



Election Insight 2010

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

Get Out and Vote

By Ann Schneider, Co-Chair Political Committee, Editor of this issue of the Loma Prieta.

If you are like me, you are having a hard time caring about the election this fall. You may have already turned off the TV because even with a DVR you can still see all those election commercials, and the election is still months away. The news about the economy is bad, the environment has been hit by oil spills and Congress is unwilling to set a national green energy future, sadly unable to see the potential for turning the United States into a powerhouse of green technology. Tea Party Candidates and the news tell us they have all the energy and enthusiasm while Obama's voters are sitting at home.

Well, the anti-environmental coalitions are counting on my apathy and yours. They want us to stay at home and sit this election out.

You are part of a critical voting block. And while every election is important, it is especially important to get out and vote when you just don't feel like it. We need you to vote for strong progressive candidates in the statewide races and we need you to support local green candidates. So when you get

your vote-by-mail ballot please vote (more than 50% of voters on the Peninsula vote by mail and vote early). Then call, email, tweet and nag your family and friends to vote. And, if you wait till Election Day, that's OK as long as you get out and vote.

Top Priority Races

All races are important but there are several races that are absolutely critical for our health and the health of our natural and urban environments. Below are the Priority Races for the Sierra Club: Jerry Brown for Governor, Barbara Boxer for U.S. Senate, Jerry McNerney for Congressional District 11, April Vargas for San Mateo Board of Supervisors, and NO on Proposition 23 - Stop Dirty Oil, make California the capitol of clean green energy.

Please support the environment by voting yes for the candidates and a resounding NO for Prop 23 and, if you have time, volunteer with the Club to work on these races. Information on how you can give time, and of course, money can be found under the individual races. The other side, people and corporations working to oppose Sierra Club positions on these issues; are counting on progressive voter apathy, so grab your friends and family and VOTE!

Re-elect Sen. Barbara Boxer

By Virginia Brandon, Sierra Club California Political Committee member

Sen. Barbara Boxer is a true environmental hero who has been a staunch supporter of Sierra Club concerns throughout her 28 years in Congress.



Barbara Boxer

As chair of the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee, Sen. Boxer is now setting the environmental agenda in Washington. She wrote the 2007 law requiring federal buildings to use technologies that reduce energy use and global-warming pollution, and is committed to the passage of long-overdue legislation to make the United States the world's leader in carbon reduction. She consistently advocates for the creation of clean energy jobs.

For three decades—ever since her days as a Marin County supervisor—she has led the battle to protect the California coast from offshore oil drilling and to clean up toxic wastes, and as a senator she has been in the vanguard of preserving the pristine Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. Her sponsorship of the California Wild Heritage Wilderness Act has led to the designation of more than a million acres of federal land as wilderness.

Sen. Boxer has accomplished a great deal, and it is absolutely vital to keep her in the Senate fighting for the environment, combating climate change, preserving our natural wonders, and keeping pollution from ravaging our land, our water, and the health of our communities. In

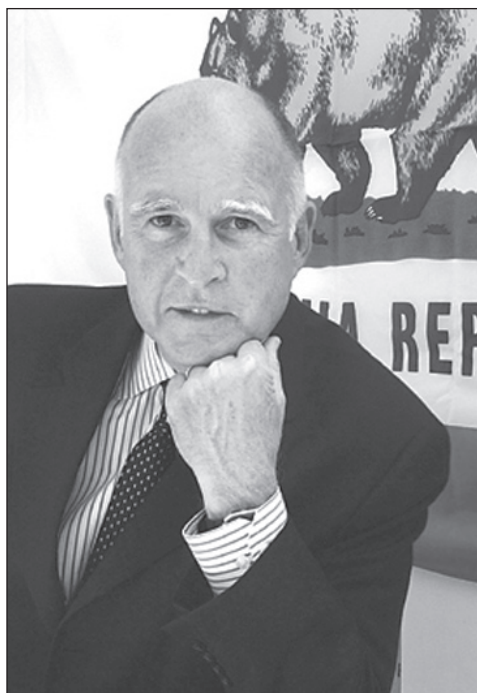
See **Barbara Boxer** Page 2

Jerry Brown is the Environmental Choice for Governor

By Bill Magavern, Director, Sierra Club California

The choices that Californians make in this November's election will have critical impacts on our ability to develop a clean energy economy, live free of toxic harm, and preserve our precious parks. No vote will be more important to our future than the choice of our next Governor, and the clear choice for anyone who cares about our environment is Jerry Brown.

When one compares Brown to Meg Whitman on their records, commitment, and platforms, the Attorney General wins hands down in each category. While Whitman could rarely even be bothered to cast a vote until she decided she'd like to buy a term as Governor, Brown has a distinguished record of advancing clean technology, safeguarding our coastline, mountains, and deserts, and cracking down on pollution.



Jerry Brown

See **Jerry Brown** Page 2

CLIP AND SAVE GUIDE

2010 General Election

Recommendations are in alphabetical order
Incumbents (I) Open Seat (O)

Statewide Offices

- Jerry Brown** - Governor (O)
- Gavin Newsom** - Lt. Governor (O)
- Kamala Harris** - Attorney General (O)
- Dave Jones** - Insurance Commissioner (O)
- Debra Bowen** - California Secretary of State (I)
- Bill Lockyer** - California State Treasurer (I)
- John Chiang** - California State Controller (I)
- Superintendent of Schools** (O)
to see endorsements go to www.sierraclubcalifornia.org/elections.html or <http://lomaprieta.sierraclub.org/politics/endorsements.html>

Statewide Propositions

- YES on Prop 21** - Save Our Parks
- NO on Prop 23** - Stop Dirty Energy Texas Oil Companies
- YES on Prop 25** - Ease Budget Gridlock
- NO on Prop 26** - The Polluter Protection Act

Federal Offices

- US Senate** - Barbara Boxer (I)
- US House of Representatives**
- CD 11** - Jerry McNerney (I)
- CD 12** - Jackie Speier (I)
- CD 14** - Anna Eshoo (I)
- CD 15** - Mike Honda (I)
- CD 16** - Zoe Lofgren (I)
- CD 17** - Sam Farr (I)

State Senate

- SD 8** - Leland Yee (I)
- SD 10** - Ellen Corbett (I)

State Assembly

- AD 19** - Jerry Hill (I)
- AD 20** - Robert "Bob" Wieckowski (O)
- AD 21** - Rich Gordon (O)
- AD 22** - Paul Fong (I)

AD 23 - go to <http://lomaprieta.sierraclub.org/politics/endorsements.html>

AD 24 - Jim Beall (I)

AD 27 - Bill Monning (I)

AD 28 - <http://lomaprieta.sierraclub.org/politics/endorsements.html>

San Mateo County Races

- San Mateo County Board of Supervisors District 3** - April Vargas
- Menlo Park** - Heyward Robinson, Rich Cline, Kirsten Keith
- Pacifica** - Sue Digre, Tom Clifford, Leo Leon, Jim Vreeland
- San Mateo County Harbor District** - Robert Bernardo and Sabrina Brennan

Santa Clara County Races

- Campbell** - Evan Low, Brian Brennan, Rich Waterman
- Gilroy** - Peter Leroe-Muñoz and Art Barron
- Los Altos** - no recommendations
- Lost Altos Hills** - Joan Sherlock
- Milpitas** - Mayor Jose "Joe" Esteve
- Morgan Hill**
- Mayor** - Steve Tate
- City Council** - Richard Constantine
- Mountain View** - Margaret Abe-Koga, Ronit Bryant

San Jose City Council

- District 5** - Magdalena Carrasco
- District 7** - Madison Nguyen
- District 9** - Donald Rocha

Santa Clara Mayor and City Council District

- Mayor** - Jamie Matthews
- Seat 2** - Pat Kolstad
- Seat 5** - Patricia Mahan

Santa Clara County Water District Races

- District 1** - Tom Kruse
- District 4** - Linda Lezotte
- District 7** - Brian Schmidt

LOMA PRIETA CHAPTER INFORMATION

Chapter Office:
Voice: (650) 390-8411
Fax: (650) 390-8497
3921 E. Bayshore Road
Palo Alto, CA 94303
lomapieta.sierraclub.org

Chapter Coordinator:
Barbara Kelsey
(650) 390-8411 X332
loma.prieta.chapter@sierraclub.org



NEWSLETTER INFORMATION

The *Loma Prietan* (USPS 976820) is published three times per year (3/1, 7/1, 11/1) 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 Prietan* to the Chapter office. Periodicals Postage Paid at Palo Alto, CA. Postmaster: Send address changes to Loma Prietan, Sierra Club, 85 Second St., 2nd Floor, San Francisco 94105. Please mark envelope "Address change."

For nonmember subscription changes, send changes to *Loma Prietan*, 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 Prietan*. Membership is not tax-deductible.

Subscription/mail problems

Please report to the Chapter office.

Submissions

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

Loma Prietan Staff

Editorial Board
Editor/author Ann Schneider

Proofreaders
Bill Collins, John Cordes,
Richard Simpson

Designer
Shannon Corey
smcorey@comcast.net

Online Editor
Paul Hsieh

Ad Manager
(650) 390-8411 X391
ad.manager@lomapieta.sierraclub.org

©2010 Sierra Club. No part of this newsletter may be reproduced without written permission.

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



Announcing New EVoter website

Find Sierra Club endorsed candidates, register to vote, sign up for vote by mail ballots all from this site. Great site to add to your favorites list. <http://california.evoter.com/sierraclubca>

Congressman Jerry McNerney, a clear choice for environmentalists

By Mary McVey Gill, Loma Prieta Increase Our Clout Rep for CD11

One of the most impressive champions of the environment in Congress, Jerry McNerney, is now the number 1 target of Republicans in House races in California. His district, CD 11, includes the southernmost part of our chapter, including Morgan Hill.

Many Sierra Club members will remember Jerry's battle in 2006 against anti-environmentalist incumbent Richard Pombo. Jerry's current opponent is cut from the same cloth: he supports abolishing the Department of Energy and has attacked Jerry for voting for the American Clean Energy and Security Act. The choice here for environmentalists could not be clearer.

An alternative energy expert, Jerry's focus in his two terms in the House has been on clean and renewable energy. He is on the House Energy and Commerce Committee and has voted with the Sierra Club on all major environmental bills that we have supported.



Jerry McNerney

Bills that Jerry has sponsored include:

- HR 1730, the Vehicles for the Future Act;
- HR 2304 to expand geothermal research and development;

- HR 1774 to promote a "smart grid" and get utilities to reduce electricity usage during peak hours;
- HR 1775 to allocate \$100 million in grants for job training in renewable energy.

Jerry supports investing in energy efficiency for buildings and appliances, and stands against drilling for oil off our coast.

Jerry has served on the House Transportation Committee and has worked hard to improve public transportation in the district.

He supports our parks and open spaces and cosponsored the Fair Elections Now Act, HR 1826 (backed by the Sierra Club).

Jerry will need our help in what will be a very tough fight. For more information or to contribute to or get involved in the campaign go to www.jerrymcnerney.org or call 925 833-0643.

Crush Proposition 23 – Stop dirty energy

By Megan Norris, Organizer Green Car Campaign, Sierra Club California

An item on this November's ballot could be hazardous to our health. Proposition 23 would reverse California's landmark 2006 clean energy and climate change solutions legislation, AB 32.

With Washington's continued lack of action, California's AB 32 is the country's best model for addressing climate change and moving to a clean energy economy. Three of the nation's most polluting oil companies are pouring in millions of dollars to kill AB32 and preserve their dirty energy profits at our expense.

Prop 23 threatens California in four key ways. It would:

- Set back efforts to curb climate change in California and the nation for decades. We would fail to meet greenhouse gas emission reduction requirements in our state while the world is in danger of exceeding the tipping points for devastating impacts on climate, sea level, ocean acidification, and extinction of species.
- Kill California's emerging clean energy industry, which has brought billions in investment funding to California due to AB32. 500,000 clean energy jobs and 12,000 businesses are at risk, as well as California's leadership position in this important rising industry.

- Worsen air pollution, resulting in more preventable illnesses and deaths.

- Prolong our dependence on oil, a significant security and economic issue.

Don't believe the oil company lies.

Valero, Tesoro, and Koch, the out-of-state oil companies primarily funding Prop 23, say this is a "temporary suspension," but it is an outright attempt at repeal; the requirement of a full year of below 5.5% unemployment may take decades to achieve. They'd also like you to believe this is an honest debate among Californians, but California's elected representatives voted to enact AB 32, while 97% of the money for Prop 23 is coming from oil companies, and 89% is coming from out of state. Prop 23 is opposed by a large and diverse cross section of California businesses and organizations, including clean technology businesses, large companies like Google, EBay and PG&E, unions, civic groups, and all major environmental organizations.

It is imperative that we defeat Prop 23, and defeat it soundly.

There should be no mistaking California voters' support for moving towards securer, cleaner energy. We can't give oil companies reason to believe that spending another \$10M would do the job; we can't let our elected officials waffle on enforcing AB 32; and, we need to strengthen the

resolve of local governments — and Washington — to enact and enforce climate change legislation. That's why each of us must do what we can to defeat Prop 23 by a wide margin. Below are some easy but effective ways to reach that goal.

What You Can Do to Defeat Prop 23

1. Sign up for campaign updates at www.stopdirtyenergyprop.com.
2. For more information, visit the following sites:

http://act.credoaction.com/campaign/prop23_endorser/?r_by=-3245826-JlvTukx&rc=mailto1

www.facebook.com/NoOnProp23

www.sierraclubcalifornia.org/anti-AB%2032%20Initiative.html

*Please note that a Sierra Club specific NO on 23 site where you can take action will be coming soon.
3. Make sure you vote (Election Day is Nov 2, 2010); check your registration status or request an absentee ballot.
4. Sign up to host a phone banking event or attend a phone banking event. Contact your chapter for more information.

Jerry Brown Continued from Page 1

As Governor, Brown established California as a leader in solar and wind power, cut air pollution by almost 50%, adopted money-saving efficiency standards for buildings and appliances, fended off federal efforts to expand offshore oil drilling, and added more than 700,000 acres to the state parks system. As Attorney General, he has worked with cities and counties to develop long-term growth plans to reduce pollution and traffic (including a groundbreaking settlement with the City of Stockton of a suit initially

brought by the Sierra Club), defended California's pioneering clean-car standards against the auto industry, and stopped Bush Administration efforts to weaken pollution curbs.

In a meeting with Sierra Club California leaders, Brown demonstrated a commitment to environmental values, grasp of complex energy issues, and wisdom derived from actually have sat in the Governor's chair. His environmental platform (read it yourself at www.jerrybrown.org/environment) details his plans to reduce air pollution, promote clean energy and jobs, protect our coast and ocean resources, reduce toxic chemicals,

build livable communities, protect parks, open space and wildlife, and conserve California's rich farmland.

In contrast, Whitman spent the primary campaign pandering to polluters by bashing environmentalists and key protections like AB 32, the Global Warming Solutions Act. Since the primary, she has tried to get out of the far-right corner she painted herself into, declaring herself an environmentalist and waffling on key issues like global warming and offshore oil drilling.

For all these reasons, Sierra Club California enthusiastically endorses Jerry Brown for Governor.

Barbara Boxer Continued from Page 1

this difficult political year, facing an opponent whose financial resources appear limitless, her campaign depends on people power.

What you can do:

There are several ways to help, besides casting your ballot and sending money.

To find out about the alternatives, sign up as a Facebook fan, follow the campaign on Twitter, or visit: www.boxer.com and if you missed the commercials go to www.barbaraboxer.com/video/

To act locally, consider hosting a house party. The campaign will provide full instructions; all you need is a location and a group of convivial friends. For more information, contact Victoria Brandon at: vbrandon@lakelive.info or Gayle Eads at: gayle.s.eads@gmail.com

Please be sure to vote for Barbara Boxer on Nov. 2: our state, our nation, and our planet depend on her.

STATEWIDE RACES

Gavin Newsom for Lieutenant Governor

By Jim Metropolis, Senior Advocate, Sierra Club California

Sierra Club California has endorsed Gavin Newsom for Lieutenant Governor. The Lieutenant Governor serves on several State commissions that make important environmental decisions, including the State Lands Commission, the Ocean Protection Council, and the Boards of Regents of the University of California and California State University systems.



Gavin Newsom

Newsom has served as Mayor of San Francisco since 2004 and was a member of the San Francisco Board of Supervisors from 1997 to 2004. During this time, he has advanced numerous laws and policies to protect the environment that serve as national models. He authored the strongest municipal green building standards in the nation for new construction and renovations of buildings. Under his tenure, San Francisco became the first city to prohibit the usage of disposable plastic bags in large stores, the first to phase out municipal usage of plastic water bottles and the first to require mandatory recycling and composting in all of the city's buildings. Also, under Newsom, the city has achieved a 7% verified reduction in greenhouse gas emissions below 1990 levels, with a goal of reducing emissions by 20% by 2012.

Newsom is running against the current Lieutenant Governor, Abel Maldonado, who is from Santa Maria. Maldonado, formerly a State Senator, was appointed to his current post this year by Governor Schwarzenegger. Over his last four years in the Legislature, between 2006 and 2009, Maldonado voted for only 11 out of 41 top priority green bills.

If elected Lieutenant Governor, Newsom will advocate for the preservation of California's coast and ocean. He opposes the expansion of offshore oil drilling. He has a good understanding of both the public trust doctrine and land use issues involving the University of California system. Newsom's leadership in San Francisco has made it one of the greenest cities in the world. We endorse Newsom for Lieutenant Governor because he has the potential to use the office as a bully pulpit for aggressive environmental action at the state level.

Kamala Harris for Attorney General

By Bill Magavern, Director, Sierra Club California

Attorney General is the second most important statewide office in its impact on our environment, exceeded only by the Governor. California has been fortunate over the last 12 years to have had two very green and effective AGs in Bill Lockyer and Jerry Brown. Kamala Harris is by far the best choice to continue in that tradition as enforcer of the laws that protect our air, water and natural resources.



Kamala Harris

As the San Francisco District Attorney, Harris created an Environmental Justice Unit to hold polluters accountable and protect the health of the city's residents. The Environmental Justice Unit has prosecuted cases ranging from illegal dumping of hazardous waste to fraudulent smog test operations. As an elected board member of the California District Attorneys Association (CDAA), Harris actively supported CDAA's Environmental Circuit Prosecutor Project, and plans to build on that model with environmental

attorneys from the A.G.'s office traveling around the state to lend expertise to local prosecutors handling environmental cases, assisting in trials and training D.A.s in the process.

Harris is campaigning on a platform that includes a pledge to vigorously enforce vital statutes like AB 32, the Global Warming Solutions Act, the California Environmental Quality Act, and Proposition 65, the Safe Drinking Water and Toxic Enforcement Act. She also promises more vigorous use of California's criminal laws in the cause of environmental enforcement, and providing fair and equitable environmental protection for all California citizens.

Harris' main opponent, Steve Cooley, declined invitations to participate in our endorsement process and has been largely silent on environmental issues.

In a meeting with our interview team of environmental lawyers, District Attorney Harris demonstrated her familiarity with and commitment to the body of law that safeguards our air, water and wilderness for current and future generations. For all these reasons, Sierra Club California enthusiastically endorses Kamala Harris for Attorney General.

For more information go to www.kamalaharris.org

Dave Jones for Insurance Commissioner

By Jim Metropolis, Senior Advocate, Sierra Club California

Sierra Club California has endorsed Dave Jones for Insurance Commissioner. The Office of Insurance Commissioner can affect protection for the environment through education, regulation and incentives. In his campaign, Jones advocates for incorporating environmental risks and costs in insurance markets so insurance can be used as a vehicle to help change behavior toward more environmentally sound practices.



Dave Jones

As an Assembly member, Jones has authored a wide variety of environmental bills. This year he authored AB 1011, which would expand insurance company investments to include "green investments" in the state's existing tax credit program for insurers investing in low- and moderate-income communities. This would encourage insurers to invest in projects that enhance clean energy sources and promote green technology. Other Jones bills that have become law include three from 2007: AB 2485, which helps protect sea otters by increasing poaching penalties and creating a tax check off that has raised almost \$800,000 since 2007 to benefit sea otter research; AB 70, which makes local governments jointly liable with the state for property damage from flooding if the local government unreasonably allow new development in a previously undeveloped area; and AB 233, which strengthened enforcement of rules that limit toxic diesel emissions. Last year, he opposed the \$11.1 billion water bond slated for the November 2012 ballot, concerned that paying off the bond's debt would drain general fund resources and harm other state programs.

Jones is running against Assembly member Mike Villines from Clovis. Over the last four years, between 2006 and 2009, Villines voted for two top priority green bills out of 48. By contrast, over the same period, Jones voted for 45 top priority green bills out of 48. In fact, Jones authored three of these top priority green bills used in our Legislative Report Card.

Dave Jones has compiled an impressive record of environmental leadership as a member of the Assembly and as a city councilmember in Sacramento. More importantly, he has a creative and well-thought-out plan for using the Insurance Commissioner's office to advance an environmental agenda which has earned our endorsement.

For information go to www.DaveJones2010.com.

Re-elect Debra Bowen as Secretary of State

By Bill Magavern, Director, Sierra Club California

Long before Secretary of State Debra Bowen was recognized with the national John F. Kennedy "Profile in Courage" Award for taking bold steps to restore integrity and accuracy in counting the vote, she earned her reputation as an environmental champion in the State Legislature.



Debra Bowen

Bowen is an environmental attorney who represented neighborhoods and environmental organizations prior to being elected to the Legislature. She led the charge in protecting our coast, air and water quality, and reducing radioactive waste. As Chair of the Senate Natural Resources Committee, she courageously fought to protect the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) because she believes in the public environmental review process.

Bowen fought for open government and better public access see where the money is flowing in terms of lobbying and campaigns, and wrote the law that gave the public online access to legislative records, bills, votes and analyses.

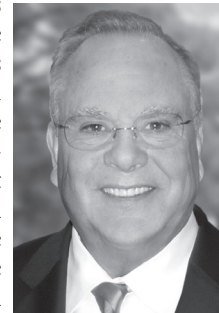
As SOS, she has significantly improved public access to lobbying and contribution information, which is critical when holding leaders accountable on the environment.

Debra has restored integrity and confidence in the way elections are conducted in California. The first step she took was a top-to-bottom public review of all voting devices -- and those that were not secure were banished.

Re-elect Bill Lockyer, State Treasurer

By Jim Metropolis, Senior Advocate, Sierra Club California

Sierra Club California has endorsed Bill Lockyer for a second term as State Treasurer. As State Treasurer, Lockyer is working to fight global warming and stimulate California's green economy. During his first term, he has restored and reinvigorated the California Alternative Energy and Advanced Transportation Financing Authority within the Treasurer's Office that provides financing for alternative energy. He also directed the state to invest \$300 million in World Bank green bonds to finance projects to fight global warming -- the first purchase by a U.S. investor. During last year's debate over the \$11.1 billion water bond, he argued against the use of general obligation bonds to fund water projects, agreeing with Sierra Club's position, and said, "The case for user-funding for most water system improvements is compelling, both as a matter of equity and fiscal prudence." Also, his office has partnered with the Air Resources Board to provide truckers loan guarantees to help them get financing they need to comply with diesel emissions rules.



Bill Lockyer

Prior to his election to Treasurer in 2006, Lockyer served two terms as Attorney General and served 25 years in the California Legislature. As Attorney General, Lockyer successfully sued several of the nation's largest coal-fired utilities to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions through a "public nuisance" lawsuit that is working its way to the US Supreme Court. He defended California's landmark law to curb global warming emissions from cars and trucks, against a court challenge by automakers. During his legislative career, he wrote many ground-breaking environmental laws, including the first state regulation of trucks hauling toxic substances on California roads and highways, which preceded federal policies adopted by the EPA. Lockyer considered his signature environmental achievement to be his

1987 bill to create a Bay Trail, an eventual 500-milelong hiking and cycling path that would entirely encircle San Francisco and San Pablo Bays. The Bay Trail marked its 20th year in 2009 with 293 miles so far open to hikers, bicyclists, joggers and walkers, some of whom even use it to commute to work or school.

Lockyer is running against Senator Mimi Walters from San Diego. In 2009 and 2008, Walters voted for zero top priority green bills out of 25. Based on his long record of working to protect California's environment, Bill Lockyer deserves another four years as Treasurer.

Re-elect John Chiang for State Controller

By Jim Metropolis, Senior Advocate, Sierra Club California

Sierra Club California has endorsed John Chiang for a second term as State Controller. Chiang was first elected as State Controller in 2006, after serving two terms on the State Board of Equalization. The Controller serves on the State Lands Commission and the Ocean Protection Council, giving the office an important role in protecting California's coast.



John Chiang

As a member of the State Lands Commission, Chiang cast the deciding vote against what would have been the first offshore oil drilling lease in 40 years, Tranquillon Ridge, based on the inability of the commission to enforce the lease's provisions and his concern that precedent would be set for increased federal oil leasing offshore California. He voted to deny BHP Billiton a lease for a Liquefied Natural Gas terminal off of the coast of Oxnard because the emissions from the tankers and the terminal would have impacted Ventura and Los Angeles County residents and because it was not consistent with California's goals toward cleaner, renewable energy sources. Also, Chiang has worked to phase out the use of ecologically destructive once-through cooling at coastal power plants while preserving needed capacity for electrical generation.

At both CalPERS and CalSTRS, two of the nation's largest public pension funds, Chiang has championed the disclosure of environmental risks as a means to strengthen the plans' investments. He has also advocated for increased disclosure by companies doing business with CalPERS and CalSTRS of environmental risks associated with climate change and environmental regulations.

Chiang's main challenger is Senator Tony Strickland from Simi Valley. In 2009, Strickland voted for only two of our 15 top priority green bills, and his environmental voting record during his six years as an Assembly member was even worse.

John Chiang has shown himself to be an outstanding and environmentally oriented public servant and has earned our endorsement and another term as Controller.

Superintendent of Schools

Sierra Club California (SCC) is conducting interviews for California Superintendent of Schools. The endorsement will be posted on both SCC website and on the Loma Prieta Website.

Open House Saturday, October 16, 3pm-7pm

In the spirit of Oktoberfest, join us for pretzels, cheese, brats, and beer at an open house to mix and mingle with Sierra Club members and Chapter leaders. Come raise a glass with us and "dish" about current campaigns and activities that you can be a part of.

Peninsula Conservation Center
3921 East Bayshore Road, Palo Alto
RSVP at lomapieta.sierraclub.org
or 650 390 8411

PROPOSITIONS

Help Preserve our State Parks System – Yes on Prop 21

By Jerry Meral, National Wildlife Federation Boardmember

From the vast stretches of sandy beaches along California's magnificent coastline to the towering redwoods and much needed recreational areas in the state's bustling urban centers, California's 278 state parks are priceless public assets and a vital legacy for our children and grandchildren.

But the state's parks are in peril. Chronic underfunding is starving state parks, causing them to fall severely behind in needed maintenance and repairs. Twice in the past two years, state parks were on the brink of being shut down. Only last minute budget reprieves kept them open. Last year, nearly 150 state parks were shut down part time or suffered deep service reductions because of budget cuts, and more park closure proposals and budget cuts are expected this year. California's parks are becoming less available to the public and are at serious risk of irreversible damage.

That is why Prop. 21 will create the State Parks and Wildlife Conservation Trust Fund. The fund will provide a stable, reliable and adequate source of funding for the state park system, for wildlife conservation and for increased and equitable access to those resources for all Californians.

Prop. 21 will give California vehicles free day-use admission to the state parks in exchange for a new \$18 vehicle license fee, which will be specifically dedicated to state parks and wildlife conservation. The surcharge will apply to most California vehicles, including motorcycles and recreational vehicles, and will be collected by the Department of Motor Vehicles as part of the annual vehicle license fee. It will not apply to larger commercial vehicles (those subject to the Commercial Vehicle Registration Act), mobile homes or permanent trailers.

In addition to the Sierra Club, supporters of Prop. 21 include The Nature Conservancy, California Teachers Association, California Nurses Association, Public Health Institute, California Travel Industry Association, California Labor Federation, California Alliance for Retired Americans, AFSCME California PEOPLE, Audubon California, California State Lifeguard Association, California Lodging Industry Association, Latino Health Access, California State Conference of the NAACP, and the California State Parks Foundation.

Proposition 23 Stop Dirty Energy

How You Can Get Involved to Defeat This Proposition

Announcing the Chapters' No on 23 website: <http://lomapieta.sierraclub.org/stopdirtyenergyprop>

If you'd like to volunteer for the No on 23 campaign, please call Margaret Okuzumi at 650-269-4109 or email her at okuzumi@silcon.com or Rafael Reyes, at Rafael.reyes@sierraclub.org.

We're working closely with CREDO to Stop 23 - visit campaign website <http://stoptexasoil.org>.

Vote YES on Prop 25 to Ease Budget Gridlock and Curb Anti-Environmental Schemes

By Bill Magavern, Director Sierra Club California

Sierra Club supports Proposition 25, which would allow state budgets to be passed by a simple majority of each house of the Legislature. Every year, budget gridlock and political

games hurt schools; threaten vital services and cost taxpayers millions. Prop 25 reforms this broken system, holding legislators accountable when they fail to pass the budget on time.

Prop 25 would move us closer to fiscal sanity and remove one avenue for anti-environmental legislative schemes. Prop 25 holds legislators accountable for failing to do their job. If legislators fail to pass a budget on time, they don't get paid, and they can't pay themselves back later. Prop 25 also maintains the 2/3rds vote requirement for any tax increases.

The anti-democratic two-thirds requirement for passing budgets has created opportunities for anti-environmental mischief. One of the most egregious examples came in 2007, when 14 Senate Republicans held the budget hostage to their demand for non-fiscal legislation weakening the California Environmental Quality Act's application to global warming.

In addition, the budget gridlock that is in part caused by the two-thirds requirement has damaged our air, water and resources. The empowerment of a minority of legislators has resulted in slashing funding for public transit, raiding recycling and clean-air funds, and starving important agencies like the Coastal Commission. Vote Yes on Prop 25.

It's Back, the Polluter Protection Act, AKA Prop 26

By Bill Magavern, Director, Sierra Club California

Some bad ideas refuse to die. Ten years ago, California's voters killed off The Polluter Protection Act, Prop 37. Big Oil and Big Tobacco have spent the decade since then looking for an opportunity to bring this Big Ugly Initiative back, and they've decided that this is the year to raid your wallet.

The core question raised by Prop 26 is: who pays? Who pays to clean up air pollution, oil spills and toxic waste? Who pays for the health consequences of tobacco and alcohol addiction, of lead poisoning and diesel exhaust? Exxon, Phillip Morris and the other special interests behind Prop 26 want you, the taxpayers, to pay. They want to get off the hook for mitigating the damage they do.

Prop 26 would reclassify many fees as taxes, so that they would require a two-thirds majority of each house of the Legislature, or, at the local level, a two-thirds vote by the electorate. The oil, tobacco and liquor industries want to make it virtually impossible to require polluters and other creators of nuisances to pay to clean up their own messes. Their measure would overturn the unanimous 1997 decision of the California Supreme Court, *Sinclair Paint Company v. Board of Equalization*, which upheld the Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Act of 1991. In that case, the paint company tried to avoid its responsibility for having put toxic lead in its products, and the Court upheld the Legislature's ability to pass mitigation fees by majority vote.

Fees assessed on polluters provide vital funding for essential programs that safeguard Californians' health and environment. For example, fees support efforts to prevent oil spills, clean up hazardous waste, replace dirty diesel engines, recycle electronic wastes, and safeguard workers and communities from toxic pesticides. These charges save taxpayers money and put the costs of environmental protections on those who have created the problems.

A recent Public Policy Institute poll shows that Californians overwhelmingly support the Global Warming Solutions Act, AB 32. Prop 26 would hamstring implementation of that law by blocking the adoption of charges on the big oil companies that are dumping their waste gases into our atmosphere. Once again, Chevron and Exxon want us to pay for their pollution.

If polluter-pays assessments are blocked in the future by a two-thirds vote requirement, those costs will instead fall on the General Fund, which is already in a huge deficit. Make no mistake about it: the Polluter Protection Act is a budget-buster. According to the Legisla-

tive Analyst's Office, Prop 26's effect on just one transportation measure would blow a \$1 billion hole in the General Fund, making that much less money available for schools, health-care, and other pressing needs.

Sierra Club California joins the League of Women Voters, American Lung Association, California Nurses Association, local governments, Peace Officers Research Association of California, California Federation of Teachers, Consumer Federation of California and many others in opposing Prop 26. For more information, please go to www.stoppolluterprotection.com.

U.S. CONGRESS

House of Representatives

Sierra Club strongly encourages you to vote for your incumbent Congressional Representative

By Ann Schneider, Tri-Chair, Political Committee, Loma Prieta Chapter

As we reported in the June Primary endorsement issue, our Chapter is blessed to have one of the strongest sets of environmental legislators in the County. US House of Representatives Jerry McNeerney, Jackie Speier, Anna Eshoo, Mike Honda, Zoe Lofgren and Sam Farr consistently score in the high 90% to 100% on federal legislation supported by the Sierra Club as published in the League of Conservation Voters Annual Scorecard*. Generally, when one of our Congress People doesn't score 100% it's because they absent for a vote.

Not to shortchange our terrific Legislators but to save trees, we have put more specific information about local environmental projects our Representatives have supported on our Chapter website. To find more information and to find links to their Congressional websites go to <http://lomapieta.sierraclub.org/politics/endorsements>

And please don't mess with our darn near perfect Representatives for Congress. Mark the box for Jerry McNeerney, Jackie Speier, Anna Eshoo, Mike Honda, Zoe Lofgren or Sam Farr and send them all back to Washington DC.



Jerry McNeerney



Jackie Speier



Anna Eshoo



Mike Honda



Zoe Lofgren



Sam Farr

If you would like to join one of our "Increase Our Clout Teams" who meet with our federal legislators, please contact me at SchneiderAnn@juno.com or call me at 650 697-6249. We try to meet with each Congressperson at least once a year and we regularly contact them about critical environmental legislation by phone.

*The League of Conservation Voters (LCV) is a coalition of national environmental organizations, including the Sierra Club, who work together to pass environmental legislation. LCV creates annual report cards of US Senate and House of Representatives votes as well a description of the legislation. Go to http://lcv-ftp.org/scorecard09/2009_LCV_scorecard.pdf to see the most recent scorecard and to see President Obama's 2009 environmental grade ... spoiler alert. A strong B+ for his first year in office.

CALIFORNIA STATE

Senate

State Senators Yee, Corbett Earned Re-election

By Bill Collins, PolCom Member

State Senators Leland Yee and Ellen Corbett are two Bay Area legislators whose districts include part of our Chapter. They are reliable supporters of the environment and have earned the Sierra Club's endorsement for re-election to their second terms in the Senate.

Both Corbett and Yee were among only 14 State Senators to stand up to special interests and support AB 1998 (Brownley) to ban plastic bags and require a fee on paper bags. Unfortunately, the bill did not get the 21 votes needed to pass, due to opposition from the logging and chemical industries.

They were also among only seven (of 40) senators who stood with the Sierra Club to vote against borrowing \$11.4 billion for new dams, water diversions and pork-barrel projects. In both votes, the senators were under great pressure to vote against the environment.

Leland Yee of Senate District 8 represents southwest San Francisco and northern San Mateo County. With 50 miles of coastline in his district, he responds to those asking him to protect this natural treasure. He helped pass anti-dumping legislation that bans large ships from releasing polluting materials into state waters, and to require all oil produced from offshore facilities to be brought ashore by pipeline instead of much more dangerous barges. Yee also supported the San Francisco charter amendment to require voter approval of large bay fill projects such as the airport expansion.

Ellen Corbett, whose 840,000 - constituent district includes southern Alameda County and Milpitas, Newark and part of San Jose, Chairs the Senate Judiciary Committee and is a member of the Environmental Caucus. Among her bills was a proposal to block new power plant water intakes that suck many fish, shellfish, their eggs and larvae into the plant's cooling system. Organisms are killed by heat, physical stress, or chemicals used to clean the cooling system. Again, Corbett took on powerful special interests - in this case, water districts, local governments and utilities like PG&E in authoring the legislation.

The Sierra Club has rated both Senators 100% on their votes. If only the Legislature had more environmental champions like Yee and Corbett!



Leland Yee

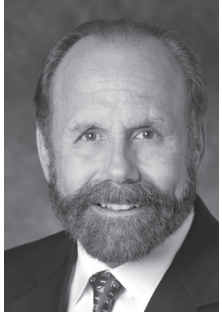


Ellen Corbett

California Assembly

Vote for your incumbent CA Assembly Representative

By John Cordes, Co-Chair, Political Committee, Loma Prieta Chapter



Jerry Hill



Paul Fong



Jim Beall



Bill Monning

As we reported in the June Primary endorsement issue, our Chapter is grateful to be represented by a strong set of environmentally proactive legislators. Our incumbents Jerry Hill (AD19), Paul Fong (AD22), Jim Beall (AD24) and Bill Monning (AD27) scored 80% or higher on Sierra Club California 2009 legislative scorecard <http://www.sierraclubcalifornia.org/> and pull up 'Environmental Report Card'.

They are endorsed by Ca League of Conservation Voters as well and score high on their Annual Scorecard. In addition to supporting these incumbents, we endorsed Bob Wieckowski (AD20) and Rich Gordon (AD21) – see below. We don't want short change our terrific Legislators but to save trees, we have put more specific information about local environmental support by our Representatives on our Chapter website. To find more information and to find links to their websites go to <http://lomaprieta.sierraclub.org/politics/endorsements>.

Rich Gordon for Assembly District 21

By John Cordes, Team Leader AD21

The Sierra club is proud to endorse Rich Gordon for Assembly District 21. Rich has served on the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors since 1997 so he has a lot of experience and knowledge. Rich led the effort to stop development at Mirada Surf. Forty-nine acres that would have been a residential subdivision was purchased as the first new county park in decades. Rich served as chair the Environmental Quality Sub-Committee of the Board of Supervisors. It initiated "Solar San Mateo", which created incentives for the installation of residential solar and secured funding to install solar panels to power the county government center. Rich has worked to protect the bay as a member of the Bay Conservation and Development Commission, the San Francisco Bay Estuary Project Advisory Committee. Please vote for Rich Gordon in Assembly District 21.



Rich Gordon

Sierra Club Endorses Bob Wieckowski in CA Assembly District 20

The Sierra Club proudly endorsed Robert (Bob) Wieckowski for Ca Assembly District 20, which our chapter shares with the Bay Chapter. Assembly District 20 includes southern parts of Alameda county and Milpitas. In announcing its endorsement Sierra Club was

impressed by Bob commitment to the environment. Bob, currently vice-mayor of Fremont, introduced legislation to ban polystyrene packaging in Fremont. Before that Bob also served on the Fremont planning commission and recreation commission. Bob currently serves as president of the Urban Village Farmers Market.



Bob Wieckowski

Bob represents the region on the San Francisco Bay Conservation Commission, and the Alameda County Congestion Management Agency so he has experience dealing with the challenges of improving public transportation and bay conservation.

In additions to our endorsement, Bob proudly carries the support of California League of Conservation Voters, Bay Area leaders State Senator Ellen Corbett, and Assemblymembers Paul Fong, Nancy Skinner and Joan Buchanan. For more information, please visit his website <http://bobwieckowski.com>

LOCAL RACES

San Mateo County

April Vargas for San Mateo County Board of Supervisors in Runoff Election for Seat 3

By Ann Schneider, SMCBoS Team Leader

All San Mateo County voters have a chance to elect long time environmental activist April Vargas to the San Mateo Board of Supervisors. April is running against well-funded Don Horsley for the Board seat that covers the coast and mid San Mateo County. Electing April, an almost 40 year coast side resident, will bring a coastal perspective and balance to the Board, as well as a new fresh voice to County politics.



April Vargas

April has worked tirelessly on coastal preservation issues including being a core leader in getting the HWY 101 Devil's Slide tunnel approved rather than building a road through coastside parks. She has represented farming interests when serving on County Agricultural Committee, represented our region as an alternative to the Calif. Coastal Commission and worked on open space issues with the Committee for Green Foothills. April has a deep grasp of what San Mateo County needs to do to combat climate change and a willingness to do the work to make significant reductions in greenhouse gas generation. Her position on the Cargill housing situation in Redwood City (no housing in wetlands) makes her a close ally of the Chapter.

San Mateo County voters rarely get a chance to elect a candidate for an open seat. This election is a chance to bring in an outsider. The entire County votes for this Seat so please vote for April Vargas and elect one of our own to the Board of Supervisors. For more info go to www.aprilvargas.com/

Support a Green Menlo Park – Vote Robinson, Cline and Keith for Council

By Michael Ferreira, Menlo Park Team Leader

After conducting an extensive questionnaire/interview process the Sierra Club has endorsed Mayor Richard Cline, Councilman Heyward Robinson and Planning Commissioner Kirsten Keith for election to the Menlo Park City Council.

These three candidates are viewed by the Club as being the most sympathetic to the Club's environmental goals for Menlo Park and for other peninsula cities.

In addition to the interview process, the Club believes that incumbent Mayor Richard Cline and Councilman Heyward Robinson have shown environmental leadership on several challenging issues during their current terms on the City Council and we believe that Planning Commissioner Kirsten Keith has demonstrated that she can bring her legal talents to bear on difficult planning issues to achieve better environmental outcomes.

In trying times – and these are trying times – it is all too often tempting for local governments to put environmental issues to the side or even to backslide. There is, however, a long term cost to such decisions and the Sierra Club believes that Mayor Cline, Councilman Robinson and Commissioner Keith are made of sterner stuff and will keep Menlo Park's future needs on an equal footing with current needs during their Menlo Park City Council deliberations.

For more information about our candidate go to Heyward Robinson: www.voteforheyward.org/home; Kirsten Keith: at <http://sites.google.com/site/kirstenforcouncil/>; and Rich Cline: <http://clineforcouncil.com>

For Pacifica Council, Club Endorses Digre, Leon, Clifford and Vreeland

By Bill Collins, Pacifica Team Lead & Chair, Water Committee



Sue Digre



Leo Leon



Tom Clifford



Jim Vreeland

After a thorough endorsement process, the Sierra Club endorsed Mayor Sue Digre, Planning Commissioners Leo Leon and Tom Clifford and incumbent Jim Vreeland for City Council.

"Pacifica is fortunate in the particularly high caliber of the candidates in this election," said Bill Collins, who chaired the interview team. "All candidates sought the endorsement, and we were impressed with the field." After examining candidates' respective records and interviewing them, we believe that these four would all work to ensure that Pacifica doesn't lose its natural assets as it plans for the future."

Among the local issues discussed in the series of interviews are the proposed widening of Highway 1, planning and development, protecting endangered species such as the Western snowy plover, and environmentally sound construction.



Richard Cline



Kirsten Keith



Heyward Robinson

Each of those we recommend have an established, commendable track record, either as experienced members of the City Council or members of the Planning Commission," Collins added. "Several of the first-time candidates have a promising future and considerable energy and dedication. We encourage them to establish a record of volunteering in city government and continue dialogue with the Chapter," he concluded.

Loma Prieta endorses Robert Bernardo and Sabrina Brennan for San Mateo County Harbor District

By Merrill Bobele, Co-Chair, Coastal Issues Committee

The Loma Prieta Chapter like many voters is looking at new faces for the San Mateo County Harbor District where there are four candidates for two seats on the Harbor District Commission. The Harbor District is responsible for operating the Oyster Point and Pillar Point Harbors. These Coastal and Bay resources are not only valuable economic and recreational resources but offer water transportation opportunities for the Bay Area and links with our Coastal Trail and other trails.



Robert Bernardo



Sabrina Brennan

Our endorsed candidates both have strong connections with the environment. Robert Bernardo makes decisions in his personal life, such as the food he eats to reducing the amount of paper he uses based on his belief in protecting our environment. In addition Robert would bring his experience as Manager of Media and Public Relations of the Port of Oakland, and a member of the South San Francisco Planning Commission although he would have to resign the latter position if elected. For more information go to www.robertbernardo2010.com

Sabrina Brennan has taken an active role in environmental issues locally on the San Mateo Midcoast as a former appointed member by the County Board of Supervisors to the Midcoast Community Council, on the State level making public comments before the California Coastal Commission, and nationally at a Gulf Oil Spill hearing on July 13, 2010. Sabrina would bring her unique approach to dealing with issues such as pollution and sea level rise as it relates to the District's harbors. Check-out Sabrina Brennan's website at www.sabrinabrennan.com

Hey, PolCom My Town is Missing

By Ann Schneider, Tri-Chair PolCom

We had a unique experience this year, in some communities where we have historically interviewed candidates, no candidates completed and returned questionnaires (our endorsement starting point). We hope that this was an anomaly and not a trend for Saratoga and Los Gatos. If you are a resident of either of these towns you may want to contact your elected officials and your candidates and let them know that you care about environmental issues and want them to keep Saratoga and Los Gatos going green.

Sadly for a couple of other communities, we would have liked to conduct endorsement actions but we fell short of volunteers. So sorry Daly City, Colma, East Palo Alto, Atherton, Hillsborough and Monte Sereno in Santa Clara County. If you live in one of these towns and are heartbroken that we were not able to evaluate the environmental positions and records of your candidates, then join PolCom, volunteer for a race next year and then be team leader for your town in two years.

Santa Clara County

Sierra Club endorses Low, Brennan, and Waterman for Campbell City Council

By John Cordes, Campbell Team Leader

The Sierra Club endorses Brian Brennan, current mayor Evan Low, and Rich Waterman for the 3 opens seats on the Campbell City Council in the November 2nd, 2010 general election.

Brian Brennan works for the Silicon Valley Leadership Group and on their efforts to support AB32, California's landmark green house gas reduction law. Brian is well educated on what is at stake. Brian priorities, if elected, include establishing GHG baseline data for Campbell. Brian looks forward to working with the Cool Cities campaign and other partners to establish an approach for doing this, as a first step.

"Evan is on the Santa Clara Waste Reduction and Recycling commission. On that commission, Evan voted in favor of eliminating single use bags. Campbell is a member of the Green Building Collaborative (GBC) initiative within the Santa Clara County Cities Association. Evan supports efforts to tackle the high environmental and business costs of unsustainable development through a collaborative effort of identifying, promoting and implementing sustainable technologies, materials, and business practices. Evan support our cool cities actions in Campbell." says John Cordes.

Rich has served on the Campbell Parks and Rec commission for over 5 years. Rich has voted in favor of several projects to preserve water in our parks, use more native and natural vegetation throughout the city and promote the use of alternative energy sources including solar power for both residents and the city. Rich's priorities when elected, include addressing Campbell's climate change impact. As stated previously, I would encourage the City, businesses and homeowners to use less fossil fuel and move more towards sustainable energy. Rich support the Campbell Cool Cities campaign.

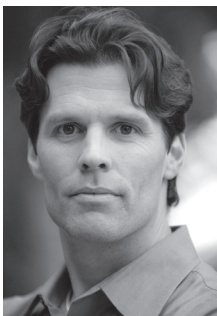
Peter Leroe-Muñoz & Art Barron for Gilroy City Council

By Rob Rennie, Gilroy Team Leader

Peter wants to centralize growth in Gilroy to be in the downtown area so that sprawl can be contained and farmland will be protected. He also knows it is important to protect Gilroy's caltrain and VTA service so people have public transit options for commuting. He also believes all city buildings should be green certified and promoting residential and commercial green buildings is important. Increasing the percentage of renewable energy is also important to him. For more info: peterforgilroy@gmail.com



Evan Low



Brian Brennan



Rich Waterman



Peter Leroe-Muñoz



Art Barron

Art Barron is concerned about how Gilroy should grow and believes sprawl is bad. Smart growth, in fill, and projects near public transit hubs for the train and VTA is the way to go. Affordable housing is important to reduce the need for lower income people to commute. Art rides his bike to work as much as possible and is a strong supporter of bike lanes. Preserving agricultural land is also important to him. He also wants to encourage all new buildings to be LEED certified along with encouraging solar through incentives and cheaper permits. For more info: Barron4gilroy@gmail.com

Los Altos

Our interview team conducted interviews but while we liked the candidates, we didn't think any of them have yet developed strong environmental leadership qualities. We encourage all candidates to support green issues and to learn more about environmental issues as they affect Los Altos and the region.

Joan Sherlock Will Make Los Altos Hills Greener

By Ann Schneider, Los Altos Hills Team Leader

Joan Sherlock has a keen understanding not just of the needs of the residents of Los Altos Hills (LAH), but also the role the Town plays in the helping the greater Bay Area achieve environmental goals like reducing greenhouse gases. Joan will continue to support all the terrific green programs LAH has developed like solar on every home, protecting and expanding paths and trails while making roads safe for cyclists and drivers. She understands that the Town needs to do more on conserving water, implementing food and greenwaste composting programs to achieve zero waste and working together with other communities on transportation and housing issues.

Joan has served on the Board of Committee for Green Foothills and Sustainable Silicon Valley. She initiated the Eco-Responsibility Program at Sun Microsystems and worked on urban reforestry in Richmond, CA showing her skills at working on environmental issues in a range of different environments. Joan Sherlock is a true environmental leader and the perfect choice to continue the green leadership of LAH's current Town Council. For more information go to www.sherlockforcouncil.org .

Vote for Jose "Joe" Esteve for Milpitas Mayor

By John Cordes, Milpitas Team Leader

Jose served as Mayor of Milpitas from 2000-2008. He is 10 yr member and 2-term Chair of Santa Clara County Recycling and Waste Reduction Commission where he advocates for zero waste and eliminating single use plastic bags. While Mayor, he introduced environmental ordinances banning wood burning furnaces, promoted purchasing recycled materials, banned buying & serving bottled water at City Hall. Jose is a strong supporter of protecting open space. He supported and campaigned for Milpitas Measure T, the Milpitas Hillside Ordinance, and Santa Clara County Measure A, to control urban development and prevent leap frog development. Jose initiated the Milpitas Green Building ordinance and supports the county's green building program. To learn more, please visit his website www.estevesformayor.com



Joan Sherlock



Jose "Joe" Esteve

Be sure to share your Loma Prieta — Reuse then Recycle



Steve Tate for Morgan Hill Mayor

By Rob Rennie, Morgan Hill Team Leader & Tri-Chair PolCom & Co-Chair, ExCom

Steve Tate is proud of the environmental agenda that the Morgan Hill council developed under his watch as mayor and is looking forward to driving the continued execution of it when he is re-elected. Steve is particularly excited about directing growth to the downtown. He believes smart growth downtown will create a more walkable & bikeable community where residents can live and walk to services and entertainment. He knows reducing vehicle miles driven and GRGs is important, and this downtown plan along with more LEED certified commercial buildings will help achieve this. Steve is also proud of the cities mitigation of a new road that was built by planting 500 trees to offset the GRGs. Steve also thinks preserving open space is important and is searching for ways to preserve it as agricultural land becomes less viable. For more information visit stevetate@charter.net.

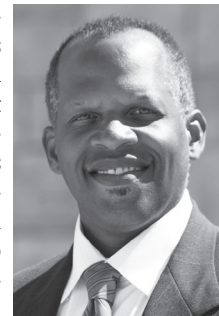


Steve Tate

Richard Constantine for Morgan Hill City Council

By Rob Rennie, Morgan Hill Team Leader

Richard is quite knowledgeable, understands the environmental, and will help to implement Morgan Hill's environmental agenda. He is passionate about preventing big changes in Morgan Hill so as to preserve its rural and agricultural background. He wants to keep growth slow and to keep a focus on open space and farmland. He supports the downtown plan because it promotes walking, getting people out of cars and saving GRG's. He is a strong supporter of bike lanes as alternatives for people to drive less. He believes in increasing alternative (renewable) sources of energy and wants to expand the number of city facilities with solar. He also feels it is important to get recharging stations in Morgan Hill. For more info go to rich4mh@gmail.com



Richard Constantine

Vote for Strong Environmental Leaders for Mountain View, Vote for Margaret Abe-Koga and Ronit Bryant for City Council

By Ann Schneider, Team Leader Mountain View

The Sierra Club is very happy to endorse two outstanding environmental leaders for re-election to City Council. Both Margaret Abe-Koga and Ronit Bryant have shown real leadership not just on easy green issues like supporting Stevens Creek Trail (easy because residents in Mtn. View love the trail) but in the really hard decisions of supporting high density housing on transit corridors when that housing will also be next to existing single family homes. It is not easy to balance the needs of future generations for housing and the need to reduce vehicle miles traveled while being supportive of existing residents who are afraid of more cars and noise.



Margaret Abe-Koga



Ronit Bryant

Councilwoman Abe-Koga showed real courage in balancing these needs during the Minton's Prometheus apartment project process and with other controversial housing developments, like Mayfield Mall. We thank her for her leadership. She is a member of the city Council's Environmental Sustainability Subcommittee and supports the Sustainability Action Plan that will implement far reaching programs from greenhouse gas reduction projects, green building to zero waste. She serves as Vice-Chair on the Valley Transportation Authority (VTA) working to ensure Mtn. View benefits from comprehensive transportation systems providing mass transit options to all our residents. For more information go to www.margaretforcouncil.com.

Mayor Ronit Bryant has long been a leader on park and open space issues and clearly is the champion for ensuring Mtn. View retains our lush urban forest. She is a strong voice of support on the entire range of environmental issues that come before Council. Ms. Bryant is working to ensure that green issues will be incorporated into the City's new General Plan. She will work to get infill along public transit corridors, green building, urban forestry, and increased focus on recycling and green retrofitting in multifamily housing into the General Plan. She also wants to work on a water conservation ordinance and make sure the city adopts a strong green building ordinance. Moving the city to conserve water and energy based on these ordinances will reduce greenhouse gas generation as well as save the city and our residents' money in the long run. For more information go to http://ronitbryant.org/

We need the decision making skills both Councilwoman Abe-Koga and Mayor Bryant bring to Council. Please vote to re-elect Margaret Abe-Koga and Mayor Ronit Bryant to Mountain View City Council.

San Jose City Council

The top June primary vote winners in San Jose City Council Districts 5, 6 and 9 are facing a general election run-off. This time the candidate with the highest number of votes wins.

Magdalena Carrasco - Bright Light for District 5, San Jose

By Terry Trumbull, San Jose Team Leader

Long time community activist, Magdalena Carrasco, ended the June primary in a dead-heat with a former City Planning Commissioner who never saw a development that he did not like. Carrasco's east San Jose district has not had an environmentally conscious Councilmember since Blanca Alvarado.



Magdalena Carrasco

Running in a district suffering more environmental damage from pollution than any other in San Jose, Carrasco is a strong advocate for alternative energy and efficiency, green jobs, and smart growth. Carrasco opposes urban sprawl into Coyote Valley, while supporting water conservation and green purchasing by the City.

Madison Nguyen — More Green Leadership from District 7, San Jose

By Terry Trumbull, San Jose Team Leader

District 7 incumbent Madison Nguyen has been a good environmental vote in her first six years on Council. Nguyen has been a leader in recycling and waste reduction, such as introducing the City's plastic bag ban. More importantly, Nguyen has been an ally of Mayor Reed in implementing the City's comprehensive Green Vision program.



Madison Nguyen

This work includes stopping sprawl into Coyote Valley and in filling with transit oriented development.

Nguyen has also been a leader in environmental health, such as the City adopting her proposal to ban smoking near children's play areas in parks. She has also supported green building standards that reduce energy and water use. Nguyen has also been successful in requiring all developments to contribute funding to creation of nearby parks.

The environmental community is lucky to have Madison Nguyen seeking to return to San Jose's council.

Loma Prieta Endorses Don Rocha in San Jose City Council D9

By John Cordes, San Jose Team Leader

The Loma Prieta Chapter of the Sierra Club is proud to endorse Donald Rocha for San Jose City Council District #9.



Don Rocha

In announcing the endorsement Don Rocha, the Sierra Club was impressed by Don's commitment to fully support San Jose's aggressive plans to impact climate change by limiting greenhouse gases. Don said "San Jose must use all the tools it can to meet AD32." "We are glad Don fully supports San Jose Green Vision" said John Cordes, Loma Prieta Political committee tri-chair. Don considers the Vision San Jose North Plan as a model for future redevelopment in San Jose. Don is also endorsed by outgoing District 9 council member Judy Chirco and many environmentally supportive officials including councilmember Sam Liccardo, and assembly members Jim Beall and Jim Coto.

Matthews for Mayor, and Kolstad and Mahan for Santa Clara City Council

By John Cordes, Santa Clara Lead

The Sierra club is proud to endorse current city council member Jamie Matthews for Santa Clara mayor. In Seat 2, the club endorses former council member Patrick Kolstad and in Seat 5, the club endorses Mayor Patricia Mahan, who will be termed out as mayor at the end of this session.



Jamie Matthews

Santa Clara is recognized across the region and across the country for how green its city owned utility, Silicon Valley Power(SVP) is. Santa Clara was voted the #1 Green power City in the US by the EPA in July 2010. 30% of SVP is now GHG free, not including an additional large % of electricity it gets from large hydro. Santa Clara also has one of the highest % (69%) of hybrid vehicles in its regular city fleet (non police etc). Santa Clara provides free permits for solar installation and conduct resident workshops. Santa Clara has a comprehensive and City Wide Climate Action Plan. All the candidates we are endorsing had a hand in making this happen as they have served on the council for most of the past decade



Pat Kolstad



Patricia Mahan

See **Endorsements** Page 8

Help, we're in debt

By John Cordes, PolCom tri-chair

In case you haven't noticed, the Loma Prieta chapter has been undergoing dramatic changes in the last couple of years due to reduced income and spent down reserves.

While creating the 2010 budget last fall, a decision made was to save \$4,000 in 2010 by eliminating the primary (May) endorsement issue of the Loma Prieta newsletter. When the primaries rolled around, the political committee still interviewed and endorsed many candidates and the chapter took positions on ballot measures. But

when push came to shove, we could not think of a cheaper or more effective way to get our endorsements and positions, like NO on Prop 16 the PG&E monopoly bill, to all our members than issuing an endorsement edition of the LP. The ExCom agreed so everyone got the May endorsement issue, but now we need to find a way to pay for it to reduce our 2010 deficit.

It costs about \$4,000 to print and mail each edition of the LP newsletter so if you valued getting information about who to vote for in the Primaries elections, consider sending a check or calling the chapter office to make a

donation. Just let them know it is for the political committee to support publishing our primary endorsements by writing 'PolCom' in the memo field of your check. To date we have donations of slightly over \$1,000 so we only need \$3,000 more.

One more request. Please contact the chapter via email (loma.prieta.chapter@sierraclub.org) or phone (650-390-8411) and let them know you value the primary edition of the LP newsletter. Then hopefully it will survive the budget planning process for 2011 and we won't have to try to pay for it after the fact.

Chapter took no position on 2 local Transportation Measures

Irvin Dawid, Co-Chair, Sierra Club California Bay Area Transportation Committee

Local Transportation Measures:

Both San Mateo and Santa Clara counties will have county transportation measures to vote on this November; Measures M and B, respectively, enabled by state legislation, SB 83/Hancock. Both fund mostly road repair, though San Mateo is more generous toward transit, bikes, etc. They require only a 50% threshold to pass.

While the chapter's transportation committee offers no recommendation, the regional transportation reform and smart growth coalition known as TransForm, of which the Club is a

member, is endorsing all seven of these county measures in the Bay Area. Please see their webpage for more information: 2010 County Vehicle Registration Fees <http://www.transformca.org/vote-yes-on-vehicle-license-fees>

Unlike the ballot measure itself, for the Sierra Club to take a position on a ballot measure, two-thirds of the executive committee must support the position. While the transportation committee was clearly displeased with the lack of transit emphasis in the two measures, particularly Santa Clara's, they chose not to propose a resolution to oppose.

Note - these local ballot measures are in addition to the Club-endorsed Proposition 21, an \$18 Annual Vehicle License Surcharge to Help Fund State Parks and Wildlife Programs and Grants Providing Free Admission to All State Parks to Surcharged Vehicles. <http://www.sos.ca.gov/elections/ballot-measures/qualified-ballot-measures.htm>

For more information, see SB/83: Traffic congestion: motor vehicle registration fees. http://leginfo.ca.gov/pub/09-10/bill/sen/sb_0051-0100/sb_83_bill_20091011_chaptered.html

HELP – We need you! Communicate with your City Council on Green Issues.

By Megan Fluke, Grassroots Organizer, Building Climate-Friendly Communities, Loma Prieta Chapter

If getting involved with endorsements does not fit your interests, but you still want to get involved with making your city greener, consider joining your local Cool Cities team. The Sierra Club's Cool Cities Campaign is a grassroots effort to persuade local governments to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. We are bringing together people from all walks of life - people like you - who want action on global warming now. Teams of residents are banding together to form Cool Cities and Cool Counties Teams and urging city councils and county supervisors to act now to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. There are active teams in cities across the peninsula, contact megan.fluke@sierraclub.org for more information and to get involved today!

How do Cool Cities Teams have an impact? The two largest contributors to greenhouse

gas (GHG) emissions in the Silicon Valley are transportation (55%) and the built environment (43%). Therefore, our Chapter's Cool Cities Teams are focused on two major campaigns:

Building Climate-Friendly Communities

This campaign focuses on increasing public support for building new homes, jobs, and shops near transit to reduce car trips, which account for 50% of GHGs in the Bay Area. With two million additional residents expected in the Bay Area over the next 20 years, Cool Cities teams are advocating for all new development and long term city plans to increase walking, biking, and transit ridership.

Green Buildings for Cool Cities

This campaign addresses electricity and nat-

ural gas consumption in buildings, the second largest source of GHGs in the Silicon Valley, by working to increase the energy efficiency of and clean energy production by existing buildings. Green Buildings for Cool Cities seizes this economic and political moment and leads an effort to educate and inspire owners to retrofit their buildings. We are kicking off this campaign this fall, details below.

Green Buildings for Cool Cities: Scaling-Up Home Energy-Efficiency Retrofits Public Workshop

Saturday, October 9, 2010
9:15am – 12:15pm (8:45am registration)
FREE (RSVP Requested)
Menlo Park City Council Chambers
701 Laurel Street, Menlo Park

Legislative Updates

Results of SCCAN Phone Alerts – CEQA, Plastic Bags, Unlawful Water Diversions

By Karen Maki, Volunteer SCCAN Coordinator

During the last two weeks of the legislative session, SCCAN (Sierra Club California Action Network) asked its volunteers to contact their legislators regarding three bills. Thanks so much to the chapter members who took the time to make the call and let their voice be part of our legislative process

Here's what happened during this session:

OPPOSE Assembly Bill 1581: STOP ATTACKS on local say in local land use decisions!

Great News! Special interests failed to press our lawmakers to pass legislation that would have allowed big box stores to move into a vacated store and start doing business without any environmental review.

Our lobbying staff asked us to contact all possible senators. Our current network allowed us to reach 26 of the 40 senators statewide. We sent a SCCAN alert to 60 volunteers and

27 responded—a good response rate of 45%. Thanks to these chapter members for letting me know they called their legislator: Brian Carr, Bill Collins, John Cordes, Gladwyn D'Souza, Peter Fairchild, Jim Feichtl, Eileen Francisco, Gaile Itami, Charles Schafer, Jack Vo.

Assembly Bill 1998: Ban single-use plastic bags!

We are very disappointed that AB 1998 did not pass the senate, as it would have will eliminated approximately 19 billion plastic bags in California. The final vote was 14 supporting, and 21 against. Our lobbyists asked us to call 15 senators in support of AB1998.

Although our SCCAN network is just starting up and is small. We sent a SCCAN alert to 24 volunteers and 19 responded—an unheard of 79% response rate. Thanks to these chapter members for calling their senators: Bill Collins, Gladwyn D'Souza, Peter Fairchild, Jim Feichtl, Steve Ferla, Eileen Francisco, Ruth Stoner Muzzin, Ann Schneider.

Here are the senators in our chapter that we contacted and their final vote: 3 members were asked to call Senator Blakeslee, who abstained, and 9 members were asked to call Senator Yee, who voted YES.

This alert also went out to the Chapters Zero Waste Activists Listserve but unless these people let Karen know that they made phone calls then we may have missed your name. Our apologies. — Ann Schneider LP Zero Waste Chair. And if you want to help us go city by city on bag and takeout food packaging bans send me an email at SchneiderAnn@juno.com or call me at (650-697-6249).

Senate Bill 565: Stop Unlawful Water Diversions

We are also disappointed that SB 565 did not pass the Assembly. SB565 would have provided

See **Legislative Updates** Page 8

Our Endorsement Process Relies on Volunteers

By Terry Trumbull, LP PolCom Member, Endorsement Chair, CLCV of Santa Clara County & Environmental Studies Professor, San Jose State

As with all of the Loma Prieta chapter's activities, the Sierra Club's process for endorsing political candidates depends on volunteers.

It is surprising how much volunteer time goes into the process. For example, in local government races in Santa Clara County, the November 2 election involves 12 cities and three special districts.

The Club has a volunteer city leader for each of these jurisdictions, and they are responsible for identifying 3-6 interviewers/city. Ultimately, about 90 candidates were sent questionnaires.

On August 7, the Sierra Club and its endorsement partner, the Santa Clara County chap-

ter of the California League of Conservation Voters (CLCV), hosted an environmental issues education program for candidates in San Mateo, San Benito, and Santa Clara counties. Volunteers, Maddy McKenna and Jennah Bedrosian, were responsible for identifying and inviting candidates to the event, even though the filing deadline was August 6 or 11. Jaclyn D'Arcy played a similar role in putting on the 2009 candidates program.

At the August 7 forum, candidates were briefed on the endorsement process of both the Sierra Club (Ann Schneider) and CLCV (Terry Trumbull). Immediately thereafter, Julio Maghalaes, the Club's Cool Cities program manager, presented a series of actions that local governments could take to reduce energy use and climate change emissions. Finally, the candidates were briefed about smart growth, and the differences between NIMBY and environ-

mental perspectives on local land use.

On the filing deadline, candidates were sent a two page questionnaire, as well as a cover letter explaining our endorsement process. Their response was due on August 20. By mid-August, the Club had identified Club members willing to host interviews for their city. When a response was received, candidates were given an interview slot. Typically, this would be a solo interview with Sierra Club members for a half hour.

After interviews were completed, the interview teams discuss who to endorse. Recommendations are sent to the Chapter's Executive Committee, and then approved by Sierra Club California quality control committee.

During 2010, Ashley Cushman played a major role in doing this legwork to coordinate can-

didates and interviewers for both the June and November elections. Sydnee Journal assisted in the many support activities needed for the fall elections.

As always, the chapter's endorsement efforts are the products of the hard work of the Political Committee's co-chairs, John Cordes, Rob Rennie, and Ann Schneider.

Sierra Club endorsements mean a lot to candidates. Endorsements mean an article in the Loma Prieta that reach 18,000 households, presumably representing people more likely to turnout than the statewide average of 24% for eligible adults. Peninsula voters are very environmental conscious, and the Club's endorsements are widely respected. Perhaps this explains why 85% of the Loma Prieta chapter's endorsed candidates win their elections.

Thank You to our Political Endorsement Team Volunteers!

By John Cordes, Tri-Chair, LP Political Committee

The Chapter's Political Committee would like to thank its many volunteers for their dedicated work in this year's general elections endorsements to support environmental candidates at local, regional and state levels of government. Our volunteers' efforts include researching endorsement issues, generating interview questions, reading the candidates' returned questionnaires, interviewing the candidates, deliberating on endorsement recommendations and for some composing the write-up

presented to the Executive Committee for approval. All together, our volunteers covered over 16 races!

Our new 7 team members were; Eileen Francisco, Gary Latshaw, Jeff Diehl, Mary Davey, Ruth Muzzin-Stone, Paul Perkovic, & Todd Bray. Thanks for getting involved.

Our returning 17 team members were Beth Wyman, Bob Groff, Bonnie McClure, Brandon Sulser, Cecil Harris, Greg Perry, Jon Silver, Ken King, Lisane Drouin, Melissa Hippard, Mondy Lariz, Patrick Gallagher, Rod Diridon

Sr., Pat Showalter, Shiloh Ballard, Susan McKuhen, and the inestimable Terry Trumbull. Our special thanks to our invaluable team leaders for all the work they contributed. Our 7 dedicated veteran leaders were; Ann Schneider, Bill Collins, Diane Gleason, John Cordes, Merrill Bobele, Michael Ferreira, & Rob Rennie,

Our generous hosts were Jerry Denny, Kurt Newick, Melissa Hippard, Merrill Bobele, Pat Showalter, Greg & Cindy Fischer, Rod Diridon Sr, & Susan McKuhen.

My apologies if we missed any names. The

Political Committee will have a "Thank you party" on Election Night Nov 2nd, 2010. At that occasion our 7 new team members will be recognized with a beautiful and practical Sierra Club steel water bottle. Congratulations to all our volunteers for their incredible work!

If you want to elect green candidates to support your environmental values, join us in future electoral endorsements by contacting John Cordes at john.cordes@lomapieta.sierraclub.org or Ann Schneider at schneiderann@juno.com.

What Did We Ask Candidates in this Election Cycle?

By Ann Schneider, Tri-Chair, PolCom

Here is a secret, the questionnaire that we sent to all candidates can be found on our website. The Sierra Club believes in an open process so if you are curious please go to the Political pages on the Loma Prieta Website <http://lomapieta.sierraclub.org/politics/index.html> and look

under templates & manuals. Note however that Endorsement Teams are encouraged to add one to three city specific questions to the written questionnaire or during the oral interviews. Those questions won't be on our website as responses to questionnaires are confidential.

We always ask about a candidate's record,

what have they done personally to protect the environment. Then we ask what they would work on if elected or re-elected. The other questions we ask include what they would do about climate change and reducing greenhouse gases, green building, land-use & transit oriented development, open space & recreation including access for all to nature,

transportation, water use & conservation and zero waste & producer responsibility. We also ask about endorsements, volunteer base and fund raising as measures of how organized their campaign is (election viability) and we ask about campaign finance pledges both for raising money and spending limits.

Endorsements

Continued from Page 7

Jamie Matthews (Mayor race) has a long record of voting to protect the environment has highlighted above. For nearly 20 years Jamie has been working on completing the San Tomas Saratoga Creek trail, which is almost done. To help reduce future energy needs, Jamie will ensure full implementation of the 2010 California Green Building Standards Code, California Code of Regulations, Title 24, Part 11. Jamie attended the news conference on the single use bags and spoke in favor of adopting it

Pat Kolstad (Seat 2 race) served on the city council from 2000-2008 when he was termed out. Pat served on Joint Powers Boards for Silicon Valley Power. He consistently supported green renewable power generation. He voted for wind generation, geothermal, hydroelectric and solar generation projects as part of SVP energy sources. Pat has served as Vice Chairman of BAWSCA and advocated with the SFPUC to make recommended repairs to Hetch Hetchy viaduct to protect this precious water source for Santa Clara and the Bay Area.

Pat Mahan (seat 5 race) has voted in favor of many of the strong environmental positions taken by the city of Santa Clara during her 16 years on the city council or as mayor. She has voted to support its Cool Cities efforts. Pat signed the Mayor's Climate Protection Agreement in 2007. To help reduce greenhouse gas emissions, Santa Clara developed a policy giving developers concessions and incentives for building to LEED standards. Pat believes that in buildings where public money is used (like RDA or Housing funds) the requirement should be made that they be built to LEED standards.

Kruse, Lezotte, Schmidt for Santa Clara County Valley Water District

By John Cordes and Rob Rennie Team Leads on Water District Races

The Santa Clara Valley Water District is a major provider of water to millions of Loma Prieta members and businesses across many cities on the peninsula. It is the major source of our water, which is imported from the Sacramento Delta and other sources so it is important to have conservation minded representatives on this board. The Sierra club is proud to endorse Tom Kruse for District 1, Linda Lezotte for District 4, and Brian Schmidt for District 7.

As the owner of Kruse winery, Tom understands how valuable and scarce water is as a resource. He practices being minimalist in his use of water and pesticides. Tom knows the quality of the water supply is dependent on the protection of the watershed. He personally keeps his winery's irrigation below the level that creates run off that would carry toxics into the water supply. He also



Tom Kruse



Linda Lezotte



Brian Schmidt

believes education about the need to protect our water supply should start in the schools with our children. Tom is familiar with the 5 watersheds in the District # 1 and understands the intricacies of the sources of water, usages, and the contamination issues for these water supplies.

Linda Lezotte (D4) has protected the environment in the past when she was on San Jose City council from 1998-2006. Linda is such an outstanding environment advocate that CLCV voted Linda their environmental legislator of the year award in 2006. Linda has the skills and experience to make a difference for the environment on the SCVWD board.

Brian Schmidt, (D7) is an environmental attorney with a strong record of protecting the environment. Brian has served 6 yrs on the SCVWD environmental advisory committee so he is already familiar with the issues the board should be tackling. Brian's day job is being the legislative advocate for Committee for Green Foothills. He was on the CLCV board of directors, but had to resign from it in order to campaign in this race.

Legislative updates

Continued from Page 7

the State Water Resources Control Board with adequate authority to investigate and stop unlawful diversions of water.

Our lobbyist asked us to call Assembly Members Hill and Beall.

We sent a SCCAN alert to 11 volunteers and 3 responded - a 27% response rate. Five members were asked to call Assembly Member Hill and one member was asked to call Assembly Member Beall. Thanks to these members for calling their legislator: Jim Feichtl, Gaile Itami.

In the next months, we will be working to increase our caller base from 75 volunteers to at least 600. To become part of our committed network, contact Karen Maki at 650-366-0577 or karenmaki@earthlink.net. SCCAN members both calls legislators and meet with them in their local offices.

Thanks to PolCom web volunteers

By John Cordes, PolCom tri-chair

As you can imagine, keeping our political website up-to-date requires effort and skill. Fortunately, PolCom has two volunteers committed to keep the PolCom website up to date. They are Judy Miller and Dirk Leatherman. Judy and Dirk have learned how to navigate the challenges of updating our website on the Sierra Club servers. They post updates and changes requested to the development server for review. Once the changes have been approved, they move the changes to the production server for the world to see. It would not be possible to get our information to the general public about our endorsements and other political actions without them. So the next time you see them. Please give them your thanks



Dirk Leatherman