Valley Park along Greenridge Dr. next to the park. INFO: LEADER: CHRISTINA TORRES (951) 318-7503

**MAR 24 (THUR) 7:00 PM SANTA MARGARITA GROUP MEETING**

MEETING: Monthly meeting except January, February and December. INFO: For current program information, please visit the Group website at sierraranchbigbear.org.

**MAR 25 (FRI) 9:00 AM SB MTNS GREEN VALLEY LAKESNOWSHOE OR HIKE**

We will snowshoe or hike depending on the weather. Green Valley Lake has some of the best snow in our local mountains, so come and join me for a day of fun. No prior snowshoe experience is necessary—it is not difficult to learn—just another form of hiking. You need to provide your own equipment. MEET: Green Valley Lake across from the post office (33721 Green Valley Lake Rd, Green Valley Lake, CA 92341). WEAR: Layered clothing. BRING: Snacks and water. PLEASE CALL to check weather conditions. LEADER: CAROL KELLEMS 909-939-5790 (no text) karlakellems@gmail.com MOUNTAINS GROUP

**MAR 26 (SAT) 8:00 AM TWIN PEAKS HIKE**

Continued from Page 3

Please read “LIABILITY WAIVER” preceding these listings

(Calendar . . . Continued from Page 3)

(Also, refer to Weekly Recurring Outings and Activities)

Please read “LIABILITY WAIVER” preceding these listings

(Calendar . . . Continued from Page 3)

(Also, refer to Weekly Recurring Outings and Activities)
This document is a collection of scheduled events and programs for the Sierra Club, covering various locations and activities. Here are some highlights:

- **MAR 20 (MON)**: 9:00 AM BIG MORongo Canyon BAlSIN - HIKE - 1st day of spring exploratory 4-mile hike on easy/moderate loops along desert willows and marshes, ridgeline vistas. Bring water, sunscreen, snack, sturdy shoes, layered clothing.
- **MAR 20 (MON)**: 7:00 PM LOS SERRANOS GROUP MEETING - Christina Torres, (951) 318-7503, cmt.teck@gmail.com, and Eileen O'Brien, (951) 616-9739.
- **MAR 21 (TUE)**: 7:00 PM LOS SERRANOS GROUP MEETING - Monthly except July & August. Programs on nature, conservation & travel topics. The public is welcome & refreshments served. See Los Serranos webpage for details.
- **MAR 22 (WED)**: 7:30 AM PCT TO EAGLE ROCK HIKE - This is a moderate 8-mile one way hike with 700 feet elevation gain which requires a car shuttle. This section of the PCT near Warner Springs, rolls through meadows and ranch lands where you can see spectacular wildflower blooms in spring, oak trees, canyons and streams, and the highlight boulder formation known as Eagle Rock. Rain cancels.
- **MAR 23 (THU)**: 8:00 AM, 9:30 AM, 10:30 AM KELLEMS 909-939-5790 (no text), karlakellems@gmail.com - MOUNTAINS GROUP.
- **MAR 24-26 (FRI-SUN)**: DESERT BLM MONUMENT SERVICE - This two-day car camping and hiking trip will explore the geology and ecology of a few interesting areas in the Mojave. Bring bear canister, and water-purification capabilities.
- **MAR 24-27 (FRI-MON)**: SACARAT WildNess TRAIL WorkSERVICE - Sacarat Trail is an old wagon road that at one time provided the only route into the Owens Valley from the west before the road over Walker Pass was built. Now it is a 10-mile trail that provides relatively easy access into this remote and pristine wilderness area on the eastern slope of the southern Sierra Nevada Mountains, about 20 miles northwest of Ridgecrest. Our project will include trailhead improvement and recording places along the trail that need work. We will camp at Fossil Falls Campground (pit toilets, picnic tables and available water).
- **MAR 25 (SAT)**: 8:00 AM ABRIDGЕ AVeR-quote SUMmIT HIKE - The views from this highest known location provide an extra special treat. The history of the region is a history of an additional joy. It is an easy 6-mile hike. A camera is a must. Bring: Water, snacks, and layered clothing. WEAR: sturdy shoes. MEET: Victor Valley Museum, Apple Valley Road, Apple Valley 92308 by 8 a.m. LEADER: NORMAN BOSSMAN, 760-912-3725. coachmom0@gmail.com - MOJAVE GROUP.
- **MAR 25-28 (SAT-TUE)**: PCT SECT C, ONYX SUMMIT BACKPACK - This is the last 40-mile segment of the Big Bear Recognition Program, promoting the completion of Section C of the Pacific Crest Trail (132.9 miles). This is a backpack trip starting at Onyx Summit, located near Big Bear in the San Gorgonio Wilderness off of Hwy 38 and continuing to 1 Freeway near Whitewater. We will hike the entire 40 miles along the PCT on your way. You will be asked to share gas expenses for drivers returning the backcountry to their cars at Onyx Summit. RATINGS: Strenuous. MEET: Haugen Lehman Way off-ramp on I-10 Freeway at 6:30 A.M. BRING: Ten essentials, layered clothing, bear canister, and water-purification capabilities. RESERVATIONS: Call LEADER, ED CALIENDO, (442) 242-4103 or email at dogs111@msn.com - BIG BEAR GROUP.
Mar-Apr 2017

Chapter’s April 4th Meeting Features “EcoFlight: Flying High to Protect the West”

Presented by Bruce Gordon

Bruce Gordon, founder and Executive Director of EcoFlight, will be our speaker at 7:30 p.m., Tuesday April 4th at the San Bernardino County Museum. His presentation will include stunning aerial photos of our new national monuments in California, including Sand to Snow, Mojave Trails, and Castle Mountains, all here in the San Gorgonio Chapter!

The Sierra Club and many conservation organizations worked successfully for President Obama to protect 550 million acres in the West and the Pacific as new national monuments. Pictures and letters and meetings all helped, but how can so many acres of wild lands be presented visually? Enter EcoFlight, partner with over 300 environmental and conservation organizations.

EcoFlight provides a unique aerial perspective to conservation work. EcoFlight has flown conservation groups, policy makers, media representatives, concerned citizens and young adults over our Western landscapes. There is nothing more powerful than seeing the amazing beauty of our public lands, along with the impacts of development, from high above in a 6-seat Cessna 210. Founded in 2002 and headquartered in Aspen, Colorado, EcoFlight works on issues as diverse as a proposed copper mine in Washington, Bears’ Ears National Monument in Utah, and landscapes adjacent to our national parks. Bruce will expand on the EcoFlight’s mission, success, and plans for the coming year.

EcoFlight’s mission is clear: “EcoFlight educates and advocates for the protection of remaining wild lands and wildlife habitat using small aircraft. The unique aerial perspective and our educational programs encourage an environmental stewardship ethic among citizens of all ages.”

As EcoFlight’s Executive Director, Bruce has been providing an aerial perspective for the critical issues in our Western landscape for over 30 years.

A Himalayan climber, the outdoors is close to Bruce’s heart. Bruce is an ATP-commercial pilot with multi-engine, instrument, instructor, and floatplane ratings. He has flown over 10,000 hours of conservation missions in multiple countries, in bush and mountainous conditions. Passengers on his many environmental flight missions have included governors, senators, congressmen, scientists, and students of all ages.

Bruce and EcoFlight have received numerous awards, including the Conservation Hero Award and Best Business Award in Conservation. He lives in Colorado and is an Aspen Mountain Rescue member, Buddy Program mentor, and has served on the board of Aspen Center for Environmental Studies.

By Ellen Kesler, Group Chair

“Change of Hats” for the Sierra Club

Big Bear Group

The Executive Committee of the Sierra Club is busy getting ready for an active year by starting with an election of officers. These people will serve on the “ExCom” for 2017:

- Chairperson – Ellen Kesler
- Vice Chairperson – Ed Wallace
- Secretary – Sherry Noone
- Treasurer – Marc Cira
- Membership Chairpersons – Ellen Kesler/Sherry Noone
- Conservation Chairperson – Ed Wallace
- Outings Chairperson – David Melton
- Members at Large – Ed Caliendo, George Watson Jones, Joe Holmes, Terrence McCorkle

Ellen Kesler is a retired Physical Education/English teacher from Burbank Unified School District. She has been a member of the Big Bear Valley community since 1997 as a part-time resident until moving here permanently in 2009. She still serves on the CarePartners of Bear Valley support team, having been a caregiver to her husband. She has also served on the Board of Trustees for the Bear Valley Center for Spiritual Enrichment, serving as president for one year. Ellen has served as a volunteer for the Amgen Tour of California competitions here in our valley all three years.

The first General Meeting for all members and welcomed guests will be in March 17th at the Discovery Center to lead off the year of activities.

David Melton – Outings Chairperson

California Riding and Hiking Trail Patch Program

Our new Joshua Tree California Riding & Hiking Trail Patch program got off to a good start with 14 people a t t e n d i n g the first hike in spite of unsettled weather from the winter storms that kept some hikers snowed in at home. We had to hike the fourth and last segment in place of the first due to dirt road closures. The four hikes in this program will wrap up for this year in March 4. We will repeat this program next year.

Pacific Crest Trail Section C Patch Program

Our Section C Pacific Crest Trail hikes resume in March. Section C starts at I-10 near Palm Springs and travels north through the San Gorgonio Wilderness, Big Bear Lake, and the San Bernardino NF to Interstate 15. Section C is 133 miles long, and we cover it in 9 day hikes and one backpack. The first of three day-hikes in this issue gets underway on March 11. This set of three hikes starts at Highway 38 south to Interstate 10.

A three-day backpack in March, running from Highway 38 south to Interstate 10.
Déjà vu 1982

A ll Federal and State elections have environmental consequences. Unless we are proactive, we will lose our protected national and state parks, and the public lands. The changes may open these cherished nation heritages to commercial exploitation. These actions would be nicely cloaked in mantra of creating job, or energy-independence using the natural resources (oil, gas, coal and minerals such as uranium) located on the public lands.

I remember it well! As our previous experience during 1967 to 1975 in California, and then again during January 1982 to 1989 indicates, the institutions that have protected our air and water (EPA), labor safety (OSHA), and our national forests and public lands (Department of Interior) all will be made ineffective by cutting their budgets, eliminating the important regulations such as 40CFR Code of Federal Regulations, and by reducing their technical staff. The assault on the institutions of higher education and the intellectual cadre of our society was the low mark of the 1982-1989 periods.

We may argue against the outcome of the 2016 election. But, why the Electoral College elected this President and the public elected a larger assembly of environmental antagonists for the Congress and governorship? Where did we go wrong? But, for now, we can’t back down; we have to protect our air, water and our public lands.

Transportation

The transportation corridor from Ontario to San Diego has exceeded the highway carrying capacity. Increasing the number of lanes will brieﬂy alter the present congestion and but will only increase air pollution problems. The population of the southern California has been increasing for decades. It will increase because of demand for new developments. To remedy the problem, jointly we must expand both the existing mass-transit system and create rapid trains from Ontario to San Diego. The train tracks could be placed between the north and south bound trafﬁcs on Highway 15. This option would be cost-effective, would reduce commuter travel time; but more importantly, it will reduce the impressive toxic exhaust on public health by improving the air quality in Temecula valley.

Members of the Transportation Task Group from the Santa Margarita Sierra Club have regularly attended the monthly Transportation-Now conference of the Riverside Transit Agency. We are looking forward to working with Joseph Morabito, representing the Southwest Transportation-Now group, to advance the expansion of Mass-transit system within the Southern California region.

Altair Development Complex in Temecula


The Land and People of the Santa Margarita Watershed

Eleonora Robbins was our speaker on our January monthly meeting. Her fascinating lecture centered on the geology of the Santa Margarita watershed. She said, in some respects it resembles many characteristics of the East African Rift Valley. The cities of Temecula and Murrieta lie in a tectonically active rift.

The background of Dr. Robbins is fascinating. She started her professional career in the Peace Corps as a geologist with the Geological survey of Tanzania; on vacation, she mapped in the East African rift Valley for lewis leakey. Then she was a researcher for the US Geological Survey for 34 years, working on mineral deposits, coal, and petroleum. In San Diego, she served as adjunct faculty for 14 years at San Diego State Univ. Her current research on the sulfur cycle of the San Diego River is with the San Diego River Park Foundation.

Hikes:
- Gary Marsalone and Robert Bob Audibert guided two tours: Eureka Peak Hike, December 3, 2016; and Sierra Santa Margarita Hike: West Side Loop

Our first group hike in March will be on March 8th, 4-45 p.m., Hidden Springs Hike. All are welcome. More details about the hike can be found on our web page along with a list of our future outings: http://sierraconservation.blogspot.com/groups/moreno_valley

Another bold eagle count will take place at 8:00 a.m. at the Lake Perris State Recreation Area (LPSRA) on March 11. Anyone can take part in the count. Meet at Lake Perris Regional Indian Museum (which is located within the LPSRA) for orientation. You do not have to pay the entrance fee if you are taking part in the count. After the count you are free to spend the rest of the day at LPSRA at no cost. Please call (951) 940-5600 to verify all information.

The Moreno Valley Group will have a table at the Earth Night in the Garden, Thursday, April 20; it will be held at the Western Municipal Water District’s Landscapes Southern California Style Garden, 450 E. Alessandro Blvd., Riverside. Please email us at movalleygroup@yahoo.com if you would like to help host the table for two hours.

We had a very joyous holiday celebration at the scenic Vail Lake Resort just east of Temecula. The music (Caren Hanson) and sing-a-long Christmas carols lead by Elena Garcia “Joy to the world... and heaven and nature sing...the resounding joy...” We enjoyed hayride on open wagon; it was a reminiscent of experience some of us have enjoyed a long time ago. I still remember my first hayride: I was a junior high teacher. We all brought a dish to share: salads, cookies and cakes. The pizza and barbecued pulled chicken were among the hot items.

Planned Events

Earth Day: The Sierra Club is planning an Earth Day Celebration Fair. Earth Day is Saturday, April 22nd. The details are at the planning stage. Caren Hanson is the event coordinator.

Outreach to Children: Caren Hanson has been organizing outreach to children in elementary schools in Temecula. She has collaborated with ‘Kids4Birds’ to donate hummingbird feeders to schools, arrange visits to the classroom to discuss correct feeding of birds. Caren loves birds and wants to instill the same love in children.

February 9, monthly meeting: Brenda de Luna will be the speaker: “Youth Speakers on the environment.” Note: who is Brenda de Luna? Who are the young speakers?

Valentine’s Party: We will celebrate 2017 Valentine Day on February, 12. Our club members will meet for dinner at the Macaroni Grill in Temecula.
World Logistics Center (WLC): A coalition of environmental groups (San Bernardino Valley Audubon Society, Center for Biological Diversity, Sierra Club and other groups) being represented by Earthjustice. The appeal hopes to reverse the decision of a Riverside County Superior Court judge who denied the request by the coalition to block two Moreno Valley city initiatives which may allow the city to circumvent state environmental laws in analyzing the environmental impacts of the WLC project.

Villages of Lakeview (VOL): Comments on the draft environmental impact report were submitted last fall by the Center for Biological Diversity (CBD) and Shute, Mihaly & Weinberger for the San Gorgonio Chapter. Current information from the county indicates they are still working on responses to the comments. The DEIR is available online at: http://planning.rctlma.org/Home/TheVillagesofLakeviewWP00342.aspx

The proposed VOL housing project (11,350 units) is planned on the southern boundary of the San Jacinto Wildlife Area. You can contact planner Russell Brady at rbrady@rctlma.org or (951) 955-3025 for more information and to be put on their mailing list.

Please take time to make a donation to help us continue our efforts to challenge the latest version of the 11,350 unit Villages of Lakeview project on the southern border of the San Jacinto Wildlife Area and continue our World Logistics Center litigation. You can make checks out to the “Sierra Club” with the notation WLC/VOL and send your donations to:

Sierra Club—Moreno Valley Group, P.O. Box 1325, Moreno Valley, CA 92556-1325. Thank you to all who have already donated.

Juniper Flats Restoration Grant

The BLM (Bureau of Land Management) received a grant from the OHMVR (Off Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation) Division of State Parks. This restoration grant is expected to restore six sites in Arraste Canyon. These are sites that have been disturbed by vehicles being driven off the designated route. On Saturday, January 28, 2017, nine volunteers joined the BLM and USFS staff members to complete restoration beside the open motorcycle route JF3355M just off Powerline Road. This area called Juniper Flats is south of Apple Valley in the San Bernardino Mountain foothills and can be accessed with a high clearance or 4x4 vehicle from Milpas Dr (from Hwy 18).

Friends of Juniper Flats set up a table with information about the Juniper Flats Working Group and some snacks. One volunteer remained at the table to outreach to visitors who stopped by to explain what the project is all about and to solicit help. Other volunteers provided labor to complete ‘vertical mulching’ on the closed route. Vertical Mulching is a method of planting mostly dead branches to make the ‘trail’ disappear and look like the surrounding desert landscape. We hope our efforts will help encourage riders to remain on the designated signed routes. BLM is also installing numerous kiosks and interpretive signs to help riders become more aware of the damage done when they ride off the route. Much remains to be accomplished as there are over 200 active “incursions” (places where riders have gone off the designated route) in Arraste Canyon. To get more information about this Restoration Project including future Volunteer Days, please contact BLM Barstow office – Alyssa Canoff, Visitor Use, Monitoring and Restoration Fellow, acanoff@blm.gov or call (760) 252-6051. Or contact Friends of Juniper Flats – Susan Stueber at ssueber16@gmail.com, or Jenny Wilder at JensOasis@aol.com. Many thanks to all who have given time and energy to this project.

The Riverside County General Plan Update aka GPA: The parties have agreed on the administrative record and they have 45 days to certify it. Some of our concerns include GPA 960’s impact on greenhouse gases, agricultural lands and the San Jacinto Wildlife Area’s at-risk species as well as promoting sprawl.

Mid County Parkway: The California Environmental Quality Act hearing is scheduled to be heard on June 9, 2017, at 9:30 a.m., Dept 10 of the Riverside Superior Court, downtown Riverside. The National Environmental Policy Act hearing is scheduled for Monday, March 6, 2017, 8:30 a.m. in the U.S. District Court for the Central District of California in downtown Los Angeles.

Lake Perris State Recreation Area: Check out their Facebook page for more information: https://www.facebook.com/Lakeperris/about their events. The 2017 limited Golden Bear Pass ($20.00) to most state parks is good from January 1 through December 31 for those 62 years or older and can be purchased at Lake Perris. It is good for everyone in your car. State park passes also include the Disabled Discount Pass and Distinguished Veteran Pass. For information on hours, visitors fees, and passes, please check: http://www.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=451

Moreno Valley Recreational Trails Board hike. Saturday, March 25th, 2017, 7:30 a.m. Hike to San Timoteo Canyon (Moderate — approx. 5.6 miles round trip); meet at parking area next to the mobile office along Redlands Blvd., Moreno Valley Aqueduct Center, 11150 Redlands Blvd., MV. Call (951) 433-7070 to confirm all information.

Chapter’s 2017 ExCom Election Update

By Dave Barrie, Chair, Executive Committee

At the January 24 Chapter Executive Committee (ExCom) meeting Dave Barrie (as Chair), Steve Farrell, and Mike Millsap were appointed to be both the Nominating Committee and Election Committee for the 2017 ExCom election. At the same meeting the following Election Schedule was approved:

- January 24: Deadline to appoint Nominating and Election Committees and set Election Schedule.
- June 5: Deadline for Nominating Committee Chair to submit Chapter Election article to Palm and Pine.
- September 2: Deadline to accept nominations and Deadline for Nominating Committee to present list of candidates to the Excom.
- September 16: Deadline for Petition Candidates to present petitions.
- October 5: Deadline for Election Committee to provide final ballot, with petition candidates, (if any) to Palm and Pine.
- October 20: Palm and Pine mailed (Approx.)
- November 26: Deadline to receive ballots.
- November 27: 11:30 a.m. Election Committee shall verify, open and count the ballots.
- November 28: 8:00 p.m. Election Committee shall inform the candidates, the Excom, and any other interested parties of the results.
- January, 2018: Annual Planning Meeting. Election Committee shall inform winning candidates of this required meeting.

Please check future issues of the Palm and Pine for additional information and to learn how you might be able to help.
**APR 1 (SAT) 9:00 AM BONITA FALLS HIKE**

**APR 2 (Sun) 9:00 AM SANTA ROSA PLATEAU LOOP HIKE**

**APR 4 (TUE) 7:30 AM MT. WILSON VIA CHANTRY FLATS HIKE**

**APR 5-7 (WED-FRI) MOJA VER RIVER FORKS REGIONAL PARK CAR CAMP**

**APR 9 (SUN) 8:30 AM MORTON PEAK TRAIL HIKE**

**APR 10 (MON) 6:00 PM MEETING**

**APR 10 (TUE) 7:30 PM SAN GORONITO CHAPTER MEETING**

**APR 5 (Wed) 9:00 AM HIKE INTO LAKE PERRIS**

**APR 5-7 (Wed-Fri) MOJAVE RIVER FORKS REGIONAL PARK CAR CAMP**

**APR 7 (Fri) 9:00 AM UPPER MARSHALL CANYON HIKE**

**APR 8 (Sat) 8:00 AM PCT SEC C: SILVERWOOD-MOJA VER DAM**

**APR 8 (Sat) 8:00 AM PCT SEC D: SAND & SHORT CANYONS**

**APR 9 (Sun) 8:30 AM MORTON PEAK TRAIL HIKE**

**APR 10 (Mon) 6:00 PM MEETING**

**April 7-9 Owens Peak Wilderness: Sand & Short Canyons**

**April 9-11 Sylvania Wilderness: Happy Canyon**

**April 21-23, 24-25 optimal Piper & Sylvania Mountain Wildernesses**

**April 27-29 Surprise Canyon Wilderness: Happy Canyon**

**May 27-29 Surprise Canyon Wilderness: Happy Canyon**

**Continued from Page 5**

**With the death of Senator John McCain, a long-time advocate for wilderness preservation and environmental protection, the conservation community is mourning the loss of a beloved leader and a champion for nature and the planet. McCain was a strong supporter of the wilderness and protected areas movement, and his legacy will continue to inspire future generations to protect our natural heritage.**

**Contribute to the McCain Memorial Fund**

**Women's March. . .Continued from Page 1**

**Women's March. . .Continued from Page 1**

**Women's March. . .Continued from Page 1**

**Women's March. . .Continued from Page 1**

**Women's March. . .Continued from Page 1**

**Women's March. . .Continued from Page 1**
APRIL 10 – APRIL 16
Please read “LIABILITY WAIVER” preceding these listings (Also, refer to Weekly Recurring Outings and Activities)

APR 10 (MON) 7:00 PM MOUNTAINS GROUP MEETING
Monthly program meeting. No meeting in August or December. PLACE: St. Richard's Episcopal Church, 28708 Highway 18, Sky Forest. INFO: DAVE BARRE, (909) 337-0313.

APR 11 (TUE) 7:00 PM CHAPTER CONSERVATION COMMITTEE MEETING
Monthly meeting or conference call. Take part in working on important conservation issues. Please participate: we need your help! INFO: KIM FLOYD, Conservation Chair, kinmfloyd4@fastmail.fm (760) 249-5385.

APR 12 (WED) 7:30 AM JOSHUA TREE NATIONAL PARK HIKE
This is a moderate 7-mile loop trail to Lost Horse Mine. We gain only 600 feet elevation to enjoy stunning desert vistas and reflect on the historic gold mine. Rain cancels. BRING: sturdy boots, plenty of water, lunch, sunglasses, bathing suit, hat and trekking poles. An Adventure Pass is required to park at the Deep Creek Bridge trailhead. RESERVATIONS: Contact LEADER DARLENE TAYLOR, (951) 385-5706 or daytoncrews@verizon.net or CO-LEADER, SHARON NARDIZZA, sharozza@cox.net (760) 208-3654.

BIG BEAR GROUP
APR 20 (SAT) 8:30 AM JUNIPER FLATS WILDFLOWERS HIKE
We are all looking forward to a good wildflower showing this year due to all the rain that we have received. This will be a leisurely hike so that there will be ample time to take pictures and identify. So, bring your camera and wildflower identification books. It may be necessary to caravan to the trailhead as there is limited parking. RATED: Easy/Moderate. This hike is approximately 3-4 miles round trip. DIRECTIONS: Bring, water, snack/henches, binoculars, cameras, sun protection, (hat/sunscreen). WEAR: Studly shoes/boots. MEET: Victor Valley Museum, (11873 Apple Valley Road, Apple Valley 92308) at 8:30 AM. LEADER: SUSAN STUEBER, 760-900-5330 or stueber16@gmail.com; CO-LEADER: QUINTIN LAKE, 951-315-7691 or qlake15@gmail.com.

APR 25 (TUE) 7:00 PM SAN GORGONIO CHAPTER EXCOM MEETING
Chapter governance meeting. Monthly except for December. PLACE: The meeting is by teleconference. If you wish to participate, contact Mary Ann for instructions. INFO: MARY ANN RUZIC, ruizmaryann@gmail.com, (909) 815-9379.

APR 26 (WED) 9:00 AM HIDDEN SPRINGS HIKE
Moderate 4-mile loop hike on the Hidden Springs trail and arroyo. Trail has some ups and downs but basically follows the base of the hills. BRING: Water, wear sturdy shoes. Rain cancels. MEET: next to Hidden Springs School. 9801 Hidden Springs Dr., Moreno Valley, Park along Greenridge Dr. next to the park. INFO and LEADER: EILEEN O'BRIEN (951) 616-9739.

APR 28 (FRIDAY) 9:00 AM MTS GREEN VALLEY LAKE AREA HIKE
Join us on a 4 to 6-mile easy/moderate hike around the Green Valley Lake region of the San Bernardino Mountains. MEET: in Green Valley Lake, across from the post office (32371 Green Valley Rd, Green Valley Lake, CA 92341). WEAR: Layered clothing. BRING: Snacks and water. Please CALL to check on weather conditions. LEADER: SANDY ELLIS, 909-867-7115 (no text), fuesli67@gmail.com; CO-LEADER: KARLA KELLEMS 909-959-5790 (no text) karlakellems@gmail.com.

APR 29 (SAT) 8:00 AM TENAJA TRUCK TRAIL, SAN MATEO CANYON HIKE
This an approximately 8-mile loop trail near Lake Elsinore that features wild flowers, steams, and lots of picturesque scenery. We start at the Tenaja Trailhead (1968') and hike through Fisherman's Camp (1312 ft.) and loop back toward the start of the trailhead where we end the day's hike. RATED: Moderate. BRING: Ten-essentials, layered clothing, sun- protection, 3-liter liter of water, lunch, hikers, backpacks, conditions. MEET: next to Hidden Springs School. 9801 Hidden Springs Dr., Moreno Valley, Park along Greenridge Dr. next to the park. INFO & LEADER: EILEEN O'BRIEN (951) 616-9739.

Continued on Page 11
**APR 29 (SAT) 9:00 AM TENAJA CANYON TRAIL HIKE**
We hike to the falls, then down to Fisherman’s Camp via Tenaja canyon and over the San Mateo trail to view the beautiful San Mateo Canyon! An 8.0-mile hike: 4 miles out and 4 miles back. RATED: Moderate with about 1300 ft of elevation gain over several hills and crossovers over several seasonal creeks. Be prepared for complete immersion in poison oak and chaparral. BRING: Plenty of water, WEAR comfortable hiking shoes (sandals may be useful for creek crossings). DRESS: In layers and don’t forget the sunscreen. A Wilderness Pass is required for all parked cars, available at sporting goods stores. MEET: At the trail head, Tenaja Trail. DIRECTIONS: From I-15 take the Clinton Keith exit; Go west on Clinton Keith. Past the Santa Rosa Plateau Eco. Reserve turn right onto Tenaja Road at the 3 way stop sign. Stay on Tenaja Rd. past the stop sign and follow down the long downhill and curve to the left to Tenaja Rd. Drive another 1/2 mile to the current turn right on Cleveland Forest Road. You will see the trail head parking lot on the left about a mile in. Rain Cancellations. Make RESERVATIONS: Contact LEADER: MARY SALAZAR, (951) 779-2201. SANTA MARGARITA GROUP

**APR 29 (SAT) 9:00 AM WHITETAIL PRESERVE HIKE**
Easy to moderate approximately 5-mile out and back hike along a portion of the PCT to Red Dome rock. MEET: Call for ride arrangements from Moreno Valley at 8 a.m. or meet at 9 a.m. at parking lot at Whitetail Preserve by ranger station. Take 10 Freeway East... exit at Whitetail, head north across preserve. BRING: Water, sunscreen, snack/lunch, layered clothing. Rain cancellations. RESERVATIONS: by 8 p.m. Apr 28 to CO-LEADERS: CHRISTINA TORRES, (951) 316-7503 or cmt.teck@gmail.com, and EILEEN O’BRIEN, (951) 616-7397. MORENO VALLEY GROUP

**APR 29 (SAT-SUN) 11:00 AM S BMTS, KELLER HUT SPRING GATHERING**
Join us at Keller Hut for group meals, hikes, bird and nature walk, games, and conversation. WE CAN’T HAVE ANY MORE CHILDREN, OR PEOPLE, OR OUR COMMUNITY HURTING FROM THE HEALTH IMPACTS OF THIS POLLUTION, said Marina Barragán, a Sierra Club organizer who held up a photo of her 4-year-old nephew at the hospital for an asthma attack.

**COMING UP**
Please read “LIABILITY WAIVER” preceding these listings (Also, refer to Weekly Recurring Outings and Activities)

**MAY 5-7 (FRI-MON) BRIGHT STAR WILDERNESS RESTORATION**
We will be working on the Bright Star Corridor fence that was burned in the Erskine Fire of 2016. We will rebuild a fence that blocked access to a cabin site that has been removed.

**RESULTS OF RECENT SOUTH COAST AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT DISTRICT HEARING ON FEBRUARY 26TH**
Join us early to browse the gift tables & socialize. Join us for international folk dancing. The same group that used to meet at UCR. Meetings are twice weekly: on the 1st & 3rd Fridays.

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Celebrate the Walk on Blue Mountain
Now for the Tenth Annual Year
...Goal of year-round access to peak nearing a reality!

The 10th anniversary of the Walk on Blue Mountain will be held Sunday, March 5th at 8:00 a.m. Recent rain, great views and the promise of abundant wildflowers make March ideal for hiking up this private and normally closed Inland Empire mountain. The 1.6 mile hike to the top provides spectacular views in all directions both on the way up and at its 2,428 foot summit. The trailhead at the intersection of Palm Avenue and Honey Hill Drive in Grand Terrace is easily freeway accessible from all points in the IE.

Begun 10 years ago by the Friends of Blue Mountain and assisted by the Sierra Club the goal of opening up this hidden treasure to the public has now been adopted by the City of Grand Terrace. With the Design Report completed for the Blue Mountain Nature Trail, the city already has the $200,000 matching funds needed to complete the project. A grant request is being processed by California Department of Parks and Recreation Habitat Conservation Fund Program for the other 50% needed funding.

There is no charge to participate and ample parking is available at the gates and down Palm Avenue at Azure Hills Church and the City Hall parking lot. Participants should arrive early as the starting window to begin is between 8:00 and 10:45 a.m.

Remember to bring water, a hat, sunscreen and at least a windbreaker for the always breezy top. Sturdy footwear is a must! And don’t forget your camera. Pets are allowed but must remain on a leash. But dogs aren’t the only animal friends usually on the mountain as the event is a favorite with llama owners. And for those looking for a scenic change in venue, a church service will be held at the top.

Extreme interest in this trail as evidenced by participation of up to 800 folks in past years led to the city of Grand Terrace adopting this project. Ultimately the park entrance will be accessible from a 20-acre city-owned parcel that will provide a direct trailhead along with parking, restrooms and water.

For those unfamiliar with the location, take the 215 Freeway to the City of Grand Terrace and exit East on Barton Road; proceed uphill until Barton begins to veer left. Continue straight on Palm Ave to the top where Palm meets Honey Hill Drive – you have arrived.

For more information you can contact Ralph Salisbury at ralph.salisbury@sangorgonio.sierrclub.org

Be the Change:
An Environmental Justice Invitation

While the state of environmental justice for the next several years is unpredictable, most likely our low income and communities of color will not fare well.

That’s where you come in. San Gorgonio Chapter and Sierra Club National are committed to walking alongside our sisters and brothers as friends and allies.

Through our newly-forming Environmental Justice Committee, will you join us on the trail to a healthy planet as we learn the most pressing issues as experienced on the ground in these communities, help us organize on and advocate for clean air, potable water, and other concerns that affect the health of our most vulnerable neighbors? Will you join with parents, educators and us as we gain the skills and power to make a healthier future for their children – and, as a result, all of us?

To participate in this new committee or offer suggestions, contact Diane Lopez 217 572-6004 dianelopezhughes@gmail.com

Diane Lopez Hughes is an environmental justice activist and ardent supporter of the High Desert. She is a retired registered nurse and a part-time caregiver for her grandson, wanting to insure his enjoyment of Joshua Tree National Park and environs for years to come.