Bay Area Council Meeting
Saturday, March 10, 2018
Sequoia Audubon Society
Redwood Shores Public Library
399 Marine Parkway
Redwood City

NOTES

Attendance:

Bill Hudson  Golden Gate
Sally Baumer  Napa-Solano
Robin Leong  Napa-Solano
Kelly Alfrey  Santa Clara Valley
Diane Hart  Santa Clara Valley
Bob Hirt  Santa Clara Valley
David McIntyre  Santa Clara Valley
Ralph Schardt  Santa Clara Valley
Doug Brown  Sequoia
Beverly Cronin  Sequoia
Marshall Dinowitz  Sequoia
Rob Furrow  Sequoia
Chris O’Connell  Sequoia
Jennifer Rycenga  Sequoia
Karim Al-Khafaji  National Audubon
Rebecca Schwartz Lesberg  Audubon CA
Mike Lynes  Audubon CA
Ariana Rickard  Mt.
Diablo/Audubon CA
Sarah Rose  Audubon CA

Audubon California updates: Audubon Assembly, Advocacy Day, GIS map, board vacancy, new Audubon branded website template for chapters

Audubon California Assembly will be in Long Beach, November 2-4:
http://ca.audubon.org/about/chapters/audubon-california-assembly

Advocacy Day in Sacramento, June 20. RSVP here: http://act.audubon.org/onlineactions/Kp-XkXXrhU-469Zn3vM4Xg2

GIS map with chapter boundaries and overlapping legislative maps:
http://ca.audubon.org/about/chapter-resources

Audubon California is currently seeking candidates for the Bay Area Council rep Board position. If you are interested, please contact Ariana Rickard at arickard@audubon.org.

New Audubon website template for chapters:
https://works.audubon.org/groups/chapters/new-branded-website-template-chapters
Meet our new Executive Director - Sarah Rose, Audubon California

Served as the Executive Director of the California League of Conservation Voters for six years.

10:45am Legislative Updates
Mike Lynes, Audubon California

There is a state legislative proposal to protect California from the expansion of offshore oil drilling.

Federal government wants to abandon the DRECP and Sage Grouse Conservation Plan.

Audubon California is sponsoring legislation this year – AB 2627. This bill will allow the state’s Fish and Game Commission to protect birds from oil pits and spills, power lines, communications towers, and other threats. This measure is a backstop in case federal protections from the Migratory Bird Treaty Act are removed.

Proposition 68, the California Clean Water and Safe Parks bond, will be on the June 5 ballot. This $4.1 billion bond includes $200 million for the Salton Sea, $700 million for conservancies, and $400 million for climate change adaptation. Funding will also go to regional parks and land trusts.

SB 100 (renewable energy bill) This is a two-year bill, currently in limbo. The bill would create 100% carbon free energy by 2045, not 100% renewable. Would include hydropower.

Other priority bills – regulation of rodenticide, CEQA changes, Tesla Park. There are 2,000 bills at the moment. Another bill looks at long term governance at the Salton Sea.

Although IBAS are not used as actively as they used to be, they are still alive and well. We use them if we are taking on a new project. Please contact Andrea Jones if you want to update the boundaries of an IBA. (415) 388-2524 ext. 113; ajones@audubon.org

Link to IBA map: http://ca.audubon.org/conservation/california-iba-interactive-site-map

California Coastal Gnatcatcher – 30,000 comments to keep species listed and protected under the ESA. Similar issue with the California Willow Flycatcher – Pacific Legal Foundation is challenging the legal protections for distinct subspecies. Earthjustice is representing us and NRDC in a lawsuit defending the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service’s decision to protect the species.

The federal government has decided to repeal the Waters of the United States rule, which will make it easier to destroy wetland. The state is going to put together a Waters of the State rule which would protect those waters. Defenders of Wildlife is leading the coalition.

Anna Weinstein - Marine Program Director, SF; (415) 644-4613; aweinstein@audubon.org
Anna led our efforts in Humboldt Bay. Coast Seafoods wanted to expand their oyster farming operations. In the end, they had to shrink their footprint from 300 acres down to 280 acres.
11:15am     SF Bay Program Update
Rebecca Schwartz Lesberg, Audubon California

Audubon is advocating for the beneficial reuse of sediment and for controlling the timing of dredging.

Richardson Bay – second largest eelgrass bed in Bay Area.

1960s – anchor out community grew. Post 2008 – more people joined anchor out community as living on boats was an alternate to homelessness after the recession.

0.4 acres of eelgrass are damaged by each boat. This amounts to 57 acres of direct damage to eelgrass.

The area is governed by the Richardson Bay Regional Agency (RBRA) – a joint powers authority

Rebecca Schwartz Lesberg, SF Bay Program Director, rschwartz@audubon.org

Chapter Reports

Napa-Solano

New Education Coordinator – visitation in schools. Chapter is currently focusing on Bluebird monitoring and grant writing. USFWS - $2500 bluebird program

Santa Clara Valley

First strategic planning exercise – day-long meeting. Currently have three goals: Advocacy, education and expanding the circle of birders. Developing a 3-5 year plan.

Burrowing Owl project continues to be successful. 30 people volunteered for service day.

Chapter is also conducting mitigation monitoring at a San Jose site.

Golden Gate

Centennial exhibit – moving to Richmond City Hall. Ceremony on April 4 with chalk drawings of the birds.

Osprey coming back to Richmond. See http://sfbayospreys.org/ for nest camera.

Black-crowned Night Herons – Oakland moving nests, setting up nest boxes to encourage them to move.

Sequoia

Emphasis on citizen science. April 27-30, participating in the City Nature Challenge. Over 60 cities around the world compete to see who can find the most nature.
Green Birding – offer field trips by bike once per quarter and one by kayak. Joint kayak birding trip with Sequoia and Santa Clara Valley.

**National Audubon Society Board Vacancy**

There are nine chapter representatives on the National Audubon Society’s Board of Directors. Overall, there are 30 board members.

The Pacific-South representative covers California and Hawaii chapters.

Stephanie Little, the current Pacific-South chapter representative with National Audubon Society, is terming off the board at the end of the year. She has been on the board for five years. You do not have to be a board member of a chapter to serve on the National Audubon Society Board.

Time commitment – three-day meetings, includes travel time. You also have to serve on a committee, and there are calls throughout the year. Every two years – there is a meeting in DC. Past meetings have been in Alaska, Florida, Texas, Columbia and Panama. One international meeting every 2-3 years. Last meeting was in Santa Monica.

Nomination deadline – June. Need to be nominated by chapter. Candidates need to write a letter introducing yourself to other chapters.

Pan Flyway position – Karim Al-Khafaji terming off in one year. If you are interested in running for the National Audubon Society board positions, please contact Ariana Rickard at arickard@audubon.org.

Napa-Solano Audubon will host the next Bay Area Council meeting in September.