



The Climate Reality Project[®]

SAN FERNANDO VALLEY, CA CHAPTER

2023 ELECTION BALLOT

I. COMMITTEE & CANDIDATES*

(*See below for Committee Descriptions and Candidate Statements)

COMMITTEE	CANDIDATE	√
Chapter Chair	Diana Weynand	
Vice Chair	Michele Ringler	
Outreach	Vivian Deutsch	
Legislation Co-Coordinators	Kathy Schaeffer Sherrell Cuneo	
Member Mentoring	Sean Carlin	
Administrative Coordinator	Tara Sitsler	
Treasurer	Kim Neistadt	
Programming & Education	Malcolm Orrall	
Partners Communication & Engagement	Kristy Pace	
Environ. Justice & Rights of Nature	Judy Glass	
Bee the Change	Amy Ellenberger	
Digital Communications	Sharon Ungersma	
Programming & Education Coordinator, Sustainability Advocate	Terry Saucier	
Zero Waste Advocate	Andy Hattala	
Newsletter	Anwei Chen	



II. COMMITTEE DESCRIPTIONS

Chapter Chair

- Represent the SFV chapter of Climate Reality and oversee chapter activities.
- Liaison with Climate Reality managers and partner climate organizations.
- Submit monthly chapter report and coordinate with the Climate Reality supervising team on other chapter business.
- Schedule and run monthly meetings and, in coordination with Programming, book speakers.
- Along with Vice Chair, support activities of committee coordinators.
- Lead monthly meetings for the SFV Leadership team.
- Guide the team and chapter along the chapter's strategic plan and mission.

Vice Chair

- Assist Chapter Chair in running the inner workings and organization of the chapter.
- Facilitate administration of chapter calendar.
- Lead the Program planning team.
- Coordinate newsletter and digital communications schedule.
- Work with other chapter leaders on their various committees and pods.

Outreach

- Increase chapter membership and maximize attendance at chapter-led events.
- Lead and involve other chapter members in identifying and utilizing all possible conduits to publicize environmental information and invitations to chapter meetings and events.
- Develop and sustain conduits through community resources.
- Update weekly Climate Reality opt-in members.
- Contribute to Chapter press releases.

Legislation

- Ongoing communication with legislators and their environmental aides who represent the SFV.
- Share with CR members new and important environmental legislation that may be coming up for a vote, and recruit members to take part in advocacy opportunities.



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- Investigate and present pros and cons of controversial issues surrounding climate change and renewable energy (work with Educational Coordinator).
- Participate with other activist groups to support environmentally friendly actions and legislation, and invite other groups to participate with CR.
- Promote and facilitate communication between local legislators and their constituents within the CR community.
- Invite guest speakers to CR meetings for legislative updates and presentations.

Member Mentoring

- A resource for SFV Chapter members seeking one-on-one advice, support, and/or encouragement on matters pertaining to their activism. (It's not a requirement to be a trained Climate Reality Leader.)
- Covers everything from a one-off question, a request for feedback on a work-in-progress presentation, a blog-post proofread, or merely a booster shot of climate hope!
- Chapter members who have opted into the SFV Chapter are eligible to arrange a phone or Zoom meeting with the chapter's mentor for specific feedback or general encouragement.

Administrative Coordinator

- Create copy and graphics for promotional needs of the chapter.
- Coordinate with Digital Communications Coordinator to assure brand consistency between our website and other social and promotional media postings.
- Maintain internal Chapter documents, e.g., Leadership Team Contact List.
- Capture key take-aways from guest presenters at monthly membership meetings, or delegate this task.
- Support Chapter Chair and Co-Chair as needed.

Treasurer

- Maintain a financial balance sheet for the chapter.
- Oversee incoming and outgoing chapter financial transactions.
- Develop and schedule fund-raising events to support chapter activities, such as purchase signs, cards, and other materials needed for ongoing outreach.
- Oversee chapter donations, both internally and through the website.

Programming & Education

- Support the chapter mission to educate and advance our understanding of the climate crisis and how we can effectively fight it.



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- Obtain input from the chapter members as to what educational topics would be helpful and appropriate.
- Coordinate supportive educational opportunities with other Committee Coordinators.
- Participate in educational webinars to share with the . ???

Partnership Communications and Engagement

- Engage with outside organizations to build relationships and partnerships across and within Campaigns and projects that impact our collective communities.
- Support in drafting communications with partner orgs new and old.
- Coordinate opportunities to participate with partner orgs on campaigns and projects.

Environmental Justice and Rights of Nature

- Expand awareness in the SFV Chapter of environmental justice issues in the SF Valley community.
- Bring rights of nature to the forefront through pods, education and/or activities.
- Support efforts to help those communities that are being burdened unfairly due to climate issues.
- Stand with community climate organizations and defend the act of fairness in all environmental policies.

Bee the Change

- Engage in activities to plant more trees, or through other means, to help sequester carbon.
- Explore about how regenerative farming and gardening can be part of the solution to carbon sequestration.
- Share knowledge of how a different treatment and use of soil can maximize sequestration efforts.
- Educate the chapter on carbon sequestration through guest speakers or webinars.

Digital Communications

- Create and maintain the chapter website, keeping it up-to-date with accurate information regarding upcoming meetings and events.
- Direct communication that arrives through the website to the appropriate member of the Leadership Team.



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- Use the chapter's social media accounts (Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram) to share relevant information with chapter members and provide them with content to share easily with their personal networks.
- Build the chapter's social media following to expand awareness of our chapter's activities throughout the San Fernando Valley and attract new members.

Sustainability Advocate

- Monitor and report on local sustainability issues and opportunities to the Chapter.
- Share Sustainability tools/resources such as the City's Green New Deal NC toolkit advisory guides.
- Educate and work with existing Chapter committees and pods as necessary to further sustainability goals.
- Be a liaison between the Neighborhood Council Sustainability Alliance and the Chapter.

Zero Waste Advocate

- Provide guidance and information on zero waste behaviors and practices that can be employed by chapter members
- Consult on, educate and advocate Zero Waste practices
- Present documentation and reports on current zero waste actions (at all levels)
- Initiate and coordinate Zero Waste efforts and initiatives
- Monitor Zero Waste initiatives
- Advocate policy and legislation relevant to zero waste objectives
- Partner with the Legislative Committee to advance Zero Waste initiatives

III. CANDIDATE INTRODUCTIONS

Diana Weynand (Chapter Chair)

Diana is an author, producer, and editor. She received an Emmy nomination for producing a PBS series "Cinematic Eye" and Emmy Citation for editing The Kennedy Center Honors program. She's authored over 15 books on video and Apple's Final Cut Pro software. Diana applies her communication, media and marketing skills with her passion to protect the environment. In her recent role as Board Chair of Earth Law Center, Diana advocated for Rights of Nature and produced documentary footage from the Paris Climate Accord in 2015. Like most climate activists, she thrives in



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nature—especially when hiking, biking, sailing, kayaking, snorkeling and just being. Diana is also a music producer, singer-songwriter and author of *Lipstick Football*.

Michele Ringler (Vice Chair)

Kim became a climate activist during the first virtual international Climate Reality Project training in July of 2020. With concern about the planet, she is especially passionate about wildlife, ecosystems, and the ocean. Kim is a retired Community Investment Director.

Vivian Deutsch (Outreach)

My background is in global corporate people development, and now I do part time intercultural training and consulting, along with facilitating in anti-bias programs for educators. I feel a personal responsibility to do what I can to preserve the natural world on which our lives depend. Our chapter of Climate Reality provides an effective and enjoyable way to work for this with others .

Kathy Schaeffer (Legislative)

I am a retired educator and have always been interested in environmental issues, but after the 2016 presidential election and CR training, I have been energized to do more. I have learned with my involvement in many grassroots movements that direct and indirect contact with legislators and decision makers has a significant impact. I am currently on the steering committee for SFV Indivisible, a voter registration lead for Field Team 6, and a volunteer for Food Forward. I look forward to the possibility of being a legislative liaison for CR.

Sherrell Cuneo (Legislative)

I am a recently retired costumer. I have always been concerned about environmental issues, most specifically endangered species and extinction. I have facilitated community arts quilt projects about endangered species with local middle schoolers, as well as with fiber artists from around the world. After taking the first virtual Climate Reality training I decided to explore the legislative approach. Thus far I have found legislative work to be very rewarding and far more productive than my quilt work. In a perfect world I would be home keeping bees, becoming a better gardener, and trying to finish my Mourning Gown, a muslin dress hand embroidered with the names of recently extinct species. It's not a perfect world so here I am.

Sean Carlin (Member Mentoring)

Sean Carlin is an author and blogger. Since training as a Climate Reality Leader in 2018, he has given public presentations in support of carbon-pricing legislation and the Biden climate plan, and helped bring Los Angeles into the County Climate Coalition, a



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nationwide alliance of jurisdictions committed to upholding the standards of the Paris Accord. Recently relocated to his hometown of New York, Sean now serves the SFV Chapter in a Member Mentoring capacity.

Tara Sitsler (Administrative Coordinator)

My love of nature and my awareness of animal rescue issues began when I was 5 years old and has been an ongoing passion throughout my life. Becoming a Climate Reality Project Leader has given me the resources to contribute to the global effort to save our planet and its inhabitants – human and nonhuman. I am grateful to have been welcomed into the company of the amazing activists who make up the San Fernando Valley Chapter of the Climate Reality Project.

Kim Neistadt (Treasurer)

Kim is one of the founding members of the San Fernando Valley (formerly West Valley) Chapter of CRP. The catalyst for Kim to become a climate activist was watching Al Gore's documentaries, *An Inconvenient Truth* and *An Inconvenient Sequel: Truth to Power*. She trained to become a climate leader with the Climate Reality Project in August 2019 in Minneapolis. Her professional training is as a litigation attorney.

Malcolm Orrall (Educational Coordinator)

My qualifications are essentially my deep scientific background ultimately grounded in Physics, Oceanography, Geology, Meteorology, and Philosophy. I basically have a 7 and 1/3 year Bachelor's Degree as a result of my thirst for knowledge about nature and not caring about the rhythms of traditional education, or whether I had the appropriate prerequisites for the classes I took. I just took them according to who was teaching them, the best I could find, a Nobel Laureate on one occasion way out of my depth, out of order as necessary, but well worth every moment. This is my passion. I want to offer this integration and serve the cause. And this is the organization and the thoughtful group I want to achieve that through. With much aloha, Mal

Kristy Pace (Partnership Communications & Engagement)

Kristy is an Environmental ARTivist, who works at the intersections of climate action/art/education, to inspire people young and old to embrace a love of nature and a deep desire to protect it. She is an "engagement" enthusiast, who works with various organizations such as 350.org, Honeylove, Center for Council and more; teaching, connecting and facilitating community events and actions for all of earth's beings. She has helped to revise our chapter's presentation approach by adding engagement activities into the presentations. She is interested in opening our chapter up to build deeper relationships within our valley ecosystem.



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Judy Glass (Environmental Justice)

I believe that the climate crisis is the existential issue of our time; our survival depends on a sustainable future. I have used my economics training (Ph.D.) to educate community members about alternatives to defense jobs, an apt analogy to substituting jobs in a sustainable economy for jobs dependent on fossil fuels. I have been a social activist all my life. I was a Board Member of the Southern California ACLU for 20 years, and am currently active in New Ground which promotes Muslim/Jewish Dialogue. I would like to see more collaboration with the range of local climate groups in the Valley and the City. In a time of existential environmental crisis, I want us to boldly address not only the scientific facts about that crisis, but the values that motivate us to act. We need to be the loudest voice we can be.

Amy Ellenberger (Bee the Change)

Amy is a content marketer, performing artist, and theatre producer who loves nature and our beautiful planet. She first got involved with the SFV Climate Reality Project in 2019 and is a volunteer with LA Compost at Cottonwood Urban Farm. You can usually find her on a trail in the mountains, on a horse, or spreading the good word about sustainability with a sense of humor.

Sharon Ungersma (Digital Communications)

I had been considering ways to get more involved in fighting climate change when I learned of the existence of the SFV Climate Reality group in October 2020 and decided to join as my first foray into climate activism. The hyperlocal nature of the group appealed to me and felt accessible. Though I have no previous experience with Digital Comms, I enjoyed the learning experience of making the chapter website in November/December 2020 and look forward to maintaining it. I think there's a lot of room to build on SFVCR's digital presence, especially during the pandemic when in-person activities are limited. I am a PhD physicist, currently a stay-at-home (literally) mom to two kids ages 6 and 10.

Terry Saucier (Sustainability Advocate)

I am an environmentalist, mom, educator and former publicist working to promote sustainability and fight climate change. The Climate Reality Project training I attended in L.A. in 2019 reinforced my commitment. As a current member of my local Neighborhood Council and the liaison for the Neighborhood Council Sustainability Alliance (NCSA) serving on the Energy and Advocacy Committee, I would like to be a resource to monitor and report on local sustainability issues to the SFV Chapter. This can include sharing resources such as the L.A. Sustainability Department's Green New Deal Neighborhood



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Council Toolkit, where I was a member of the advisory group. I look forward to being an active member of the chapter to promote sustainability for a brighter future.

Andy Hattala (Zero Waste Advocate)

Andy Hattala is a politically and environmentally-minded advocate and activist, promoting sustainability at UCLA and elsewhere. After being trained as a Climate Reality Leader in 2018, he promptly became a member of the L.A. Chapter Leadership Team handling special events and focusing on waste reduction. He now serves as the current Legislative and Citizens' Activist Committee Chair, inspired the creation of the Zero Waste Committee and actively speaks to multiple chapters on zero waste. He has also now officially joined the SFV chapter as a consultant, member of legislative committee and newly minted member of the leadership team.