



# Ellis Raskin

In both his personal and professional life, Ellis has been a steadfast environmentalist and a leading voice within the Sierra Club's Angeles Chapter. As a longtime member of the Angeles Chapter's Political Committee, Ellis has helped the Sierra Club support environmental champions at all levels of government. Ellis has also been a trusted public servant in his home town of Santa Monica, where he currently serves as Vice Chair of the Santa Monica Planning Commission. He previously served as a member of Santa Monica Urban Forest Task Force, and he currently serves on the boards of other nonprofit organizations that help preserve housing and advocate for disadvantaged residents.

In his professional life, he works as an environmental and land use attorney. He advises public agencies, public interest organizations, and other stakeholders in a broad range of matters involving land use, community development, and long-range planning. Over the past decade, he has helped save critically-threatened habitat in the Santa Monica Mountains, protected coastal access, and secured new affordable housing opportunities for disadvantaged Californians. He has represented the Sierra Club in the past, and he continues to represent other organizations that advocate for environmental protections and environmental justice.

Some of Ellis' Some recent environmental accomplishments include:

- Ellis represented plaintiffs in a lawsuit that led to the preservation of open space that was needed to construct the Liberty Canyon Wildlife Overcrossing (see <https://smmc.ca.gov/liberty-canyon-wildlife-corridor/>).
- Ellis represented plaintiffs in a lawsuit that saved a seaside park in Redondo Beach from being bulldozed and converted into an upscale mall.
- Ellis represented plaintiffs in a groundbreaking Coastal Act enforcement case against a surfer gang in Palos Verdes Estates. In that case, the Court of Appeal held that racist and sexist harassment (which was directed toward his clients) can constitute a violation of the Coastal Act.

Ellis has worked on a broad range of initiatives that address housing scarcity, the climate crisis, and other related issues. Ellis believes that it is crucial for the Sierra Club to ensure that the next generation of leaders will step up to the plate, to make every effort to maximize the Sierra Club's community engagement, and to ensure that the Sierra Club prioritizes environmental justice.

Ellis is a graduate of Occidental College and the University of California, Hastings College of the Law. Outside of work and public service, Ellis often spends his time exploring Santa Monica and local parks.



# Diane Trautman

For the past 28 years—most of those as a Sierra Club member—I have been an environmental and education advocate. My work in the community has included 12 years as a planning commissioner for the City of Santa Clarita and a decade as a PTA legislative chair. I was endorsed by the Sierra Club in my campaigns for congress and for city council. As a Sierra Club volunteer, I continue to promote just and sustainable land use planning, protection of water resources, air quality improvements, multimodal transportation, permanent open space protection, recycling and landfill reduction, affordable housing, and more.

Beyond my Sierra Club efforts, I have been working with the city's housing committee to develop affordable housing solutions, and with a committee of mental health professionals to promote mental wellness and prevent suicides.

I was first elected to the Santa Clarita Sierra Club Group's Executive Committee in 2016. Since that time, I've served as our group's political chair and as a member of our conservation committee. Several years ago, I joined the Angeles Chapter Executive Committee as our group's representative, for which I have served as secretary since January 2022. I'm currently working with the Northern Angeles Forest Campaign to promote the designation of this forest as a National Monument at a time when the Biden Administration is authorizing this level of recognition for qualifying federal lands.

To me, education is key to right action. So much of the environmental destruction we're facing is due to ignorance of our place in the natural world, from which our role as good stewards arises. The Angeles Chapter continues to address this need brilliantly through outings programs that introduce youth to the wonders of our lands and the Activist Academy that prepares future leaders. I have enthusiastically supported these programs as a group representative and will continue to promote their growth as an elected member of the Executive Committee.

Moving forward, we must increase membership and expand our capacity to address environmental injustice and the climate crisis. With the 2024 election fast approaching, we must also focus on working to elect environmental candidates who share our goals and our vision.

I'm a Sierra Club member because this organization has a proven track record of powerful environmental stewardship. As an elected ExCom member, I commit to working collaboratively with our committee and Chapter leadership to move us forward.



# John Monsen

Outings and equity advocate with extensive Sierra Club experience. Leader in over 20 successful conservation and equity campaigns. Recipient of a Chapter Extraordinary Achievement Award. I started my environmental journey hiking, backpacking, and peak-bagging. For the last two decades, I have devoted my life to better protecting the places I have been -- including the mighty San Gabriel Mountains. On a parallel path, I have worked for more equitable access to nature. I am seeking re-election to the Executive Committee.

## Leadership Achievements

- Helped found environmental justice organization Nature for All.
- Led Political Committee initiative replacing three conservative water board members with progressive people of color.
- Leader in establishing San Gabriel Mountains National Monument.
- Past Hundred Peaks hiking section Conservation Chair.
- Leading campaign that has generated defeats for desert-damaging Cadiz water mining project.
- Founding Chair, Angeles Chapter Forest Committee.
- Campaign manager for the National Monument Campaign covering the 180,000 acres of Angeles National Forest north of Santa Clarita.
- Helped stop pump-storage power facility and massive dam near Orange County's San Mateo Wilderness.
- Chaired or served on 12 Sierra Club committees (Water, Conservation, Political, Wilderness, etc.)
- Seven years experience on Sierra Club National Field staff in Los Angeles.
- Championed East Fork San Gabriel River Project that would improve recreation opportunities for the predominantly Latino families who frequent the area.
- Helped make the Angeles Chapter Executive Committee more collegial.
- Recipient of the 2022 Sierra Club California Public Lands Activism Award.

## Priorities

- Climate Change.
- Expand Outings Program, which is the key to growing our membership and making it more diverse.
- Nature access, under-resourced communities.
- Protecting wildlife corridors.
- Closely monitor Club reorganization.

## Endorsers

Susana Reyes, Jane Simpson, Sharon Koch, Liliana Griego, David Haake, Juana Torres, Ray Hiemstra, Russ Babbitz, Diane Trautman.



# Ann Salvador

I have been part of Angeles Inspiring Connections Outdoors (ICO) for over fifteen years. ICO's mission is to help underserved communities learn about how they impact the environment and what changes they can make to help the environment. We work with family groups, underserved schools, and a variety of community organizations. For the past four years, I have been the Chair of ICO. Part of the Chair's job is to run regular monthly meetings, develop the agenda, planning events with group members like our Annual Earth Day Celebration and ICO's West Coast Retreat, keeping abreast of all volunteers who are part of the group and future opportunities to promote ICO.

Besides volunteering for ICO, I have been an elementary teacher and have taught grades third to sixth for almost twenty years. I have learned how to plan but also be flexible on a daily basis because working with kids is never predictable. In addition to teaching, I am also a member of my school's Art Leadership Team (ALT) which works in conjunction with an art advocacy group, Turnaround Arts. I also participate in my school district's Art Advocacy Team. My job is to be the liaison between the district and my school, coordinating art programs and art professional development opportunities. Working on these committees has been such an invaluable experience. I have learned how to incorporate art into every aspect of my classroom. My students are more engaged, but, more importantly, they have so many more opportunities and ways to express themselves.

If I am not teaching or volunteering for ICO, I volunteer with a nonprofit group called Heart for Sight (H4S). As a H4S volunteer, I take what I have learned from ICO and its leaders and bring my knowledge of hiking trails to people who are visually impaired. Working with this group, who have a variety of visual impairments, has taught me to appreciate life, never be afraid to try new things, and always be open to new adventures.

Therefore, being part of ExComm will not only enhance my knowledge, but will connect me to people who will only make me a stronger leader, thinker, and global citizen. Having a platform that encourages the exchanging of ideas and problem solving is where true change begins and can happen.



# Juan Paulo Panaligan

An avid outdoorsman and computer engineer, Paulo is passionate – on the job and at play. He is always looking for a chance to get involved and he believes there's no better time than now to get to work.

Paulo was born in the Philippines and immigrated to Minnesota as a child. Canoeing in the Boundary Waters, swimming in cool crisp lakewaters, and playing baseball planted a seed of love for the beauty and treasures of these United States. After high school he relocated to Los Angeles to attend USC. Upon arrival he joined the ski team and was introduced to the high country by way of Mammoth Mountain. Throughout his days in university and beyond he connects with like minded outdoors people and explores California on bike, on foot, and on ski – bike and back packing in and around the mountains surrounding Los Angeles, continuing all the way up the Sierra Nevadas to Yosemite and beyond. His most memorable moments include ascending Mount Whitney, skiing by moonlight in the vicinity of Ostrander Lake, and wandering around the most beautiful place in the world: the Hutchins Creek drainage of the Lyell Fork of the Merced River in Yosemite National Park.

Jumping at the chance to participate and excited to give back to the community, Paulo decided to join the Sierra Club on an MLK Day of service in 2020 as part of a trail maintenance crew. Eager for more impact and lasting change, he joined the Angeles Chapter Political Committee and was elected secretary later that year. He believes in participation and merit through action, deeply understanding that the environmental crisis we face is one that must be solved together. Time is now for the younger generation to throw their hat in the ring, and he is deeply honored to serve this prestigious organization during the great battle of our time.

Today he is deeply involved with efforts to stop oil drilling in Long Beach. An approach of coalition building within the community through outreach and conversations with local leadership is the foundation of his strategy for lasting change.

Thank you for this opportunity. Paulo would like to ask for your support in electing him to the Angeles Chapter Executive Committee. He hopes to bring his energy and zeal to bear, aiming to cultivate a more inclusive and equitable Sierra Club – ensuring we move forward together towards a cleaner, brighter future.



# Aura Vasquez

Prioritizing climate action is an urgent imperative. My commitment to environmental justice ignited when I watched a science show about global warming at 11. Growing up in Colombia with asthma and witnessing my mother's constant efforts to clean black ash and enduring persistent noxious odors from sugarcane production compelled me to dedicate my life to creating a more just and sustainable world.

I offer the Sierra Club of Los Angeles my unwavering passion and the rich tapestry of my background as an immigrant and a Black Latina. I aim to contribute to the Executive Committee with organizational acumen, focusing on action-driven members working to safeguard and educate through lawful means.

My nearly two decades of policy expertise spans all levels. I co-founded the Sierra Club Los Angeles Climate Action Committee and founded Ready to Help LA during the COVID-19 pandemic. These endeavors underscore my commitment to community service and environmental justice.

The Climate Action Committee was pivotal in advancing electrification policies in over ten cities, including Los Angeles. In Ready to Help LA, we opened public school playgrounds and community parks, democratizing access to green spaces in underserved areas.

As the youngest-ever Los Angeles Department of Water and Power commissioner and the first immigrant in this role, I championed transparency, introduced "Office Hours," and pushed for the retirement of three coastal gas plants, propelling Los Angeles towards 100% renewable energy.

My community organizing united thousands in support of environmental justice. We successfully prohibited single-use plastic bags, established the nation's largest solar program through the Feed-in Tariff, and campaigned for a coal-free Los Angeles by 2025. I advocated for SB100, aiming for clean energy generation and reduced emissions in California.

Through my social media channels, I rally citizens to explore and safeguard California's natural treasures, leading thousands in rallies like the 2013 "Forward on Climate" Rally and the 2017 "People's Climate March."

If chosen for the Executive Committee, I pledge unwavering commitment to advocacy and action aligned with the Sierra Club's mission. I will inspire Angelenos to cherish, appreciate, and protect our planet while fostering strong, just, and compassionate leadership.

In pursuit of our shared mission, I humbly seek your endorsement, knowing we can usher in a brighter, greener future. I am honored to be considered and eager to work alongside fellow dedicated environmentalists within the Sierra Club Angeles Chapter, creating a profound impact together.



# Annaliese Piñeda Klein

I have been serving as a member at large of the Executive Committee since January 2023, and since then I have joined the Finance Committee, the Equity Advisory Committee and served as an Advisor to Kim Orbe's wonderful program, the Activist Academy. In 2021, I served as Vice Chair of the Chapter's Communications Committee and co-led a large team across multiple communication platforms (social media, web, and email). During my tenure, I created teams and established consistent processes from scratch, dramatically increasing our content creation and reach, and broadening our target audiences. I understand the value of bilingual content and worked to increase public-facing content offered in Spanish to better represent and engage with local communities that are largely Latinx.

In my day job, I am a digital Product Designer. My job entails problem-solving and digging deep to the root of problems to understand how to develop sustainable solutions. I believe in understanding the "why" in problems that plague people, groups, and organizations. As a product designer, it is my job to facilitate team growth, knowledge sharing and problem-solving. It is this mentality, advocacy, and set of skills that I bring to my environmental justice work as well.

I am a long-time sustainability and environmental justice advocate and supporter. From my early days volunteering with Sustainable South Bronx (NYC), City Harvest (NYC), and Catalytic Communities (Rio de Janeiro), I have always believed in taking action and valued being a part of an organization that positively impacts underserved communities and the environment. I have experience advocating for communities that are diverse in terms of socio-economics, language, race and ethnicity - communities that are critical to advancing the mission of the Sierra Club.

As a Member-at-Large of ExCom, I would continue my work supporting the Activist Academy, continuing to play an active and supportive role in other projects and committee's, helping to diversify our membership, and increase accessibility of information to Sierra Club members and non-members. I have only just begun serving on the Executive Committee and would like the opportunity to continue my contributions. I am ready to continue dedicating myself to the Executive Committee of the Angeles Chapter and hope I can count on your vote.