

Central Group Candidate Statements  
Election year 2020

Candidate Statements are in Ballot Order (top to bottom)

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Raj Patel

My name is Raj Patel and I am currently serving on the Central Group Executive Committee, seeking a second term. I've been an active volunteer with the Central Group since 2018.

After leaving my corporate job in Digital Advertising and Sales, I embarked on a new personal journey that better aligned with my values. Over the past 2 years, I've been thirsty to learn more about the environment and have had the privilege to attend Al Gore's Climate Reality Training, obtain my certificate in Sustainability at UCLA, and complete a 'Regenerative Gardening and Living' course offered by Kiss the Ground. I've picked up odd jobs that have introduced me to the world of waste management, composting and gardening education at underprivileged schools, and canvassing for recycling legislation. Within the Central Group, I actively have made time for tabling events and other outreach opportunities like the Angeles Chapter Walkathon. I helped plan and execute the 2019 Zero Waste Fair and worked on the 'No Drilling Where We're Living' campaign where we met with elected officials and went door to door to help educate community members.

I'm looking forward to dedicating time to serve on the Executive Committee for a second term.

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Julio Moreno

I am a proud Latino, born and raised in Los Angeles. Being someone of color can help me go through many opportunities that others can't go through. I always have been taught that in order to see a change, I have to make a change within myself. One of the reasons that I want to be part of the ExCom membership is to be a liaison

between people and this place we called earth. We only get one life here and we have to keep it safe as long as possible for us and for our future generation. A goal that I would like to achieve as a member of the ExCom is to get more Latino involvement with Sierra Club. With the Sierra club I have participated in a couple table events, have volunteered with the Zero Waste fair, and currently am working with the Youth Activist group.

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Jason Wise

My name is Jason Wise, and I'm an environmentalist. I would be honored to continue serving on the Sierra Club Angeles Chapter Central Group Executive Committee.

Nature is a healing force for me, and I've dedicated my life to showing everyone just how powerful our nearby nature can be in healing our mind, soul, and body. So I keep myself busy doing any and all things nature. I use my political science and LGBT studies degree (from UCLA) and my masters in public policy and environmental studies (from USC), to guide my advocacy work as the current Conservation Chair of the Sierra Club Angeles Chapter Central Group. I use my California naturalist certification, recent biology and geology studies, and training with NatureBridge in Yosemite to work as an outdoor environmental educator and trail guide for kids of all ages. I use my experience as an Artist in Residence for the San Gabriel Mountains National Monument and passion for writing and landscape photography to promote access to nature, especially the wilderness that surrounds us in Southern California.

I hope that in continuing my role on the Central Group Executive Committee, I'll have the opportunity to expand the scope of our conservation work, to bring us together around our common cause, and to give a bigger and bigger voice to the to those who have been left out of the environmentalism conversation for far too long. The time is now to activate all of Los Angeles to do our part in saving this big, beautiful earth we call home.

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Kawana Key

I'm really still in the developmental stage but overall my life's passion is in supporting people of color, and other marginalized groups in gaining awareness of and advocating for healthy, sustainable and affordable communities including access to clean air and water. Too many members of low wealth communities are struggling to keep a roof over their family's heads, food on the table and the lights on - in that order. I've been there personally and have family members who still have those struggles. One accomplishment I hope to achieve is supporting more collaborative leadership on environmental issues with those living in front line communities. I'm also interested in improving local air quality by advancing equitable access to zero emissions vehicles, more active modes of transportation and supporting anti idling measures.

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