



Election Insight 2012

The Newsletter of the Sierra Club Loma Prieta Chapter
San Benito, Santa Clara and San Mateo Counties

Obama — The Clear Choice in 2012

by Richard Isaac, Co-Chair, Endorsements Subcommittee, National Sierra Club Political Team

The Sierra Club has officially endorsed President Barack Obama for President. We want to take this opportunity to tell you why.

Simply put, we believe Obama shares our concerns, values and vision for a clean energy future. He agrees with us that it's not time for half steps; that what America needs is bold, transformational action that will break the chokehold Big Oil has on our economy and Washington politics, provide short-term relief for American families and long-term solutions for our energy and economy problems. The Sierra Club has endorsed President Obama for reelection in 2012.

Since most Americans — including many Sierra Club members — may not be fully aware of the President's environmental record, here is a partial list, compiled by the Club's Political Team. The list is especially remarkable in light of the opposition from a Tea Party-Republican-controlled House of Representatives. For more detail, visit the Club's website (www.sierraclub.org) and google the site for "Obama's Record."

- The EPA, under Administrator Lisa Jackson, released new protections for toxic mercury from power plants.

- Proposed strengthening of fuel efficiency

and carbon pollution standards for cars and light trucks to 54.5 mpg by 2025.

- The first-ever fuel efficiency standards for medium and heavy duty vehicles sold from 2014-2018.

- Resistance to permitting the Keystone-XL pipeline that would carry oil manufactured from Canadian tar sands to export terminals in Louisiana and Texas.

- Cross-state Air Pollution standards that protect people from toxic emissions from plants located in other (up-wind) states hundreds of miles away.

- Through Executive Order 13514, the President established a greenhouse gas reduction goal of 28% by 2020, equivalent to taking 17 million cars off the road. It will save the federal government \$8-11 billion in energy costs. The reductions are based on action plans of some 35 federal agencies. This was the first time that the federal government developed clean energy plans agency by agency.

- With green investments of close to \$100 billion, the Recovery Act created good jobs for Americans, reduced dependence on dirtier energy sources, and promoted the shift to wind and solar power, high energy-performance, low-carbon cars and buildings, mass transit, and a mod-

ernized water and transportation infrastructure.

- The Obama Administration protected 1 million acres around the Grand Canyon from uranium and other mining - for 20 years.

- The Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009 will safeguard millions of acres of new wilderness, protect hundreds of miles of rivers, expand trails, and keep important habitat in Wyoming safe from oil and gas leasing.

- 7-year ban on new oil and gas leasing and drilling in Atlantic, eastern Gulf of Mexico, and the Pacific Oceans.

This fall, The Sierra Club hopes to engage as many members in candidate campaign activities as possible. "The Obama campaign is putting together the largest and most sophisticated field operation in presidential history, and there will be meaningful ways for Sierra Club volunteers to engage," said Bob Bingaman, the National Field Director for the Sierra Club.

The Sierra Club will be working to recruit

team leaders and volunteers for the Obama campaign and for a number of pro-environmental races in seven target states - Colorado, Minnesota, New Hampshire, New Mexico, Nevada, Ohio, and Pennsylvania.

Members from other states will also be encouraged to get involved by traveling to our target states to volunteer. Ken Brame, member of Sierra Club's Political Committee, adds, "I hope Club members will do as much as they can for the Obama campaign and the Sierra Club endorsed Congressional and state legislative candidates. Whether you can contribute a whole month or just an hour a week, volunteer help will make a big difference."

For those Club members who are able to travel to other locations to help with efforts on the ground, or for members in target states who are able to help by housing out-of-town volunteers, please visit: <http://action.sierraclub.org/site/PageNavigator/Obama2008>

Move to Amend / Corporate Personhood & Money

By Brian Carr, Loma Prieta Lead on Campaign Finance Reform

On August 7th, the Campbell City Council joined Mountain View and Los Altos Hills by passing a resolution supporting a constitutional amendment to overturn the Citizens United decision and declare that only people are entitled to constitutional rights. Four of the five council members agreed that the Citizens United ruling allowing corporations to spend unlimited funds to influence elections at all levels is clearly a local issue and deserved local action. The Sierra Club has endorsed the efforts of the group Move to Amend to overturn Citizens United because the Koch Brothers, the Oil and Gas industry, and other groups with no concern for the environment are using this decision to allocate sums of money to repeal environmental protections all over the country- sums that individuals and groups like the Sierra Club cannot possibly match.

When one of the Campbell council members asked why the Loma Prieta Chapter supported the resolution, we responded with the example of West Virginia where the coal industry has been utilizing mountain top removal as a quick and easy way of accessing coal, despite the fact that it destroys the landscape and pollutes rivers. After

Citizens United, the coal industry in West Virginia has indicated it plans to use money from the corporate treasuries to defeat any candidate who might oppose this destructive practice, and to elect candidates who will do its bidding.

Move to Amend will now move on to other cities, including San Jose and Palo Alto to build support for the national movement.

Loma Prieta members are encouraged to become involved. You can contact the LP liaison person with MTA, Brian Carr at Brian.carr21@verizon.net for more information. Although we might prefer to stay out of politics, defense of the environment requires political involvement and getting big money out of elections is now fundamental to the Sierra Club's goal of protecting our environment.

The Loma Prieta Chapter asked all candidates in all races if they would support the Move to Amend resolution. Candidate responses will be given to our Cool City teams and our partners to help them push our cities to tell Congress that Citizen's United is wrong for United States and the National Priority is to put an end to this power grab by passing this constitutional amendment.

CLIP AND SAVE

November 2012 General Election

(I) Incumbent, (O) Open Seat

President of the United States

Vote Barak Obama/Joe Biden
www.barackobama.com/

Then join a phone bank to help get out the vote in battle ground states - see "Your Vote is Not Enough" to learn how we can re-elect Barak Obama and take back Congress.

US Congress

www.sierraclub.org/politics/endorsements/

CD 14 - Jackie Speier (I)
CD 17 - Mike Honda (I)
CD 18 - Anna Eshoo (I)
CD 19 - Zoe Lofgren (I)
CD 20 - Sam Farr (I)

These California Central Valley races are critical for electing progressives and changing the balance of power in the U.S. House - so let your friends and family (especially if they live in those districts) know the Club has endorsed in these races AND consider volunteering to help via phone banking or other GOTV actions.

CD 7 - Dr. Ami Bera
CD 9 - Jerry McNerney (I)
CD 10 - Jose Hernandez - former US Astronaut

State Level Offices

<http://sierraclubcalifornia.org/ca-elections/>

State Propositions

Prop 31 - Budgeting reform - VOTE NO
Prop. 32 - Paycheck protection - VOTE NO
Prop. 37 - Genetically Modified Organisms (aka food) - VOTE YES
Prop. 39 - Clean Energy Efficiency Initiative - VOTE YES

Senate Districts (SD)

SD 11 - Mark Leno - Open Seat at least in San Mateo County
SD 13 - Jerry Hill and Sally Lieber - dual endorsements - Open Seat
SD 15 - Jim Beall - Open Seat
SD 17 - Bill Monning - Open Seat

Assembly Districts (AD)

AD 19 - Phil Ting - open seat
AD 22 - Kevin Mullin - Open Seat
AD 24 - Rich Gordon (I)
AD 25 - Bob Wieckowski (I)
AD 27 - Nora Campos (I)

AD 28 - Paul Fong (I)

AD 29 - Mark Stone - Open Seat

San Mateo County

Board of Supervisors District 4 - Shelly Masur

City Council Races

Daly City - Rich Brugger, David Canepa, Sal Torres
Half Moon Bay - Harvey Rarback
Menlo Park - Kelly Fergusson, Raymond Mueller
Pacifica - Rich Campbell

Special Districts

Mid-Peninsula Open Space District Ward 7 - Cecily Harris
San Mateo Harbor District - Sabrina Brennan, Pietro Parravano,

Local Measures

Measure B - District Elections for Supervisors - VOTE YES

Santa Clara County

City Council Races

Gilroy Mayor - Peter Arellano
Gilroy - Rebeca Amendariz, Cat Tucker, Los Altos - Jan Pepper, Megan Satterlee
Milpitas Mayor - Jose Esteves
Mountain View - Mike Kasperzak, Chris Clark, John McAlister
Palo Alto - Pat Burt, Mark Berman, Liz Kniss, Greg Schmid
San Jose Dist. 8 - Rose Herrera
San Jose Dist 10 - Richard Braunstein,
Santa Clara - Mohammed Nadeem, Terry O'Neill

Special District

County Open Space Authority District 4 - Garnetta Annable
Santa Clara Valley Water District 2 - David Ginsborg
Santa Clara Valley Water District 5 - Nai Hsueh

Local Measures

Santa Clara Valley Water District Parcel Tax - No Position see article
San Benito County - we need members in San Benito to help us.

For post print deadline additions go to the Loma Prieta Political Page at <http://lp.sierraclub.org/politics/>

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NEWSLETTER INFORMATION

The *Loma Prieta* (USPS 976820) is published four times per year (February, June, October, and November) by the Loma Prieta Chapter of the Sierra Club, 3921 E. Bayshore Rd., Palo Alto, CA 94303.

Nonmember Subscriptions

Send a check for \$10.00 made out to *Loma Prieta* to the Chapter office.

Periodicals Postage Paid at Palo Alto, CA and at additional mailing offices. Postmaster: Send address changes to Loma Prieta, Sierra Club, 85 Second St., 2nd Floor, San Francisco 94105. Please mark envelope "Address change."

For nonmember subscription changes, send changes to *Loma Prieta*, Sierra Club, 3921 E. Bayshore Road, Palo Alto, CA 94303.

To join the Sierra Club

Contact the Chapter office. Annual dues are \$39, of which \$1 is for the *Loma Prieta*. Membership is not tax-deductible.

Subscription/mail problems

Please report to the Chapter office.

Submissions

The *Loma Prieta* encourages members to submit news, stories, reviews and letters. See the submission guidelines at lomapieta.sierraclub.org/newsletter.html. You can contact the editorial board by e-mail at newsletter@lomapieta.sierraclub.org or by mail or fax to the Chapter office.

Outings Listings

Listings must be submitted to the Chapter one month prior to publication.

Advertising

Contact Ad Manager (see below). Deadline for ad space is due two months prior to publication.

Volunteers

The *Loma Prieta* welcomes volunteers and new writers. Please e-mail newsletter@lomapieta.sierraclub.org for information.

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Printed on recycled paper with soy ink.

The *Loma Prieta Election Insight* is published twice a year (May 1 and October 1) by the Political Committee of the Loma Prieta Chapter of the Sierra Club, 3921 E. Bayshore Rd., Palo Alto, CA 94303



Be sure to share your Loma Prieta — Reuse then Recycle

Your Vote is not Enough

By Ann Schneider, Co-Chair, Loma Prieta Political Committee

OK, here are the facts. The majority of voters living in the Loma Prieta Chapter are progressive voters. This means that our region is going to vote for Barak Obama. We are going to re-elect our Congressional Representatives and our incumbent Assembly people. While we have a couple of competitive local Senate races and of course we have many competitive city council and one board of supervisor race, in general we are considered a safe region for electing progressive candidates.

So yes of our course my vote, your vote for President Obama counts. But if we really want to protect the environment, if we really believe that we as a Nation need to move now and quickly to slow climate change, we have to do more than just fill out our ballots.

We need you to:

1. Register to Vote, Get your like-minded friends and family to register. Get your voting age children to register. **Then make sure they vote.** If they live in other parts of the State or country, refer then to the Sierra Club website for local environmental endorsements.

2. Vote early – When you get your vote-by-mail ballot, fill it out and mail it or bring it to City Hall right away. Why, because then all the groups doing Get-Out-the-Vote (GOTV) phone calls, can mark you off the list and concentrate on occasional voters or all the voters

that came out for the first time in 2008 and may stay home this time. The additional benefit of voting early, you won't get most of those robo-calls.

3. If you don't get a vote-by-mail ballot contact your Registrar of Voters, find an early voting location and go down and either vote via paper ballot or by electronic voting machine. But do it now even though you might miss some late brewing news on an issue.

4. Get all your friends and family to vote early, and for Obama and all the other candidates the Sierra Club has vetted as supporting the environment.

5. Volunteer one hour, half a day, a day or more to go to one of the many local offices and make GOTV phone calls to battleground states. We will have more information on where you can go on the chapter website <http://lomapieta.sierraclub.org/politics/index>

6. Bring your family, your teenagers and your friends with you to do just one significant GOTV action to help those battleground states re-elect President Obama and progressive Senators and US Representatives. We can take back Congress.

7. Remember, people like us, who care about the environment do not have the money of the Koch Brothers or other billionaires who are throwing millions and millions of dollars into TV ads so they can elect Mitt Romney and other conservative Senators and Representatives. **The power we have is our time and our**

willingness to do more than just vote.

8. Be a poll monitor <https://my.barackobama.com/page/s/vpcvol2/>. Attorneys are especially needed.

9. Be a precinct walker or assist voters to get to their precincts to vote in a battleground state like Nevada <http://OFA.BO/CA2NV>.

10. Keep an eye on our website for information on what you can do to prevent voter suppression as many states have done by enacting Voter ID laws and other laws designed to keep the poor, the elderly, minorities and college students from being able to vote. Look to our website to see if we locally can do anything to help citizens hurt by these laws in the 35 states that have passed voter suppression laws. And you'll find a list of local corporations who initially helped fund the effort to pass these laws. It is a shameful list even though at present all the Bay Area companies removed themselves from the organizations pushing voter ID laws. The damage was already done.

11. Finally, really, truly vote. As newspapers report after every election, a significant number of Americans who could register to vote don't. And a significant number of Americans who can vote don't. We used to think that Sierra Club members vote more frequently than the average registered voter but a survey done a few years ago disproved this. So this year, lets change that statistic and prove that this election is about the environment and VOTE!

Re-Elect Our Congressional Delegation

By Ann Schneider, Co-Chair, Loma Prieta PolCom

The League of Conservation Voters compiles an annual score card of environmental votes of our US Congress. You can download the most recent report card – 2011 at <http://www.lcv.org/scorecard/scorecardweb.pdf>. The report explains the bills chosen and then ranks every Senator and Representative based on their votes and if they missed any votes. Here is how our delegation did in 2011:

Ann Eshoo 94%
 Sam Farr 97%
 Mike Honda 100%
 Zoe Lofgren 94%
 Jerry McNerney 94%
 Jackie Speier 91%

At first I would say wow; they all didn't hit 100%! Several of the lower scores were due to missing a

vote or three. But the real message is any legislator in the 90 percentile in the US House is an incredible fighter for the environment. And they deserve our vote! We need you, if you want them to make it 100% in 2013, then let the Chapter PolCom know you would like to join our team of members who try to meet with our Representatives every year here in the District. We hate to say it but we were so busy this year that we never held a single constituent meeting with any of our Congress people. And if we want them to care about the environment we need to meet and talk about our critical issues. We also know that this Congress has been very hard on leaders who care about the environment and we need to thank our Delegation for standing strong to the frankly anti-environmental House Leadership.



Zoe Lofgren



Jerry McNerney



Mike Honda



Jackie Speier



Sam Farr



Anna Eshoo

STATEWIDE RACES

Vote NO on Proposition 31

By Margaret Okuzumi, Sierra Club California Executive Committee

Please vote NO on Prop 31. While this well-intentioned measure touts its devotion to reform, transparency and oversight, this flawed initiative actually creates a more complex and unmanageable governance system and undermines environmental laws. Prop 31 contains a dangerous provision allowing local governments to override state laws, including environmental laws. Under Prop 31, if local governments decided compliance was too costly and "impedes" local goals, they would be free to circumvent state laws and regulations such as ones pertaining to municipal drinking water quality, air quality, protection of coastal lands, reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, mitigation for endangered species, and hazardous waste remediation, to name some examples. Prop 31 would increase the time spent reviewing programs and reduce the time state workers

will be able to devote to implementing them. It give the governor excessive power and provides incentives for the minority party in the Legislature to block action on the budget.

We wish California Forward had been more responsive to the early concerns expressed by the environmental community about the ballot measure language, because we favor better government performance and accountability. As it stands, we strongly urge your NO vote on Prop 31 in order to protect our environment.

Vote No on Prop. 32, the Billionaires' Bill of Rights

by Victoria Brandon, Redwood Chapter Political Chair

Once again, big corporations and multimillionaire right wing extremists are attempting to corrupt the electoral process by promoting a ballot measure that goes beyond mere deceptiveness to verge on the fraudulent.

Officially designated the "Stop Special Interest Money Now Act" and widely touted as the "Paycheck Protection Act," Prop 32 masquerades as campaign finance reform. The measure bans direct contributions to California candi-

dates by both corporations and labor unions, and prohibits both corporations and unions from using payroll deductions to collect "political funds" even from employees or members who approve in advance. This apparently even-handed restriction is actually grossly discriminatory, since as the measure's authors know full well, unions get almost all of their funds through payroll deductions, and businesses almost none.

Prop 32 also contains enormous loopholes designed for the benefit of large corporations and the wealthy. Many common organizational structures such as LLCs, partnerships and real estate trusts are exempt. If you're a venture capitalist, land developer or law firm — exempt. Corporate executives — exempt. And as provided in the infamous "Citizens United" decision, corporations and billionaires can still give unlimited political contributions to anonymous, unaccountable "Super PACs."

This already sounds pretty bad, but it gets worse. Prop 32 also defines public employee unions as "government contractors," and would forbid them from attempting to influence any government agency with which they have deal-

Continued on next page

Battleground Races – Take Back the House Help Needed in the Central Valley

Ami Bera, Jose Hernandez, Jerry McNerney for Congress

by Mary McVey Gill, Loma Prieta PolCom Lead on Congressional Battleground Races

If you are frustrated by the current deadlock on environmental issues in the House of Representatives and want to make a difference at a national level, there is something you can do. Our chapter is close to three Congressional districts in which there are critical races in play. One of these has an incumbent who is a proven friend of the environment, Jerry McNerney, and the other two are districts in which a pro-environmental candidate has a strong chance of defeating an anti-environmental incumbent. All three campaigns welcome volunteers to walk precincts, phone, or (of course) donate money; contact information is at the end of the article.

CD 7: Ami Bera

Ami Bera is a physician who ran a close race against Dan Lungren in 2010 but lost after Karl Rove's American Crossroads dumped \$690,000 into TV ads against him in the last days of the campaign. Dr. Bera later compared it to playing a game of chess, having a strategy mapped out, then watching as your opponent puts a new queen on the board.



Ami Bera

Since then, Dr. Bera has been working tirelessly doing outreach and meeting voters. The new district, in the Elk Grove/Carmichael area near Sacramento, is much more favorable to Bera (39% Democrat, 38% Republican). It is considered to be one of the most competitive House races in the nation.

Dr. Bera is a professor of medicine at U.C. Davis and was chief medical officer of Sacramento County, where he created a program to help small businesses insure their employees. He opposes offshore drilling and supports water conservation, renewable energy, and job training in clean energy technologies among other environmental priorities.

Dan Lungren received a 4 percent lifetime rating from the League of Conservation Voters.

CD 10: Jose Hernandez

Jose Hernandez is running against Jeff Denham in the Modesto area. Hernandez grew up in the valley and worked side by side with his parents picking fruits and vegetables; he understands agricultural issues in the district and knows first-hand the effects of pesticides on the environment and on farmworkers. After earning a master's degree in engineering from U.C. Santa Barbara, he worked on a digital mammography imaging system at Lawrence Livermore Labs and on nuclear non-proliferation issues on behalf of the lab and the Department of Energy. He fulfilled his childhood dream of becoming an astronaut when in 2009 he

was the flight engineer on a NASA mission to the International Space Station. Well-known among Latinos, who represent one in four voters in the district, he is noted for his outreach to high schools to encourage students to study math and science.



Jose Hernandez

Jose strongly supports alternative energy, raising environmental standards on energy sources, and improving water conservation and delivery. He states, "Over the long term, we must switch to cleaner fuels and increase efficiency. Doing so will not just save us money and break our dependence on foreign oil; it will drastically improve the environment we all share. We have seen that, over time, the quality of air in our Valley has continued to decline and we must turn that around. We must become leaders in the green energy environment."

The district is centered in Modesto and includes Tracy, Manteca, Turlock, and Oakdale. Democrats have a slight advantage (40.9% to 38.3% Republican).

Jeff Denham, elected in 2010, received a score of 6 percent from the League of Conservation Voters.

CD 9: Jerry McNerney

A renewable-energy engineer and Ph.D.

in mathematics, Jerry McNerney has been a champion of the environment since he was elected in 2006. Jerry has fought tirelessly for the issues we care about: clean and renewal energy, the creation of "green collar" jobs, energy independence, clean air and water, and public transportation. He supports investing in green energy building, and stands against drilling for oil off our coast. He recently introduced a House bill to improve air quality in the valley.



Jerry McNerney

Jerry's Republican challenger is from a wealthy family and has raised very large sums of money. The new district, CD 9, is centered in the Stockton area and runs south to Mountain House and Lathrop and east to Brentwood and Antioch. The National Republican Congressional Committee and other groups have been targeting Jerry in TV ads in the district, and this is a seat they will try hard to win.

To help in any of these races:

All three candidates need our help. For more information or to contribute to or get involved in the campaigns, go to:

www.beraforcongress.com (877) 750-2372
joseforcongress.com (209) 214-6701
www.jerrymcnerney.org (209) 910-4172

Continued from previous page

ings. That restriction would also cover political action committees established by any membership organization, or "any agency or employee representation committee or plan," seeking stronger civil rights or environmental protections, such as the Sierra Club. It's no wonder the measure is actively opposed, not only by organized labor, but also by the country's leading good-government groups, such as Common Cause and the League of Women Voters.

In the words of Los Angeles Times columnist Michael Hiltzik, "In this state, we've come to expect ballot initiatives sponsored by business interests to be, essentially, frauds. But it's hard to conceive how one could be more fraudulent than Proposition 32. If there was any doubt left that the initiative process has been totally corrupted by big business and the wealthy, this should put it to rest for all time."

If Proposition 32 passes it would effectively end organized labor's ability to influence the political process in California, and cripple the Sierra Club's ability to protect the environment. We urge our members to vote No on Proposition 32.

Right to Know Our Food - Vote Yes on Prop. 37

By Andrew Christie, Director, Santa Lucia Chapter

Sierra Club California endorses Proposition 37, the California Right to Know Genetically Engineered Food Act, because it mandates the labeling of genetically modified organisms (GMOs). Polls show that more than 90 percent of California voters want to know if their food was produced by genetic engineering – a process that has nothing to do with traditional breeding and hybridization and which breaches species barriers to produce potatoes altered with bacteria genes, corn altered to produce pesticide, "super" pigs altered with human growth genes, tomatoes altered with fish genes, fish altered with cattle growth genes, etc.

The initiative gives Californians the right to choose what we put in our bodies and feed to

our children. Fifty countries, including China, Japan and the European Union, require the labeling of genetically engineered food. The United States continues to allow GMOs to be sold unlabeled, with no requirement that companies prove their safety before putting them on the market — essentially the largest ongoing science experiment in history, conducted without the consent of the experimental subjects and no way to track possible health effects. Concerns are growing about the dramatic increase in pesticide use, impacts on soil fertility and the creation of super-weeds as a result of GMO cultivation. Cross-contamination by genetically engineered pollen is a direct threat to organic farming.

The lobbying power of the biotech industry has killed every federal GMO labeling law introduced in Congress since 1999 and every GMO labeling bill attempted in Sacramento and fourteen other states. The California ballot initiative process gives voters a way to go around entrenched economic interests that have paralyzed our legislature and implement the will of the people. This is an opportunity to lead the way for the nation on this critical environmental and human health issue.

Yes on Prop 39: Fairer Corporate Taxes to Fund Energy Efficiency and Education

By Kathryn Phillips, Director, Sierra Club California

Smart policy works around California must be swooning as they read Proposition 39 on the November ballot. It does so much so elegantly.

Sierra Club California has endorsed this measure. It will help increase solar and other alternative energy supply while reducing energy demand at schools and other government buildings.

Overall, Proposition 39 would simultaneously fix an unfair corporate tax loophole; generate billions of dollars in new funds for education, and for five years fund job-creating energy efficiency and alternative energy proj-

ects at schools and other public buildings. Those energy efficiency and alternative energy projects would, in turn, save on heating and cooling bills at those public buildings for decades to come.

Proposition 39's fix to the tax loophole would establish a "single sales factor" method for calculating corporate taxes. This method is used by most large states already. It essentially requires out-of-state companies that do business in California to pay taxes on California sales the same way that in-state companies pay taxes.

The Legislative Analyst estimates that, as a result of Proposition 39, at least \$500 million dollars a year will be available for efficiency and alternative energy projects beginning in 2013 through 2017. That funding also can be used for job training and workforce development in energy efficiency and alternative energy.

Generally, energy efficiency experts figure that the average building could cut its energy use by 25 percent through efficiency improvements. In California, just meeting 2020 efficiency goals for schools and other government buildings will cost about \$2.1 billion, according to one study done for the Public Utilities Commission. Proposition 39's funding will substantially help cover that cost.

The measure also makes sure there is coordination and accountability in how the energy

funds are used. Among other things, it creates a nine-member board that includes technical and finance experts to be responsible for oversight of how the funds are spent.

It is supported by a range of interests, including environmental and environmental justice organizations, labor, and progressive business organizations, such as the Los Angeles Business Council and the U.S. Green Chamber of Commerce. Its most noteworthy backer is Tom Steyer, a Bay Area-based investor who helped fund the fight that defeated efforts to roll back California's global warming policies two years ago.

So to help accelerate California's clean energy transition, and to reduce energy waste, vote yes on Proposition 39.

Take Action

San Mateo County Democratic Party Campaign HQT

Calling battleground states on behalf of the President and key Senate and House Races

650 El Camino Real, Belmont

(2 blocks north of Ralston Ave., across from the Caltrain parking lot)

650-207-2729 www.sanmateodemocrats.org

Open 7 days a week. Please call for details.

Last Day to register to Vote October 22, 2012

The deadline to be registered to vote in the November 6, 2012 Presidential Election is October 22nd. You must be 18 years or older on Election Day to vote. If you have a teenager with a birthday between now and November 6th, then they can vote but they have to register. If you have moved, you have 30 days to re-register to vote. This is especially important if you have moved to a new county or from another state. Make sure your vote will count and re-register if you moved or recently changed your name.

You can find a hardcopy Voter Registration form at any library and at City Hall. This form must be postmarked by the 22nd. And now you can register on line at the California Secretary of State's New Register to Vote Online website. Go to <https://rtv.sos.ca.gov/elections/register-to-vote/>. Either way, after registering and before Election Day, double check to make sure that your registration was processed correctly. You can check your status at http://www.sos.ca.gov/elections/elections_vr.htm.

SENATE RACES

Residents of Daly City, Colma, South San Francisco and Unincorporated Broadmoor — You will have a new Senator in your new Senate District 11 — Vote for Mark Leno for new SD11

By Kathryn Phillips, Director, Sierra Club California

Senator Mark Leno is one of the most reliable and thoughtful environmental votes in the legislature. This year, he carried SB 1222, which will remove a fee hurdle to rooftop solar installation. He also chairs the Senate Budget Committee and he and his staff have helped us in many ways behind the scenes to help advance a clean and healthy environment. He has carried bills to reduce toxicity in consumer products, air quality improvements, renewable energy and worker safety. Welcome this environmental leader to San Mateo County by voting for Mr. Leno for Senator. For more information on the current Senate District <http://sd03.senate.ca.gov/>

Senate District 13 a Choice Between Two Great Leaders

Redistricting merged most of San Mateo County and northern Santa Clara County into the new Senate District 13. Two good friends of the Environment, both Democrats will be running to fill this seat. Former Assemblywoman Sally Lieber (old AD24) will be running against current AD19 Assemblyman Jerry Hill. Both Lieber and Hill have been a good voice and vote for the environment.

Sally Lieber's Environmental Successes

Sally served in the Assembly from 2002 to 2008. She served as the Speaker pro Tempore, only the third woman to hold this second in power position in the Assembly. Environmental laws authored by Assem. Lieber and signed into law include: AB32 our landmark Global Warming law, ban on cancer causing flame retardants, requiring cell phone retailers to take back used phones for reuse, recycling and proper disposal, the California Ocean Protection Act, requiring that retailers can only sell lead free plumbing materials, requiring developers to offer solar power in homes in new developments and the Million solar roof, establish the San Francisco Bay restoration Authority to raise funds to protect and restore bay habitats, and many more. Members may remember her famous smog bill that made national attention on the Tonight Show. Sally took on Jay Leno and won.

Sally's environmental goals should she be elected include: expanding energy and water conservation programs, controlling and reducing toxic chemicals, habitat protection, implementing sustainable land use policies and practices, supporting mass transit and implementing zero waste programs across the state. Sally came out early against the Saltworks development in Redwood City. Sally isn't afraid to take a strong stand and fight the hard fights. She earned her 100% lifetime green voting record. To learn more about Sally go to www.sallylieber.org



Sally Lieber

Jerry Hill's Environmental Successes

Jerry is considered one of the hardest workers in Sacramento. He has a long record both at the local government level and in Sacramento for working for a better environment. He has championed strong air pollution control actions, supported mass transit, open space and parks. As an assemblyman his legislation has helped reduce the cost of installing solar energy for residents and businesses, funding for bay protection and restoration, protecting CEQA by closing procedural loopholes, moving state agencies to use electronic rather than paper transactions, and incentive programs to get polluting vehicles off our roads. In 2009, Jerry carried legislation to ban single use polystyrene takeout food packaging and while the bill didn't get signed into law, most of the communities in our chapter are moving to eliminate this packaging that so often ends up littering our streets and creeks and finding their way to the ocean and beaches. We thank Jerry for his leadership in so many areas.

If elected Jerry's main environmental goals include developing plans and policies to prepare for sea level rise including wetland preservation, preserving mass transit and supporting green jobs. His lifetime environmental score from the Calif. League of Conservation Voters is 96%. Jerry is a pragmatic fighter for the environment. He has served us well. To learn more about Jerry go to www.jerryhillforsenate.com.

We are fortunate to have two superb candidates who work with us and have fought hard in Sacramento for the environment. We only wish we could send them both back to Sacramento.

Jim Beall for SD 15

By Charles Schafer, LP ExCom Member

Beall has been an important voice in the assembly with a very high environmental voting record. Jim has worked for many decades to improve our transportation system, support renewable energy technology, and crack down on polluters. For example, he served on the Guadalupe Corridor Joint Powers Board responsible for the development of the light rail system in Santa Clara County, and worked with City and County officials to build the 22-mile light rail system. He also founded the Santa Clara Open Space Authority to protect and enhance open space least it be lost with the disappearance of agricultural land; and worked with our water district, environmental organizations and government agencies to ensure a safe and dependable water supply. He has also led the county parks ballot measure multiple times.

Jim's long history as a planner has trained him to be a strategic thinker. He is proud to have been a champion of the environment; applying his strategic thinking to protecting our natural resources and minimizing the long-term impacts our decisions have on the environment. Jim's understanding of the environmental issues in our area coupled with his ability to fund environmental priorities in a tough budget climate will allow him to be an important voice for solutions for the environment in Sacramento. Let's send him back to Sacramento to continue his good work in the state Senate

Elect Bill Monning for Senate 17

By Bruce van Allen, Ventana Chapter (Santa Cruz and Monterey Counties)

Bill Monning (D-Carmel) has earned en-



Jerry Hill

Bill Monning

Get Involved!

Senate District 13 Host a House Party of Walk a Precinct

We know that a dual endorsement can cause confusion to our members who count on the Club analysis of environmental records and actions to provide the vote for the environment. When we endorse a candidate we also give the Okay to our members that they can go out and work for that candidate using the Club's name in their affiliation. A dual endorsement allows members who feel strongly for Sally or for Jerry to precinct walk or host house parties to help the candidate meet the electorate. If you want to help your candidate, and are unsure of what the dual endorsement means, please contact Ann Schneider at 650-697-6249 or Ann.Schneider@sierraclub.org and she can help you with process concerns.

dorsement by the Club for his candidacy for the 17th Senate District, which includes coastal communities in Monterey County, all of Santa Cruz and San Luis Obispo Counties, and southern Santa Clara County. The Sierra Club has given Monning a high score on its 2011 California Legislative Report Card for his work in the State Assembly.

To learn more about Bill Monning's work in the legislature refer to <http://democrats.assembly.ca.gov/members/a27/>. To help with his campaign contact: <http://www.billmonning.org/>

The full article on Bill Monning can be found on our website.

Mullin go to <http://kevinmullin.com/site/>

Support Rich Gordon for the new AD24

By Ruth Stoner Muzzin, Early Endorsement Team Lead & PolCom Member

Rich Gordon has consistently lent support to environmental issues in the Assembly. He is a co-author of AB 587, a bill to allow volunteer work on public projects, compatible with the Club's habitat protection efforts. He is in favor of continuing a property tax exemption for open and protected space that is held by nonprofit land trusts. In an interesting intersection of economy and environment, as part of his work chairing the budget subcommittee that oversees resource agencies, recent budget restraints allowed Assembly member Gordon and his colleagues to cut some state agency staffing so as to effectively eliminate highly destructive suction dredge mining for gold in the streams of the Sierra foothills, providing much-needed relief to local fish populations. He also supported AB612, which was signed into law, increasing the borrowing authority of the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District without raising taxes.

For the full article see our June Primary Endorsement Issue on the LP website.



ASSEMBLY RACES

Phil Ting for Assembly District 19

By Don Forman, Editor, The Yodeler, San Francisco Bay Chapter

The Sierra Club supports Phil Ting for state Assembly because Ting is right on California's environmental issues, in particular on green energy and protecting the coast. Currently San Francisco assessor, Ting thinks outside the box of his position. He came up with the idea of the successful GoSolarSF rebate program, which has quadrupled the amount of solar power installed in San Francisco. He is a founding member of the San Francisco Solar Task Force, and sits on the governing board of the San Francisco Bay Restoration Authority.

Ting supports raising revenue to keep state parks open and to expand public transit. He also advocates for closing the corporate loophole in Proposition 13.

Vote for Kevin Mullin for Assembly District 22

By Ann Schneider, Endorsement Team Leader AD22

Kevin Mullin has a strong record of supporting environmental issues while serving as Councilmember & Mayor of the City of South San Francisco. He will be a strong advocate on transit oriented development, transportation issues and on climate change issues as demonstrated by his work on the Grand Blvd project and on Metropolitan Transportation Commission. He wants to work to make the state budget and budget process more transparent and to work with legislators from across the aisle to find common ground on the range of issues Californians expect their leaders to accomplish. For more information on Kevin



Phil Ting



Kevin Mullin

Elect Assm. Bob Wieckowski to the new AD25

By Ann Schneider, Early Endorsement Lead for AD25

He was first elected to the Assembly in 2010 and in his first year in office achieved an 82% voting record. * He is the Chair of the Committee on Environmental Safety and Toxic Materials overseeing hazardous materials, drinking water and pesticides. He introduced the Made in California Jobs Initiative that includes the Solar Energy Act and the Renewable Energy Act. He also introduced the Assembly Joint Resolution 22 to push the US Congress to overturn the U.S. Supreme Court Citizens United Ruling. For more information visit <http://bobwieckowski.com/>



Bob Wieckowski

Sierra Club Endorses Nora Campos in CA Assembly District 27

By John Cordes, PolCom Tri-chair

The Sierra Club again endorses Assembly member Nora Campos for CA Assembly District 27. Assembly district 27 includes the eastern portions of San



Nora Campos

Jose. "We endorsed her when she was on the San Jose city council and we are glad she has continued to earn our endorsement in the state assembly" said John Cordes, Loma Prieta political committee tri-chair.

Vote for Paul Fong in CA Assembly District 28

By John Cordes, PolCom Tri-chair & Margaret Okuzumi, ExCom Member

"Paul Fong tackled some tough bills to protect our ocean and water. He succeeded in passing AB376, banning the sale of shark fins in California, which will help protect sharks from going extinct and our ocean ecosystem from collapsing," said John Cordes, Loma Prieta political committee tri-chair. Fong also authored AB19, which would have required new multi-unit residential developments and new apartment buildings to install water meters for individual units. Paul Fong is proud to be a Sierra Club member and keeps the Club's positions at heart when deciding how to vote on bills. We thank him for his work on AD1990 even though the utilities killed this bill. **We congratulate Assemblyman Fong for winning this year's Byron Sher Award for environmental leadership.**



Paul Fong

Elect Environmental Leader Mark Stone for Assembly District 29

By Rita Dalessio, Ventana Chapter Political Committee Member

Mark Stone, Santa Cruz Supervisor, has now been on the California Coastal Commission for over two years and currently serves as Vice Chair. During his short term he has been a strong advocate for protection of coastal resources. Mark voted against the proposed massive Monterey Bay Shores "Eco-Resort" that would have marred sensitive dune habitat near Monterey and ensured that the Commission would not give its blessing to test slant wells independent of a more thorough review of the controversial desalination proposal in Monterey County. Mark's thoughtful, law- and science-based approach to land use decisions has made him a well-respected leader on the Commission. <http://friendsofmarkstone.org/endorsements> For the full article please go to our website.



Mark Stone

SAN MATEO COUNTY

Shelly Masur for San Mateo County Supervisorial District 4

By Melissa Hippard, Endorsement Team Leader SMBOSDist4

The Sierra Club endorses Shelly Masur for San Mateo County Supervisor, District 4. Shelly has been a strong voice in our community focused on public health, education and the needs of families. She understands how important the environ-



Shelly Masur

ment is for the residents of our county. We need access to a clean, reliable water supply, safe areas for outdoor recreation and healthy food choices. Shelly Masur understands these issues and will work with the Sierra Club to make San Mateo even more sustainable. She is also endorsed by Joe Simitian, Rich Gordon, Dave Pine and Cecily Harris. For more information please visit www.shellymasur.com

Vote for a Green Daly City

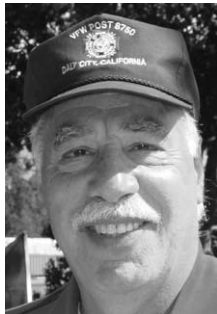
By Pamela DiGiovanni, Daly City Endorsement Team Leader

The Sierra Club is proud to endorse Rich Brugger, David Canepa and Sal Torres.

All three candidates support Citizens United being overturned and are supportive of working with the Sierra Club and the Day City Cool Cities Team on the city's environmental issues. The following is a snapshot of why we endorse these three candidates and why they deserve your vote.

Rich Brugger walks the walk on issues that are aligned with environmental community. Rich is a Sierra Club member and an active Daly City Cool Cities Team member (DCCCT). As a DCCCT member he supports open space and the San Bruno Mountain Watch's position on the preservation of the Daly City Dunes; attends SBMW community slide presentations, collects signatures and voices support for the dunes; represented DCCCT to the City Council and wrote a comment letter on the city's general plan which is posted on the Loma Prieta site. He continues to participate in the Grand Boulevard (GBI) Task Force meetings throughout San Mateo County. He has addressed and solved the problem of sidewalk/ parking impediments for merchants on Mission Street that was causing them to lose revenue. As District 14 Commander of the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) he banned smoking, implemented recycling, and banned the use of polystyrene at Daly City's Post 8750 and Ft. Miley/VA meetings and gatherings. Rich is also working to implement these same programs for the California and national VFW by working with the National Commander of the VFW and the California Commander creating a "Green VFW". As President of the Council of Homeowners and Residents Association, Rich lobbied the city in support of "Clean Communities", addressing issues such as Colma Creek pollution and recycling diversion rates. For more information or to volunteer contact Rich at 650-892-9932 or richbrugger@hotmail.com

David Canepa has stated positions and taken actions that align with the Sierra Club. He has been a three year representative on the GBI Task Force. He participates in DCCCT meetings and San Bruno Watch community presentations on the Daly City Dunes. David took the lead on the Daly City Council on introducing the single use plastic bag ban and voted for the polystyrene ban ordinance. As a member of City/County Association of Governments (CCAG) he secured grant funding (\$250,000) for the Serramonte Library for a bioswale educational project. The project shows how rainwater is dispensed into the Bay when filtered through the bioswale. David is proud that he has ensured that Daly City has affordable housing at 15% for larger projects while other cities do not. His future plans include expanding shuttle service city wide such as that in Crown



Rich Brugger



David Canepa



Sal Torres

Colony and increasing the recycling diversion rate to name a few. For more information or to volunteer contact David at 415-513-9410 or david@davidcanepa.com

Sal Torres positions on the environment continue to expand to align with the Sierra Club. He established the Bicycle/Pedestrian Committee which increased the number of bike lanes citywide. Sal voted for the polystyrene ban ordinance and says he is not closing the door on the possibility of expanding the ordinance to ban polystyrene coolers in the future. He has reached out to the Mayor of Colma to establish a city wide shuttle service that will connect Daly City to Colma, Pacifica and Brisbane. In addition, he continues to support affordable housing. Also, he is looking for ways to improve the recycling system and supports transparency for the public to review the draft process on our 2014 recycling contract that will include composting. He continues to pursue Green Initiatives through the city's Green Vision Plan which is a climate action plan. For more information or to volunteer contact Sal at 415-203-0070 or vote4sal@gmail.com

Harvey Rarback for Half Moon Bay City Council

By John Lynch, Endorsement Team Member

Harvey Rarback is the Chapter's choice for Half Moon Bay City Council.

In recent years the City government has accrued a series of expensive environmental errors including a misguided settlement of the Beachwood Decision that the Club had to vigorously oppose in Sacramento and "knowingly and willfully" breaching the Coastal Act with unpermitted work in a watercourse resulting in yet another expensive judgment.

Harvey has a Ph.D. in Physics and has recently retired from a career at the Stanford Linear Accelerator. His responses to the Club's questionnaire and during interviews were exemplary - especially regarding California Coastal Act issues - and we believe Harvey's environmental acumen will bring a much needed improvement to the deliberations of the Half Moon Bay City Council.



Harvey Rarback

Sierra Club Supports Fergusson and Mueller for Menlo Park

By Sue Chow, Menlo Park Endorsement Team Leader and Chapter ExCom Member

As a Menlo Park city council member from 2004 to the present, Kelly Fergusson has been a staunch advocate of nature conservation. Kelly has been emphatically opposed to fill-in-the-bay projects such as the proposed Cargill/DMB development. Her vocal opposition to such projects has led to political attacks from Cargill/DMB, but Kelly remains undeterred.

Kelly has also played a key role in promoting green buildings, sustainable land use and transit-oriented development projects. She has been instrumental in championing the six-year, \$1+ million Specific Plan project to completely re-vamp the Downtown/El Camino Real zoning in order to create multiple mixed-use districts, including a bike/pedestrian circulation. Kelly has also led the implementation of numerous walkable / bikeable city projects, including the Coleman



Kelly Fergusson



Ray Mueller

Avenue improvements requiring buy-in from FIVE public agencies. Above all, Kelly was a proponent of the Climate Action Plan in 2007 and has worked hard to realize the Plan.

Most impressive is the fact that Kelly is aware of both the trees and the forest in that she has been adept at integrating important community priorities such as jobs with her commitment to environmental protection. This was clearly reflected in Kelly's role in bringing green tech companies like Tesla Motors to Menlo Park. In Kelly Fergusson we have someone who will fight to protect our natural environment and ensure that built environments are climate-friendly. Not only that, but Kelly is someone who will be able to navigate the shoals of socioeconomic priorities so that environmental agendas will be integrated with--and not eclipsed by-- other key priorities. She has our vote and our gratitude for her unwavering commitment to protecting our environment.

Ray Mueller has been a strong advocate of climate-friendly built environments (human-constructed environments). In the few years that he has been a member of the transportation commission, Ray has compiled an impressive list of accomplishments in Menlo Park such as advocating for transit-oriented developments and initiating biking/walking programs. Although Ray does not yet have a substantial conservation record, he was emphatic about "restoring open space to native habitats," and vows to oppose fill-in-the-bay projects such as the proposed Cargill/DMB development.

Ray has shown that he is a skilled consensus builder and networker—one who will research a problem, propose solutions, find allies, and seek to build a consensus that will bring benefits to the community. One of Ray's signature accomplishments was his negotiation with Stanford University over the compensation due Menlo Park for transportation improvements connected with the expansion of Stanford Hospital. Ray researched the problem, wrote an 18-page report, and through patient negotiations with Stanford, was able to increase the \$312,000 initially offered by Stanford to 3.7 million. As a result of his work, Stanford committed hundreds of thousands of dollars to alternative travel in Menlo Park, including enhanced shuttle service and improvements to Menlo Park's biking infrastructure.

We urge our Menlo Park members to vote for Ray Mueller together with Kelly Fergusson. Ray has done as much as he can as a transportation commissioner to promote sustainable built environments that will encourage biking/walking/using mass transit. We predict that, given the opportunity, his future record as a nature conservationist will match his impressive record as an advocate for climate-friendly communities.

One Candidate Stands Out for Pacifica Council Race!

By Ken King, Team Leader Pacifica Endorsement Team and Co-Chair Coastal Issues Committee

Rich Campbell is one of four candidates running for the two-year, open seat on Pacifica's City Council. Rich's resume looks like something Sierra Club might have crafted if we were trying to conjure a "dream" candidate with impeccable green credentials.

Rich is an environmental attorney who began his career working with Sierra Club Legal Defense Fund (now Earthjustice), and works today for the Environmental Protection Agency. Between these two jobs, Rich lived in Arizona and did significant pro bono work challenging a huge mine on US Forest Service Land in the Tonto National Forest, forcing the owners to change many of their more environmentally damaging plans; he also served as a water rights attorney in northern Arizona, helping successfully reestablish instream flows to Fossil Creek, thwarting the designs of a local county to redirect the water towards sprawl.



Rich Campbell

Rich joined Pacifica's planning commission in 2007, and immediately after his appointment was instrumental in getting large commercial enterprises (Walgreen's, McDonald's) to commit to designing their buildings to meet LEED standards. Subsequently, Rich participated in the Green Building Task Force and supported the Green Building Ordinance. Since then he recommended they incorporate citywide rain-harvesting techniques to bolster emergency supplies in the event of drought.

We particularly endorse Rich Campbell for council because he is the only candidate who flatly rejects the controversial 6-lane Calera Parkway road widening on Highway 1, long opposed by our chapter as well as most Pacificans, but approved by the city council. Rich believes that working with the school district to solve the morning drop-off problem would alleviate Highway 1's chronic congestion during commute hours, saving more than \$50 million, and the public untold aggravation during the four-five-year construction period.

Loma Prieta also endorses Rich because he is a strong believer in public transportation and a BART rider to San Francisco himself. As a councilmember, he will undertake measures to encourage SamTrans to reestablish a direct express bus line from Pacifica to BART.

Rich has two children in Pacifica schools and cares deeply about the surroundings where he and his family live. He intends to work on the Council to ensure that it preserves the protections that the current planning and zoning requirements give to its beaches and open spaces that make Pacifica so special.

Vote Cecily Harris for Mid-Peninsula Open Space District Ward 7

Cecily has worked for environmental organizations for over 35 years and has the depth and breadth of knowledge to protect our valuable open space. When asked her thoughts on Mid-Pen she said "our biggest challenge in the coming years is balancing our mission as we



Cecily Harris

agreed to do as part of our adopted December 2011 Strategic Plan. For 40 years we have acquired over 60,000 acres. We will continue to acquire land but will also focus on restoring the land and providing appropriate public access and education too. To maintain the land, we must keep ahead of invasive nonnative plants and animals as well as rehabilitate land that has been damaged by oil wells, mining, and many other developments that are not appropriate for an open space preserve. We must also provide public access but must balance use versus over-use." And this is why the Sierra Club is pleased to endorse Cecily Harris for MPOSD Ward 7.

Sea Level Rises for San Mateo County Harbor District Race: Vote Brennan & Parravano

By Merrill Bobele, Co-Chair Coastal Issues Committee & Ruth Stoner Muzzin, PolCom Member



Sabrina Brennan

In the past it has pretty much been business as usual for San Mateo County Harbor District elections, as it has been for Board of Supervisors. In County-wide voting for Commissions, as for Supervisors, the incumbents are usually re-elected, including appointees who then run as incumbents! But in the 2010 election the Loma Prieta Chapter endorsed two challenger can-

didates for the Harbor District Commission and one of our endorsed candidates, Robert Bernardo, won. In 2012, we again endorse challenger Sabrina Brennan. Sabrina, a Loma Prieta Chapter member, genuinely talks the talk and walks the walk for environmental issues that concern our Coast, its harbors, fishing and boating, beaches and recreation. She can be seen and heard advocating for environmental issues at Coastal Commission meetings, Harbor District meetings, Board of Supervisors and Planning Commission meetings, as well as Midcoast Community Council meetings.

Although our endorsed incumbent Commissioner, Pietro Parravano, has earned our recommendation as well – he had lots of time to do so, with a long track record of support for Sierra Club positions and his many years of experience working in commercial fishing out of Pillar Point Harbor – unlike the endorsed challenger, Sabrina. Notably, Sabrina agrees that the lack of an updated Master Plan with a Strategic Plan for implementing it remains a significant unmet need for the Harbor District. The San Mateo Daily Journal said in Sabrina's first run for Commissioner that "Brennan rises to the top of the challenger pool. She is smart, well-researched and knowledgeable on district issues and brings a unique perspective as a young resident of Moss Beach." (9/24/2010)

The Loma Prieta Chapter has worked over a period of years to make "districts" more responsive to their constituents. To this end the Club recommends voting for a challenger, Sabrina Brennan, who has demonstrated her ability to bring new ideas and experience to the Harbor District Commission and an incumbent, Pietro Parravano, whose record and values are in line with Club priorities.

The particular challenges that climate change and sea-level rise present to a working harbor such as Pillar Point and the developing transportation hub at Oyster Point Harbor deserve the very best talent that we can elect. We recommend a vote for Parravano and Brennan for Harbor District Commissioners.

The particular challenges that climate change and sea-level rise present to a working harbor such as Pillar Point and the developing transportation hub at Oyster Point Harbor deserve the very best talent that we can elect. We recommend a vote for Parravano and Brennan for Harbor District Commissioners.

Yes on San Mateo County Measure B

By Michael Ferreira, Chair, Loma Prieta Conservation Committee

Consistent with prior positions taken by the Chapter we are recommending a Yes vote on San Mateo County's Measure B changing the method of electing supervisors to district elections from the current countywide election method. In doing so we reaffirm our belief that bringing our elected officials closer to the voters will increase accountability and lessen the need for grassroots candidates to raise large sums in order to mount a credible campaign. There are counter-arguments, of course, and the text of the Measure plus arguments and analysis can be accessed at: https://www.shapethefuture.org/elections/2012/nov/documents/14_ENG_M_B.pdf



Elect Arellano, Tucker and Armendariz to Gilroy City Council

by John Cordes, Gilroy Endorsement Team Leader

The Sierra Club is proud to endorse Dr. Peter Arellano for Gilroy Mayor and Cat Tucker and Rebeca Armendariz



Pietro Parravano

for Gilroy city council members.

Dr. Peter Arellano currently serves on Gilroy City Council and is running for Mayor. He spearheaded and passed an agriculture preservation ordinance in Gilroy to help protect ag land from development. Peter has promoted increased density of downtown developments. Peter pushed for and voted for making the new Gilroy Library, a LEED Gold building. In 2007, Peter voted for Gilroy signing onto the U.S. Mayor's Climate Control Protection Agreement. Since then, Gilroy is finalizing a Climate Action Plan to reach those targets. In his questionnaire, Peter stated "Since my first day in office, I have always promoted, endorsed and voted for all improvements and building ordinances, which increased and improved the safety of public transportation that included walking biking." Peter knows water conservation will be important in the future and he supports increase water conservation and promotes water saving features in all new construction. For more information or to volunteer for Peter's campaign, please go to www.PeterForGilroyMayor.com

Cat Tucker has been on the Gilroy City Council since 2008. She is proud of voting for Gilroy to buy the 350 Acre Bonfante Gardens and protecting 300 acres of it from future development. Her main concerns are air quality, maintaining farm lands, and using smart growth principles to prevent sprawl. She is active on the Santa Clara Valley Habitat Conservation Plan. She pushes VTA to increase bus and train services to the south county so fewer people have to drive. On her questionnaire, Cat stated "I am completely supportive of high density for downtown and high rise if needed". For more information or to volunteer for Cat's campaign, please go to <http://www.cattucker.com>

Rebeca Armendariz is a community activist making her 1st run for city council. She is most concerned with protecting Gilroy's citizen from pollution and fighting for environmental justice. She has many environmental concerns, including Global Climate Change, uncontrolled growth/development, preservation and restoration of our wetlands, and water. Rebeca would like to strengthen Gilroy's building code to include more green requirements. For more information or to volunteer for Rebeca's campaign, please go to VoteArmendariz.com



Rebeca Armendariz



Cat Tucker

Vote for Megan Satterlee and Jan Pepper for Los Altos City Council

By Diane Gleason, Team Leader Endorsement Los Altos Team

Megan Satterlee is currently on the Los Altos city council. We endorsed her in her first term on the council, and we are happy to endorse her again. Megan has supported tree protection, green building requirements, and signing the Mayors Climate Protection Agreement. She has voted to create a Climate Action Plan and to sign on to the San Mateo County EIR regarding single use bags. She is also an advocate for bicyclists, urging funding for bicycle loops (sensors in the road to detect bicycles at signalized intersections).



Jan Pepper



Megan Satterlee

In the next term she hopes to help finalize the Climate Action Plan and will continue to advocate for the co-location of jobs and housing, particularly downtown. Her website is www.megansatterlee.com.

Jan Pepper is new to the political process but brings appropriate experience and background. She has started and led companies in the renewable energy field for over 30 years. She is past president of the local League of Women Voters, and is a member of Los Altos' Green-Town. She would like the council to implement stronger energy efficiency standards for new/refurbished commercial and civic buildings. She would like to see more electric vehicle charging stations and find ways to build bike paths separate from cars throughout the town. Los Altos can reduce greenhouse gas emissions through reduced driving, reduced home energy use, and increased renewable energy use, and city policies can have an effect on all those areas. See Jan's website at www.pepperforcouncil.com.

Vote for Jose Esteves for Milpitas Mayor

By John Cordes, PolCom Co-Chair

Jose is the current mayor of Milpitas and served as mayor before from 2000-2008. Jose is a strong supporter of mass transit and TOD development. This is important in Milpitas as it plans development around its BART station and Midtown specific plans. Jose is a strong supporter of protecting open space. He supported and campaigned for Milpitas Measure T – to preserve the Milpitas Hillside as undeveloped, and to controlled urban development and prevent leapfrog development. While mayor, he introduced environmental ordinances banning wood burning furnaces, promoted purchasing recycled materials, banned buying & serving bottled water at City Hall. He advocates for zero waste and eliminating single use plastic bags and polystyrene takeout food packaging. To learn more, please visit his website www.estevesformayor.com



Jose Esteves

Re-elect Kasperzak and Bring On Clark and McAlister

By Ann Schneider, Mtn. View Endorsement Team Leader

The Sierra Club is happy to endorse three candidates for Mountain View City Council; Mike Kasperzak, Chris Clark and John McAlister.

Mike Kasperzak has been a true and strong leader for balancing housing and transportation that in turn reduce greenhouse gas generation. He is also one of our climate change leaders. He lead the charge to get Mtn. View to be an early adopter of the resolution "Move to Amend" which is critical to removing the damage caused by the US Supreme Court's Citizen United decision. Mike's goals should he be re-elected are to continue working on all the climate related issues from housing to transportation, securing more open space and parkland in the less served parts of town, and expanding the city's bike lanes and pathways. What we like best about Mike is his openness to discuss issues and that he is always available. We thank him for his years of service and encourage Mtn. View voters to re-elect Mike Kasperzak. For more info visit www.kasperzak.org.

We endorsed Chris Clark in his first run for council four years ago and again in 2012. We are very happy that he has expanded his knowledge and experience in environmental issues through his work on the Environmental



Mike Kasperzak

Planning Commission. Chris's work has clearly shown his wisdom and ability to combine strong environmental principles with practical applications. When elected Chris would like to work on growing Mtn. View in a sustainable manner, conserving our natural resources like water and sensitive habitat, reducing greenhouse gas creation in all ways possible, building alternative transportation infrastructure and incentivizing its use. Chris is an avid bicyclist and we need him to help make our streets safe for people and bicyclists. Chris is young. And we recognize the citizens of Mtn. View tend to vote for candidates who have lived longest in town. We strongly encourage Mtn. View to break this trend and elect a young, bright, energetic person to Council. The City needs his skills and commitment. Please vote for Chris Clark for Council and visit his website for more info at www.electchrisclark.com.



Chris Clark



John McAlister

We are also pleased to endorse John McAlister for Council. John has served the City well on the Environmental Planning Commission and is truly committed to making Mtn. View a great place to live and work. We especially thank him for his strong position to not build housing near burrowing owl habitat. While affordable housing is critical, with housing comes our pets who can and do kill birds at alarming rates. Should John be elected he plans to work on climate change issues, water conservation and capacity, transportation issues and expanding commercial reuse and recycling (in itself a major way of reducing energy consumption and greenhouse gas generation). He is a strong supporter of our parks and providing fields and space to get people outside to exercise and enjoy nature. Please elect John McAlister to City Council. For more information go to johnmcalister.org.

Berman, Burt, Kniss, Schmid for Palo Alto City Council

By Mary McVey Gill, Palo Alto Endorsement Team Leader



Liz Kniss



Marc Berman



Greg Schmid



Pat Burt

There are four open seats on the Palo Alto City Council, and the Loma Prieta chapter of the Sierra Club has endorsed four candidates to fill them: Marc Berman, Pat Burt, Liz Kniss, and Greg Schmid. Liz Kniss was on the council before she became a Santa Clara County supervisor, and Pat Burt and Greg Schmid are incumbents.

Marc Berman, who is a young attorney, grew up in Palo Alto. He has served on the city's Infrastructure Blue Ribbon Commission, which was appointed to advise the council on how to address infrastructure backlog and issues. He serves on the Independent Monitoring Committee for the Santa Clara Valley Water District's Clean, Safe Creeks

and Natural Flood Protection Program. His supporters include Joe Simitian and Rich Gordon. He cites flood prevention, infrastructure improvement, open space, and green building as areas he would like to focus on if elected.

Pat Burt has been involved with environmental efforts on the state and county levels for decades, with a focus on industrial pollution prevention and sustainability. He served on the Palo Alto Planning and Transportation Committee for nine years. A current councilmember, he was elected mayor by his colleagues in 2010. One of his environmental goals is to work to implement the city's policy of achieving a carbon-neutral electricity portfolio for municipal utility by 2015; he also cites water conservation, public transit, renewable energy, and implementing waste-to-energy capabilities for compost, food waste, and biosludge as areas in which to concentrate his efforts.

Liz Kniss has a strong environmental record during many years of service. She served as Palo Alto mayor twice, in 1994 and 2000, and was elected to the council three times before running for Santa Clara County Supervisor in 2000. She is finishing her third term as a supervisor. She has both initiated and supported a large body of environmental legislation, including bills related to green building, integrated pest management, solar energy, a ban on plastic bags, and alternate fuel vehicles. She helped found the county office of sustainability and sits on the boards of directors of the Bay Area Air Quality Management District and of the VTA.

Greg Schmid is an economist who was director and treasurer of the Institute for the Future in Menlo Park from 1973-2003. He served from 1989-93 on the Palo Alto School Board and was elected to the council in 2008. On the council he has been chair of the Finance and Housing Mandate Committees. He has advocated for park expansion, bike-pedestrian paths, and flood protection.

Re-elect Rose Herrera for San Jose Seat 8

By David Poeschel, Endorsement Team Leader

The Loma Prieta Chapter of the Sierra Club endorsed incumbent San Jose City Councilmember Rose Herrera in the November 6 election for San Jose City Council, District 8. District 8 includes the neighborhoods of Evergreen and Silver Creek.



Rose Herrera

"Herrera has been a long time Sierra Club supporter and has a sophisticated grasp of the issues," said Dave Poeschel, member of the club's Political Committee. "She led the fight to fund the Capitol to Eastridge Light Rail project and has a long record of protecting the environment - everything from encouraging water conservation to supporting the plastic bag ordinance." Phase I of the rail project is under construction and will result in much-needed bike and pedestrian lanes.

Councilmember Herrera looks forward to continuing her work for the people of her district and the City and expressed interest in working with the Sierra Club to get the message out that protecting open space and the environment is not in conflict with business; it is a competitive advantage. Employers want to be where the air and water are clean and employees are happy and healthy.

"We're fortunate to have someone like Rose on the Council and I hope we'll send her back for another term," said Poeschel. For more information about Rose, please visit her website www.roseforsanjose.com

Elect Robert Braunstein for San Jose Seat 10

By David Poeschel, PolCom Member

The Loma Prieta Chapter of the Sierra Club endorsed Robert Braunstein in the November

6 election for San Jose City Council, District 10. District 10 includes Almaden Valley and much of the Blossom Hill neighborhood in southwest San Jose.

Mr. Braunstein is well known as the likeable and engaging host of Cal-Hi Sports, which he produces with his own business, Annabelle Productions. The candidate has valuable business experience and has shown leadership in the community working with youth through his business and charity work.

While this is his first run for public office, he has shown remarkable speed learning the technical details of the environmental challenges facing the city council in San Jose. "Robert wants to work with the Sierra Club and other environmental leaders to solve the problems facing the City in the most environmentally responsible ways," said Jason Spitzer of the club's endorsement team.

Mr. Braunstein supports efficiency programs and new technology designed to address climate change. He supports the village and transit oriented communities planned for future growth in the Envision 2040 General Plan. He also supports water conservation programs and improvements to the water recycling program so that reclaimed water can be used to recharge aquifers.

"I'm delighted that with Robert we have the opportunity to vote for a candidate who truly cares about the environment," said Spitzer.

For more information about Mr. Braunstein, please visit his website www.voterobert2012.com.

Elect Nadeem and O'Neill to Santa Clara City Council

by John Cordes, Co-Chair Political Committee

The Sierra club is proud to endorse Mohammed Nadeem in the Seat 3 race and Teresa O'Neill in Seat 7 race for Santa Clara city council members. Neither of them have been elected before, but both have a strong presence in the community.

Dr. Mohammed Nadeem is running for Seat 3. His stated positions on the environment align closely with those of the Sierra Club. He supports Santa Clara's Climate Action Plan. He wants Santa Clara to promote even more solar power use by residents and businesses. Santa Clara already has eliminated solar permit fees for residents. Mohammed is very focus on water conservation. He stated "I am a strong advocate for extending recycle water pipeline throughout Santa Clara." He also supports increasing conservation efforts including grants for waterwise plants, rebates and free home and business audits and double piping for new construction. For more information or to volunteer for Mohammed's campaign, please go to www.DrNadeem.com

Teresa O'Neill is running for Seat 7. Teresa has been very active supporting the environment in Santa Clara. She is one of the founding members of Santa Clara's Green Action Team. She is proud of getting elected official to approve leasing school property to Full Circle Farms. Santa Clara's Green Action Team. Current priority areas are energy conservation, establishment of community gardens, and finding ways to make the new Santa Clara Stadium as green as possible. During her interview, Teresa said "I support developing plans that will help grow some urbanized areas of the City to foster a downtown-like atmosphere and



Robert Braunstein



Mohammed Nadeem



Teresa O'Neill

support public transit." For more information or to volunteer for Teresa's campaign, please go to www.teresaneill.org

Re-elect Garnetta Annable, Candidate for Director, Santa Clara County Open Space Authority District 4

Strong leadership, experience and commitment are the services Garnetta offers the Board of Directors. She is proud of the many successes the Open Space Authority has achieved. She and the other Board members have worked with other agencies and non-profit foundations such as Packard Foundation, Moore Foundation, The Nature Conservancy, Peninsula Open Space Land Trust, and the Bay Area Ridge Trial Council, to preserve over 15,000 acres of watershed, scenic view sheds, natural wildlife lands, and, working ranches and agricultural lands. Garnetta would be honored to continue serving you.



Garnetta Annable

Vote for David Ginsborg and Nai Hseuh for Santa Clara Valley Water District (SCVWD)

By Diane Gleason, SCVWD Endorsement Team Leader

David Ginsborg is running for District 2 of the Santa Clara Valley Water District Board of Directors. For the past ten years he has served on the SCVWD's Clean Safe Creek's Independent Monitoring Committee, and has served as chair for the last five. This committee oversees the property tax revenue dedicated for environmentally friendly water projects, including flood control, water quality, watershed protection, and enhanced habitat. David has called attention to the lack of performance measures for the projects paid for by this tax revenue, and has made particular effort to push the Board of Directors to work with other key groups to agree upon specific quantifiable and practical indicators to measure project outcomes.

David has also advocated for and helped pass legislation that exempts properties that preserve habitat and provide open space. He campaigned for Brian Schmidt and Linda LeZotte when they ran for office, now current Board of Directors and Sierra Club endorsees.

David recognizes that the SCVWD has many fragmented policies, and his goal will be to harmonize those and make sure the policies focus on the highest priorities. His priorities for the Board include a more integrated approach to managing our water supply, and flood control and watershed restoration programs that are in harmony with and complement each other. For more information or to volunteer for David's campaign, please go to www.Ginsborg.org.

Nai Hseuh is running for District 5 of the Santa Clara Valley Water District Board of Directors. She expects the biggest challenges to the SCVWD in the next four years include improving water quality, and restoring fish, bird and wildlife habitat in waterways. She is an advocate for environmental stewardship for creeks, and will work to reduce toxins and contaminants in waterways, prevent illegal dump-



David Ginsborg



Nai Hseuh

ing of waste in waterways, and restore habitat. She would like more allocation of resources to stream stewardship work.

As a Board member, Nai will work constructively with other Board members and make connections with the community. As a previous staff member at the SCVWD, Nai has good insight to how the staff and Board members should work together. She emphasizes transparent decision-making and receiving input from staff and community members. For more information or to volunteer for Nai's campaign, please go to www.nai2012.com.

Chapter Remains Neutral on Santa Clara Water District Parcel Tax Measure

By Katja Irvin, Chair, Loma Prieta Water Committee

The Chapter has elected to remain neutral on Santa Clara Water District's measure B. The measure would continue through 2028 the Clean, Safe Creeks parcel tax passed in 2000

(CSC 2000), a parcel tax that will otherwise expire in 2016. The parcel tax is expected to raise approximately \$548 between now and 2028. The District has identified the following "Safe, Clean Water and Natural Flood Protection" categories (SCW) to guide how the money will be spent:

- A. Ensuring a safe, reliable water supply – \$14.9 million
- B. Reducing toxins, hazards and contaminants in the water – \$54.3M
- C. Protecting the water supply and dams from earthquakes and natural disasters – \$47.7M
- D. Restoring wildlife habitat and providing open space – \$107.8M
- E. Providing flood protection – \$201.4M

The SCW program also allocates \$80.2M for "Planning, Financing, and Undesignated Contingency," and \$213.5M to complete projects from CSC 2000.

Reasons to Vote YES

Measure B has a number of strengths:

1. The measure includes over \$154 million to restore wildlife habitat and to reduce toxins and contaminants. One quarter of the program funds are allocated to habitat and open space,

compared to less than 20% in CSC 2000.

2. If this measure fails, funding for many environmental programs could be lost. Two other opportunities to renew the tax will come in November 2014 and June 2016, but lower turnout in these elections is predicted to lower the chances of passing a tax measure.

3. The measure includes "Key Performance Indicators" (KPIs) to identify beneficial projects. These KPIs promise to fund 52 illegal encampment clean ups, develop five Stream Corridor Priority Plans, and revitalize at least 21 acres by creating or enhancing wetland and riparian habitat, removing non-native invasive species, and planting native species.

Reasons to Vote NO

Measure B has its problems:

1. If the measure fails, the Santa Clara Water District may learn from this and, with more community input and more rigorous environmental goals and commitments, develop a better measure for next time.

2. Despite recommendations from the independent monitoring committee overseeing CSC 2000, the district took most of \$16 million out of reserves from CSC 2000 habitat, fisheries and wildlife projects and moved it to the contingency fund. These funds will likely be used for flood control instead of environmental projects.

3. The process for developing the measure limited public input and advocacy. In fall 2011 the program was presented at two forums with guided feedback, but program changes and the measure itself were released through staff reports only shortly before a public hearing.

Measure B gives discretion to the district's board about spending the money. The measure does not allocate money specifically to the various SCW categories. Instead, the measure includes a table of KPIs. This doesn't guarantee that the funds will be spent as outlined in the program. Further, the measure allows the program to "be modified or not implemented depending upon a number of factors, including federal and state funding limitations and the analysis and results of California Environmental Quality Act environmental review." CSC 2000 did not include such a provision.

This flexibility to change the program may or may not be used; that will depend on the board. An environmental board may add goals or funds to habitat, fisheries, and wildlife. A business-as-usual board could eliminate goals and funds in these areas.

Loma Prieta Chapter Volunteers Go To Capitol to Lobby for the Environment

by Irvin Dawid, Members of Sustainable Land Use & Transportation Committees & Ann Schneider

Loma Prieta chapter first time volunteers Laura McClellan, Anna Jacobs and Janet Ghirlarducci joined returning LP activists, John Cordes, Ann Schneider, Rob Means and me, and over fifty other Sierra Club volunteers from throughout California to participate in another successful Sierra Club California Lobby Day on August 20.

We lobbied for seven bills and against any last minute CEQA bills. Conservation issues we lobbied for were three on solar energy, one on parks, one on hunting bears and bobcats and two banning common plastic litter, single use plastic bags and expanded polystyrene take-out food packaging. While we didn't push a particular CEQA bill we asked our elected officials to not pass any last minute changes to CEQA, the California Environmental Quality Act, like Sacramento did last year.

Local Zero Waste Chair, Ann Schneider and her team, also met with key legislators to kill a bad "gut and amend" bill, Fiona Ma's AB845 which would allow long distance transport of garbage over the vote of local people to stop waste from coming into their county. AB845 was signed by the Governor on September 26th. This bad bill was assisted with affirmative votes by several of our local legislators: Senator Joe Simitian and Assembly people Nora Campos, Luis Aleja and of course Fiona Ma. Sadly this bill will lead to a loss of over a million dollars per year for San Jose alone. That money helps pay for recycling programs in San Jose.

Bills we lobbied for that have been signed

into law:

1. **Senate Bill (SB) 1222, "Solar energy permits"**, authored by **Senator Mark Leno** - stems from Loma Prieta chapter activist Kurt Newick & the Climate Change & Energy Committee's study of permit fees on solar installations charged by Peninsula and South Bay cities. The Committee found that these fees varied so widely that it was clear that cities were charging more than necessary to cover their costs, and thus some cities were creating unnecessary obstacles for their residents to install solar panels. The legislative analysis for SB 1222 states, "This bill provides that a city, county, city and county, or charter city shall not charge a residential permit fee that exceeds the estimated reasonable cost of providing the service for which the fee is charged." Congratulations to Kurt and the Climate Change & Energy Committee.

2. **SB1221 (Lieu)** is now a law that outlaws the use of dogs to "hound" and tree bears and bobcats for hunters.

3. San Rafael Assemblyman Jared Huffman (who will run for Congressman on Nov. 6 to replace the retiring Marin County Congresswoman Woolsey) authored **AB 1589: State parks: sustainability and protection**. Coauthors included LP chapter **Assemblymen Jim Beall, Richard Gordon and Jerry Hill**. The bill, now law "requires the Department of Parks and Recreation to develop a prioritized action plan to increase revenues and collection of existing fees at state parks and allows an individual to apply all or a portion of their state income tax refund to purchase a state park access pass."

Bills we lobbied that didn't make it out of the session:

1. **Assembly Bill (AB) 1990, known as "Solar for All"**, authored by **Assemblyman Paul Fong** was killed by the utility companies. The intent of the bill was to bring renewable energy to disadvantaged communities. As Irvin explained to the staffs of the legislators we lobbied, "As a Palo Alto resident, I see solar arrays throughout my community, but when biking through poorer areas, I rarely see any!" This bill would have enabled a modest amount of solar to be built in qualifying neighborhoods, bringing green jobs and a cleaner



Left-right: Janet Ghirlarducci, John Cordes, Ann Schneider, Assm. Paul Fong, Rob Means, Anna Jacobs, Irvin Dawid and Terezinha Zeff.

environment with them. (Read more on the Sierra Club CA website: <http://sierraclubcalifornia.org/2012/09/17/two-clean-energy-bills-killed/>) While his solar bill failed, the Governor signed **AB1776 (Fong)** making the **Pacific leatherback sea turtle California's State Marine Reptile**.

While Assemblyman Fong's bill did not pass the Senate, the Assemblyman was one of two legislators honored during our Sierra Club Lobby Day with the Byron Sher Award for outstanding environmental legislation and dedication, the highest award given by Sierra Club California. Jerrod Huffman received the other Byron Sher Award.

2. **SB 843 (Lois Wolk - Davis)** - Community Solar was also killed by the big utilities as it would have made solar more affordable for rooftop solar by among other actions allow residents to sell power back to the utility.

3. **AB 298 Single Use Bag Ban Bill**, by **Assemblywoman Julia Brownley of Santa Monica**, sadly died as many bills do - in Appropriations Committee, despite the best efforts of hoards of Sierra Club volunteers representing chapters from all parts of the state to get it released.

4. **SB568 (Lowenthal)** would ban the use of expanded polystyrene take-out food packaging. This bill is in response to the great amount of this material ending up littering our streets and entering our waterways and the ocean where

they contribute to killing wildlife. This bill died because the majority of elected officials wanted to see more local support. If there is any good news from this is that in our chapter and in most communities around San Francisco Bay by this time next year, single use bags and polystyrene take-out food packaging will be banned. And we can use this to encourage this bill to be reintroduced as part of a package to reduce marine debris and loss of aquatic wildlife.

Finally, while we didn't lobby this bill in Sacramento we are happy that the Governor signed **AB 1801 authored by Nora Campos**. This bill was based on the request of Loma Prieta Chapter activists Kurt Newick and John Cordes and requires solar permit fees to be computed based on actual jurisdictional costs and specifically prohibits fees from being computed based on PV system valuations. This will impact solar permit fees for all sizes and types of solar energy systems and help make solar more affordable. For the full story of how a couple of people taking the time to meet with our legislators can really make a change, please go LP website under Politics.

Your Sacramento Staff Advocates work hand in hand with the California Conservation Committee, the California Legislative Committee, and you, to make our Sierra Club an acknowledged force and effective player in the Capitol.

Thank you for supporting our work on your behalf. You may securely donate online or by sending a check to Sierra Club California at 801 K Street, Suite 2700, Sacramento, CA 95814.

Loma Prieta Chapter Oktoberfest 2012



BBQ! Beer! Prizes!
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October 21, 2012 1-4 PM
3921 East Bayshore Rd, Palo Alto
RSVP: (650) 390-8411
Suggested Donation: \$15

Special thanks to Barbara Kelsey

The Political Committee would like to give a special thank you to our staff person Barbara Kelsey who has supported us so well. With no warning she puts together our candidate packets, finds meeting space, gets us member contact information and so much more. Barbara you make our work so much easier. Thank you!

Have some fun, host or attend a debate party.

If we are allowed we will post any debate parties on the Chapter website <http://lomaprieta.sierraclub.org/politics>

A good link for information on the debates is <http://www.2012presidentialelectionnews.com/2012-debate-schedule/2012-presidential-debate-schedule/>

See the next issue of the *Loma Prietan* for our tribute to the volunteers who worked to make all these endorsements.