

## Statements for West Los Angeles Group Candidates

### Melody Anderson

I would like to see our Group and our Chapter become more diverse and inclusive, and I am committed to working toward this goal. While continuing to draw on the passion, dedication and experience of our long-time members and volunteers, I believe that we also need to reach out and engage young people, communities of color, and other people who have not traditionally been associated with the Sierra Club. By broadening our support base, we can increase our impact on the issues that are important to all of us! If elected, I will be honored to serve the members of the West Los Angeles Group as part of your Management Committee. Thank you for your consideration

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### Hector Castro

Los Angeles is a world-class city further maturing with the benefits one expects on such a stage: rising density versus sprawl, robust public transportation, protected and restored green spaces and parks, to name a few. The Sierra Club has a history of dedicated interest in the protection of wildlife. The West Los Angeles Group in particular has a special interest to help manage LA's wide swath of urban landscape while protecting the long coastlines, important estuaries such as the Ballona Wetlands, and Santa Monica Mountains—none of which can be done without the Sierra Club's members. I would be honored to be a facilitator and networking agent for the wildlife-loving urban dwellers of the West LA Sierra Club, such that environmental protection, restoration, and respectful enjoyment can continue with a social focus in mind.

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### Joy Cernac

As an eight-year Westside resident of LA, Environmental Studies graduate of Oberlin College and environmental professional, I am applying for a seat on the West LA Group of the Sierra Club's Executive Committee. With a naturally deep-seated interest in my community and its environment, I have an ingrained passion for ecosystem and resource conservation issues. I take pride in the diverse terrain and makeup of the Westside community and seek to connect our residents with the natural world to a much greater extent. Together with members of the West Los Angeles Group of the Sierra Club, I believe we can do just that.

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### Debbie Drezner

I am a recent member of the Sierra Club and have a doctorate in Environmental Science and Engineering from UCLA with a focus on biology and policy analysis. I have had the opportunity to accomplish many conservation projects during my more than 20 years as an environmental planner at a public agency, including establishing an ecological reserve in western Riverside County. I am also a professional mediator with a master's degree in dispute resolution from Pepperdine University and have mediated federal workplace disputes for more than 10 years.

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### Howard Strauss

I served on the Management Committee of the West LA Group for a number of years, including at one time the chair of the Group. I served on the Angeles Chapter Executive Committee, including holding the position as Chapter Chair for 2 years. I am currently the chair of the Angeles Chapter Political Committee and the Vice-Chair of the Sierra Club California Political Committee. I am currently serving as the Vice-Chair of the California/Nevada Regional Conservation Committee Steering Committee. I am also an active outing leader.

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