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Chapter Chair, Dyana Peña, on the importance of balance and collaboration in work and lives
By Dyana Peña

Summer is my favorite season because it illuminates the beauty of nature and draws people outdoors. I am grateful for the opportunities that my role as Chapter Chair has brought me to help be a part of the movement that helps to protect these spaces and more, our wellbeing in these spaces. As part of this work the Sierra Club has adopted five new Core Values, with balance and collaboration particularly standing out to me during this time.

Collaboration through just relationships that support collective work is what strengthens our movement. We are stronger together and we are most collaborative when we slow down and make decisions democratically. Balance is needed in order to support ourselves and these collaborations. According to our values, balance means that our effectiveness comes from our ability to care for ourselves and others. I hope this summer season presents us with opportunities to prioritize balance within ourselves, and our relationships, including our relationship with the outdoors. I will be doing so by joining some of our outings and spending more time on my roller skates on the boardwalk in Long Beach.

I hope we can all celebrate our recent achievements by finding some time for rest and rejuvenation during these long summer days. As stated in our values, we are change-makers but one of my favorite ways that we are continuing to make changes is in the ways that we show up for ourselves, each other, and our environment. Thank you to all our cherished members, volunteers, and collaborators!

COASTAL COMMISSION DENIES POSEIDON PLAN

Plans for the Poseidon desalination plant in Huntington Beach evaporate into thin air
By Everette Phillips, Communications Chair

Poseidon Water’s decades-long bid to transform ocean water into for-profit drinking water for Orange County residents went belly up Thursday, May 12, 2022, following an hours-long public hearing and a unanimous vote by the California Coastal Commission to block the permit application.

Sierra Club long opposed the project given its significant cost to ratepayers, high energy use, GHG emissions, and marine life impacts — as one of the Coastal Commission staffers said, “the wrong project in the wrong location.”

“I must thank the neighbors who live around Hamilton Ave and near the ASCON superfund site for always taking the time to meet with me and allowing me to speak on behalf of their plight to the CCC staff who took the time to listen,” said Charming Evelyn, Water Committee Chair.

This effort required broad cooperation within the Sierra Club across California as well as coordination with many other environmental organizations. For the past 15 years, volunteer leaders such as Charming Evelyn, Ray Hiemstra, Yvonne Martinez Watson, Tom Williams, Craig Cadwallader, and Conner Everts have generously committed a remarkable amount of time and energy across a series of events that lead to the May decision. We also depended on Sierra Club California and Angeles Chapter staff members including past staffers like Kathryn Phillips, Kyle Jones, and Jennifer Robinson.

“This is another great victory for the Angeles Chapter Water Committee - we were able to shut down 2 ocean desal projects in a span of 6 months but it took years of work.”

Proposals like the Brookfield-Poseidon Ocean Desalination plant have many reviews by different entities on the route to approval or denial of the project. The Sierra Club volunteers need to coordinate with like-minded environmental leaders, agencies, consultants, and non-profits. Some partners in this endeavor were the Society of Native Nations, Lydia Ponce, Azul, OC CoastKeeper, CA CoastKeeper, Surfrider, CA Coastal Protection Network, R4RD, Sunrise Movement, Ocean Desal Response Group, and Environmental Water Caucus.

Although the ocean desalination issue for Huntington Beach has been resolved for now (it is said that the “...coast is never saved”), the issue of the ocean and brackish desalination remain in many other parts of the state. Keep an eye open for desalination issues on the Chapter’s Water Committee website to make it easy to learn about important issues and for taking action, whether signing a petition, lending a voice, distributing information, or attending a meeting.

Socalwatersierraclub.org
Sierra Club joined forces with the California Environmental Justice Alliance (CEJA) to form the Regenerate California Campaign, with the goal of retiring all of California’s gas plants in the state by 2035 and in disadvantaged communities by 2030. We’ve been pushing the California Air Resources Board (CARB) to adopt an ambitious Scoping Plan, which is only voted on once every five years and will influence what the Public Utilities Commission will then incorporate into their future plans to determine how often gas plants will be allowed to run and what clean resource alternatives will be needed and by when.

Last month, CARB released their draft Plan, which received widespread criticism from the environmental community for its lack of ambition and proposal to build out 10 gigawatts of new gas infrastructure - the equivalent of dozens of new large power plants. We’re demanding CARB instead adopt an ambitious plan that includes no new fossil fuel infrastructure and instead chart a pathway to zero emissions in the power sector by 2035 - a goal the Governor not only ordered CARB to model last Summer but one that President Biden also announced last Spring for the entire country.

To date, we’ve mobilized Regenerate members to provide public comment at multiple Board meetings; lobbied CARB board members, staff, and advisors to the Governor; submitted a digital petition with over 1,500 signatures; worked with allies to land an op-ed from the LA Times Editorial Board; and rallied alongside the California Environmental Justice Alliance at the June 23 Board Meeting in Sacramento to call on CARB to address our climate emergency with the urgency it demands. We have the power to chart the path of our climate future: join us in demanding CARB adopt a Scoping Plan that gets to 100% clean energy by 2035 before the plan is finalized and voted on in November.

For further information, contact: Teresa Cheng
teresa.cheng@sierraclub.org

Opportunities and challenges to building a 100% clean power grid

By Teresa Cheng, MyGeneration Campaign Representative (California)

In Southern California, we live out the effects of the climate crisis on a daily basis - dealing with megadrought conditions, sweating through record-breaking heat waves, and bracing ourselves for this summer’s wildfires. That’s why our My Generation Campaign has been engaged at the local and state levels to demand an electric grid fueled by clean energy, not a grid that expands fossil fuel infrastructure and exacerbates our climate and health crises.

LADWP 100% Clean Energy

Last September, Sierra Club and our partners secured a watershed victory when the LA City Council unanimously voted to move the city to 100% carbon-free energy by 2035. Since then, we’ve been engaged with the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP) to analyze feasible pathways to 100% reliable, clean energy and to ensure safeguards in any deployment of green hydrogen in the LA basin.

Just last month, the Los Angeles City Council passed a motion to apply for federal funding to become a green hydrogen hub. Sierra Club and environmental justice groups expressed our concerns to the City Council outlining the serious health and air quality concerns associated with hydrogen combustion at power plants, given that burning even green hydrogen can produce up to 6x worse NOx emissions than burning methane. We also emphasized the need to produce truly green hydrogen through electrolysis using renewable energy, to retire associated existing renewable energy credits; and to only deploy green hydrogen for difficult-to-electrify sectors, such as aviation, shipping, and some heavy industry.

For a more detailed description of Sierra Club’s official stance on hydrogen, read our blog post online: sc.org/hydrogen

Fighting to Stop New Gas in Glendale

Just next door, the City of Glendale threatens to undermine progress in the region by investing $260 million in new gas infrastructure at the Grayson power plant. Sierra Club, represented by Earthjustice, is suing the City of Glendale for using a flawed environmental review to justify the construction of what could be one of the last new fossil fuel power plants built in California. Grayson is a highly polluting, out-of-date facility that is set to retire. To replace that power generation, Glendale has the opportunity to instead build new and reliable clean energy and battery storage, and invest in energy efficiency and demand response programs.

CARB Scoping Plan

Meanwhile, we’re gearing up our state-wide fight to ensure California transitions off of dirty gas and rapidly builds out the massive amount of clean energy required to meet our growing energy and reliability needs.

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teresa.cheng@sierraclub.org
Angeles Chapter Inspiring Connections Outdoors (ICO) established a new tradition on April 30, 2022, our Annual Earth Day Celebration. This one involved 70 students and 12 adults from two elementary schools and one high school. It was planned and facilitated by ICO leaders and volunteers. The event was held at Elysian Park and engaged the students in a short hike with a scavenger hunt, a drum circle, an art table, and Earth Day games. The high school students assisted with the activities, acting as mentors to the younger ones.

ICO volunteers welcomed everyone off the buses with a reusable water bottle and a granola bar. A Tongva Representative, Citlali Arvizu, started our Earth Day celebrations with a land acknowledgment and an appreciation of our natural world (The Tongva people are an indigenous people of California from the Los Angeles Basin and Southern Channel Islands, an area covering approximately 4,000 square miles). Then half of the group was engaged at these three “stations” near the picnic tables while the other students went on a hike/scavenger hunt.

Whereas Europeans may “consider the Earth a resource, we think of it as a relative,” began Citlali, in introducing the drum circle activity. She went on to share artifacts, stories, and songs while leading the children in playing the drums. The drums’ beats represented the heart of Mother Earth and helped us try to resonate with our natural surroundings.

At the art table, students found various clippings of native California plants, a carved and painted wooden replica of a Western bluebird, colored pencils, crayons, and sheets of art paper. To begin, the students were invited to look around at their surroundings, closely observing the various trees and other plants. After they described their observations about the differences in colors, including the many different shades of green, textures, shapes, sizes, and plant parts. The participants selected something to draw and color, either from the samples on the tables or from what they saw around
Earth Day

them in the park. The ICO leaders encour-aged them to continue to draw things in nature and to keep nature journals once they returned home.

In an activity we called “Earth Day games,” students first had fun shaking a 40-foot in diameter multi-colored para-chute, laughing as they ducked under it or ran around the outside. Then we added a giant four-foot diameter beach ball that featured an Earth map, shaking the para-chute to bounce the ball into the air. In closing, the students threw the ball back and forth while making wishes for the planet. “I wish for cleaner oceans and less garbage,” one third-grader said. “I wish people would not litter Mother Earth,” added another. Wishes to keep the planet safe were exchanged among the students, grounding Citali’s comment about treating Earth as a treasured relative.

For many, a 1.5-mile hike is quite tame, but not for the students attending our Earth Day celebration. Some were challenged by the climb and all were en-chanted with the scavenger hunt looking for a bug, a bird, rough bark, or a smile, to name a few. There were comments such as “This is my FIRST ever hike! We are so high up! You can see downtown from here! Are we almost done? Is that a branch or a log? Why are some trees not green?”

When “leave no trace” was explained possibilities were suggested for holding an interesting item until the end of the hike. When encouraged to come up with a solution, the group agreed to have others come to see what they discovered but leave it where it was. When the teacher cautioned them not to deliberately step on beetles or other bugs because the group was visiting their environment, that guideline was greeted with sighs. The ICO leaders made sure to point out that Elysian Park belongs to us all and that they should bring their parents back to show them all they had learned.

After a picnic lunch and some play time, Ms. Arvizu closed with a gratitude prayer for our Earth Day celebration, and everyone boarded the buses to return home.

This event was funded through a Youth Community Access (YCA) grant from the California Natural Resources Agency (CNRA)—Angels ICO appreciates their support.

This was a special event, but throughout the year Angeles ICO works with schools and agencies to organize day hikes and camping trips for underserved populations, providing an introduction to nature, outdoor education, healthy activities, and fun. Transportation to the trailhead and food, equipment, and supplies for camping trips are all provided at no cost to participants. Learn more at: angelesico.org

“I wish people would not litter Mother Earth,” one third-grader said.
Travel Adventures and Fundraising Trips

Travel Adventures offer an unparalleled opportunity to visit special places throughout the world, with domestic and international trips longer than a week to prized destinations, and are led by our most experienced volunteer leaders. Proceeds for these Travel Adventures are important fundraisers which provide vital support for the work of the Angeles Chapter while Featured Events directly support the work of the hosting Sectional Group or Entity.

For more adventures, go to: https://angeles.sierraclub.org/outdoors/featured_events

CANADIAN ROCKIES NATIONAL PARK & FIREWORKS FINALE - AUGUST 20 - 28, 2022

Join us for a grand tour of 4 National Parks in the Canadian Rockies, Banff, Jasper, Kootenay, and Yoho on our expanded trip with 8 nights in Canada. This trip has great opportunities for wildlife viewing with the spectacular mountains, glacial lakes, and glaciers. The trip wraps up with two nights in Calgary where on the last night, you will see the Fireworks Finale of the Calgary Globalfest 2022 International Fireworks competition.

For reservations and more information please contact Fred Dong madelinesdad@earthlink.net (818) 545-3878, Cathy Kissinger cklissinger105@verizon.net (818) 281-4455, or Stephanie Gross madelinesmother@gmail.com (818) 545-3878

MAMMOTH/EASTERN SIERRA BUS TRIP - SEPTEMBER 10 - 13, 2022

Join us for four fun days of hiking in the spectacular Eastern Sierra Nevada Mountains, John Muir’s favorite place on Earth. Participants must be fit to hike 5-7 miles in hilly terrain at high altitudes. The daylong hikes include many breaks and 45 minutes for lunch. There will be three speed groups; the faster the group, the more miles covered.

For reservations and more information please contact Minoo Hart minimars2000@hotmail.com or Emile Fiesler emilenid@yahoo.com

HARWOOD LODGE FALL FIESTA FUNDRAISER - SEPTEMBER 10-11, 2022

Enjoy clear mountain air, hiking, music, relaxation, blue skies, and beautiful mountain views, and celebrate the beginning of Fall at Harwood Lodge. Musicians bring your instruments. Newcomers welcome. Includes hikes to the Waterfall and a special Geology hike with Jay Schneider. Includes Saturday and Sunday hikes, Happy Hour, lodge fees, Saturday night dinner. Sunday breakfast, hike, shared chores and check out by 3 pm. Funds will go to support Hardwood Lodge.

For reservations and more information contact Donna Specht at donnaspecht@juno.com

CHURCHILL POLAR BEAR ADVENTURE - NOVEMBER 6 - 12, 2022

Join us for a spectacular early winter trip wildlife trip to Churchill, Manitoba, Canada to see Polar Bears. Spend 3 full days on the tundra buggies viewing polar bears, snowy owls, arctic foxes, and other wildlife that we may find. We will also spend a couple of nights on arrival in Winnipeg and do some sightseeing and exploration of the area on our first full day in town.

For reservations and more information please contact Fred Dong madelinesdad@earthlink.net (818) 545-3878
Run for Sierra Club Leadership!

The Angeles Chapter Nominating Committee seeks to actively recruit and sustain Executive Committee leadership at all levels of the chapter through diversifying and empowering its leadership to represent our vast Angeles community and region in promoting our mission to explore, enjoy, and protect the wild places of Southern California.

Executive committee members build relationships with other community partners and influence what is important to the Angeles Chapter, recruit members and improve the Chapter’s diversity. Prepare for and attend the Executive Committee meetings; consider the interests of the entire Chapter when voting. Candidates are then considered for the Chapter Elections in November 2022.

Some things to know:
- To run, candidates submit a questionnaire that provides members with information about their background and reasons for running. There is also an option to run by petition.
- Terms are for two (2) years and begin in January 2023.
- Both Chapter and Group levels have several ExCom positions becoming available that begin in 2023.
- To be eligible to run for ExCom, candidates must have their nomination submitted and be a Sierra Club member by July 10, 2022.
- The election period—when voting takes place—runs from October 3, 2022 through November 14, 2023.

We believe that environmental injustice/climate change disproportionately hurts the most marginalized people in society — including people of color, people from working-class backgrounds, women, and LGBTQ people. We believe that these communities must be centered in our work. Hence, we strongly encourage applications from people with these identities or who are members of other marginalized communities.

If you know someone that would be a great fit for our executive committee, maybe even yourself — contact our nomination committee today! Nominating Committee members are: Jason Islas, Steven Dunwoody, David Warren, Paulo Panaligan, Donna Specht, Stacy Fortner.

Jason.islas@gmail.com

Volunteer with Us!

Here’s how you can volunteer to help us change the world...

Chapter Office Volunteer
Time: 5–10 hours/month
Learn about our wide range of activities and connect members and the public to what they are interested in. You need to have good communication skills and the ability to work well with others. The main duty is answering the telephone and emails, often for questions about membership and Chapter activities. You would also assist the staff with general office duties, mailings, copying, etc. No experience necessary, but a willingness to learn!

Military Outdoors Hike Leader
Time: 5–10 hours/month
As a Military Outdoors hike leader, you will work with our volunteer leadership team to help organize and coordinate hikes and outings specifically for veterans. Outings may be at any ability level. You must be a Sierra Club outings leader, or in the process of becoming one, and be committed to creating an inclusive and equitable culture for veterans from all backgrounds.

In Memoriam

Stag Brown (1932–2022)
To access a collection of obituaries honoring some of our leaders: angsc.org/remembrances. If you have recently lost a loved one and would like them to be remembered here, please let us know: angsc.org/livesweremember

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Instagram: @sierraclubangeles

Angeles Chapter Annual Awards Banquet Returns After Three-Year HIatus with +150 in attendance
Sierra Club Angeles Chapter

15th Annual Political Leadership Awards

MOBILIZING FOR OUR FUTURE: Global Warming, Urgent Warning
August 14, 2022 3-5:30 PM PT, In-person

All proceeds go to the California Sierra Club PAC to support pro-environmental state and local candidates in California. Tickets and sponsorships available now: angeles.sierraclub.org/pacawards

Photo: Shaun	via Getty Images CANVAPRO