

4 vie for 5 SB Group seats

Merlie Samonte SB Group Candidate

I was born, raised and educated in the Philippines and am now a resident of Goleta. I have worked mostly in the hospitality industry and have traveled



to many places around the globe which gave me the opportunity to work with people of diverse origins.

What can I bring to the table?

I can probably bring fresh perspective based on my experience growing up in a family that farms to augment food reliance and sustainability in ways that put a lot of respect and consideration to the environment and its ecosystem. Share how our side of the world is responding to the challenges, given the fact that it is deemed to suffer most of the calamities as a consequence and manifestation of the changing climate.

I am looking forward to sharing and collaborating fresh ideas to hopefully conceive a stronger defense and sensible actions in the protection and the rehabilitation to stability and sustainability of our environment as a global community for our survival, and the future generations.

Luz Reyes-Martin SB Group Candidate

I am honored to be considered for a position on the ExCom for the Santa Barbara Group.

I believe that the preservation and protection of our natural environment



continues to be among the most important work we can do as engaged members of our communities. I applaud the work of the

local Sierra Club chapter in being at the forefront of advocacy.

As a member of the ExCom I will work alongside other members to continue that advocacy work, work with other groups with similar interests and continue to grow a strong member base. Environmental Justice is an area that I am particularly interested in. The effects of climate change, oil expansion and other environmental hazards particularly affect poor and under-represented communities.

I currently serve on the Goleta School Board and am employed by Santa Barbara City College.

Alex Pujo SB Group Candidate

I was born and raised in Argentina and came to Santa Barbara in 1974. My wife and I own a small architecture and planning firm (www.pujo.net).



Since 1992 we have been involved in local and regional transportation planning because we believe that

auto-mobility is one of the greatest environmental threats facing us.

We live in an area that exports its impacts to surrounding communities and places little value on environmental justice. Our older neighborhoods are convincing proof that life is better for all living organisms when we live close to town, drive less and walk more.

Newer transportation policies are

increasing access for everyone; not just automobile drivers and passengers. Transit, bicycle and pedestrian access are a reality in parts of Santa Barbara but still a challenge where antiquated zoning policies encourage sprawl and create a false choice between quality of life and housing supply.

I am a founding member of the Coalition for Sustainable Transportation (COAST) and a member of the Bicycle Coalition since 1994. I currently serve on the ExCom of the Santa Barbara Group and chair the Santa Barbara Political Committee, Los Padres Chapter. Thank you for your support.

Katie Davis SB Group Candidate

John Muir, the founder of the Sierra Club, said, "The battle we have fought, and are still fighting, for the forests is a part of the eternal conflict between right and wrong."

Today the protection of our



ecosystems is more critical than ever. I believe Santa Barbara has a powerful role to play in creating a more sustainable future. As current Chair of the SB Group, I have enjoyed working on many fronts to secure recent victories, including getting Santa Barbara to set a goal of 100% renewable energy by 2030 and consider a Community Choice Energy program to advance local clean energy. Also, defeating the polluting 141-well PCEC oil project and getting our County to set the strictest regulations in the state on greenhouse gas pollution from new oil projects.

As a member of Sierra Club's National Marine Team, I am fighting Trump's efforts to expand offshore oil and reduce or eliminate our national marine sanctuaries. I am also a trained presenter of Al Gore's "Climate

Reality Project" and serve on the APCD's Advisory Council.

Robert Bernstein SB Group Candidate

Building a sustainable world means having a positive vision of what we want, not just opposing projects.

My vision: A community that is more walkable, bikeable and transit friendly. For social justice as well as for environmental reasons. It's a vision where we locally produce much



of our own food and renewable energy. A vision where we can access nature in a way that enriches us, yet with minimal damage

to our natural ecosystems.

Global climate change is largely the result of human policies and activities and I want us to do our part on a community level.

I was a founding Board member of COAST (Coalition for Sustainable Transportation) and past president of the Bicycle Coalition.

I am a Life member of the Sierra Club and have served on our Group ExCom since 1998. During this time I served as Group Chair as well as Environmental Justice Chair and Transportation Chair.

Also, I am a hike leader and a photographer and regular contributor to the *Condor Call* newspaper.

I would be honored to be able to serve the Sierra Club again for another term.

Lead our club

Our Chapter's Executive Committee has three at-large seats open to start next year. Please consider running. We're long on action, short on bureaucracy!

For questions, contact Chair Jim Hines at 340-9266, jhcasitas@gmail.com

The public is welcome to our programs

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

~ Executive Committee meets at 7pm on the fourth Thursday of every month, either in-person at the Carpinteria IHOP, or by conference call. Email Secretary Gerry Ching for the agenda and details: gching@cox.net

SANTA BARBARA GROUP

~ Usually meets at 11:30am on the first Monday of the month at Union Bank, 15 E. Carrillo St. View the calendar, hikes and issues and join the mailing list for the South Coast Santa Barbara area (Carpinteria to Goleta) at:

www.SBSierraClub.org
www.facebook.com/sbsierraclub

ARGUELLO GROUP

NOW ON FACEBOOK; keep in touch with our SB North County Group at: <http://tinyurl.com/ArguelloGroup>

~ General meetings with potluck and programs during most months on 3rd Friday at Lompoc Presbyterian Church 1600 E. Berkeley Ave. at 7pm, or 6pm when there are potlucks.

~Volunteers are needed as hike leaders and to monitor issues; your talents could make a difference.

~ Questions? Contact RebeccaAugust@mac.com or 350-0629.

VENTURA NETWORK

~ Up-to-date information about the western Ventura County group on Facebook: <http://tinyurl.com/VenturaSierraClubFB>

~New MEETUP site for hikes, outings and other fun stuff in Ventura County: www.meetup.com/SierraClubVentura

~ Regular meetings 1st Tuesday monthly at REI in Oxnard 7-8:30pm. Check before attending at: sierraclubventura@gmail.com

CONEJO GROUP

~ Get all information on this eastern Ventura County Group from Hugh Warren, 341-6295 mail@hkwarren.net

~ Web: www.sierraclub.org/los-padres/conejo

~ Outings: www.sierraclub.org/los-padres/conejo/outings