



# The Climate Reality Project®

SAN FERNANDO VALLEY, CA CHAPTER

## 2026 ELECTION BALLOT

### I. COMMITTEE & CANDIDATES\*

(\*See below for Committee Descriptions and Candidate Statements)

COMMITTEE	CANDIDATE	√
Chapter Chair	Sharon Ungersma	
Vice Chair	Michele Ringler	
Legislative Coordinators	Kathy Schaeffer Sherrell Cuneo	
Outreach Coordinator	Amanda Martin	
Programming Coordinator	<needed>	
Treasurer & Land Acknowledgment Coordinator	Kim Neistadt	
Social Media Manager	Kat Garcia	
Environmental Justice & Rights of Nature	Judy Glass	
Graphic Designer	Tara Sitser	
Newsletter & Events Coordinator	Zina Block	
Digital Communications	<needed>	
Video Editing	Wayne Morgan	
Artificial Turf Task Force	Terry Saucier	
Zero Waste Advocate & Water Specialist	Andy Hattala	

### II. COMMITTEE DESCRIPTIONS

[Website](#) [Email](#) [Twitter](#) [Facebook](#) [Instagram](#)



# The Climate Reality Project®

## SAN FERNANDO VALLEY, CA CHAPTER

### Chapter Chair

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

### Vice Chair

- Assist Chair in running the inner workings and organization of the chapter.
- Submit monthly chapter report to CRP national.
- Lead the book club.
- Coordinate newsletter and digital communications schedule.
- Work with other chapter leaders on their various committees.

### Legislative Coordinators

- Maintain ongoing communication with legislators and their environmental aides throughout the state.
- 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.
- Evaluate local and statewide legislation for endorsement by the chapter.
- Coordinate with other activist groups to support climate friendly actions and legislation.
- Promote and facilitate communication between local legislators and their constituents within the CR community.
- Invite legislative guest speakers to CR meetings for updates and presentations.

### Outreach Coordinator

- Increase chapter membership and maximize attendance at chapter-led events.
- Welcome new chapter members and help them connect with other members with similar interests.
- Update chapter email list with new members and meeting attendees.



# The Climate Reality Project®

SAN FERNANDO VALLEY, CA CHAPTER

- Lead other chapter members in identifying and utilizing all possible conduits to publicize environmental information and invitations to chapter meetings and events.

## **Programming Coordinator**

- Support the chapter mission to educate and advance our understanding of the climate crisis and how we can effectively fight it.
- Obtain input from chapter members as to what educational topics would be helpful and appropriate.
- Meet with the Programming committee to plan meeting topics and invite guest speakers for monthly chapter meetings.
- Coordinate supportive educational opportunities with other Committee Coordinators.
- Produce programs for chapter meetings.

## **Treasurer & Land Acknowledgment Coordinator**

- Review the financial balance sheet provided by national CRP for the chapter.
- Oversee incoming and outgoing chapter financial transactions.
- Develop a fund-raising strategy in order to purchase signs and other materials needed for ongoing outreach, as well as cover expenses like website hosting and newsletter software.
- Oversee chapter donations through the website.
- Send thank-you messages to all donors to express our chapter's appreciation.
- Recruit chapter members and guests to give the land acknowledgement at the beginning of each chapter meeting.
- 

## **Social Media Manager**

- Use the chapter's social media accounts (Facebook, Instagram, and Threads) 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.

## **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.



# The Climate Reality Project®

## SAN FERNANDO VALLEY, CA CHAPTER

### Graphic Designer

- Act as a graphic design resource for the chapter
- Source, download, and create text and images needed for the design and execution of visual promotional items including:
  - Monthly chapter meeting flyers
  - Committee social media campaigns
  - Community informational flyers
  - Book club meeting announcements
  - Templates for ongoing committee meeting announcements
  - Volunteer opportunities announcements

### Newsletter

- Gather content for next newsletter
- Connect with Chapter Meeting “Producers” to get up to date content
- Produce and send two newsletters a month
- Create additional Newsletters for specific topics (book club, Call to Action, etc.)
- Find additional ways to support the SFVCR team (including working with digital communications)

### Events Coordinator

- Identify inclusive activities for chapter members, family, and friends that encourage and increase membership and participation in chapter-led events.
- Create a calendar of suggestions and ideas for in person climate reality actions, activities and engagement
- Welcome and encourage other chapters, partners, like minded organizations and non-members to participate in shared activities.
- Share community resources and events for smaller group participation.
- Support Climate Reality goal of inclusion, education and advocacy of Climate activities, actions and events.
- Seek on-going input and feedback from chapter and participants and communicate calendar and updates

### 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.



# The Climate Reality Project®

## SAN FERNANDO VALLEY, CA CHAPTER

### Video Editing

- Give tips to the hosts on how to make for a good recording
- Monitor the meeting for unmuted attendees and other possible issues
- Edit chapter meeting videos
- Upload to SFVCR YouTube channel

### Artificial Turf Task Force

- Continue the fight to ban new installations of artificial turf in our schools, parks, and cities
- Educate the public about the dangers and harmful environmental effects of artificial turf
- Coordinate the efforts of multiple agencies and advocates to provide information and testimony supporting legislative and policy changes toward banning and removing artificial turf

### 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

### **Sharon Ungersma** (Chapter Chair & 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. The hyperlocal nature of the group appealed to me and felt accessible. Though I had no previous experience with Digital Communications, I enjoyed the learning experience of creating the chapter website and maintaining it, as well as the chapter's social media presence. I view SFVCR's digital presence as a way to spread the word about our chapter's existence and activities and encourage more local folks to take their first steps into climate activism. I am pleased to step into the role of Chapter Chair and devote more time to our chapter's climate efforts. I am a PhD physicist, currently a stay-at-home mom to two kids ages 11 and 15.



# The Climate Reality Project<sup>®</sup>

## SAN FERNANDO VALLEY, CA CHAPTER

### **Michele Ringler** (Vice Chair)

Michele is a passionate advocate for climate awareness and shifting from fossil fuels to carbon neutral policies. As someone who has held various leadership roles in the healthcare sector for over 25 years, Michele believes that the climate emergency is one of the greatest public health challenges that the world has ever faced. Inspired by The Inconvenient Truth, she completed the April 2021 Virtual Climate Reality Training and joined the SFV chapter, working with the Legislative Committee. Her focus is on fossil fuel reduction, water conservation, environmental justice, and preserving natural lands and habitats in our local communities.

### **Kathy Schaeffer** (Legislative Coordinator)

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 have been the legislative co-coordinator for the past 3 years, making contacts throughout the state and working on local and state legislation.

### **Sherrell Cuneo** (Legislative Coordinator)

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.

### **Amanda Martin** (Outreach)

Amanda Martin joined the Climate Reality Leadership training in October 2024, shifting from viewing sustainability and environmentalism as passions to embracing them as a full-time career. After years in the Entertainment Industry, she committed herself to meaningful change by joining the Climate Reality Outreach Team. By collaborating with other climate leaders, she hopes to inspire and engage more activists to tackle the most urgent crisis of our time.

### **Tara Sitser** (Graphic Designer)

Tara's love of nature and awareness of animal rescue issues began when she was a child. Seeing a circus on TV was, at first, magical but then, even as a 5 years old, she worried



# The Climate Reality Project®

SAN FERNANDO VALLEY, CA CHAPTER

that the animals weren't being treated well. Tara is a retired 40-year theater professional who, as an Artist in Residence in the Community College System, earned a State of CA Vocational Instructor Credential. Tara's second career as a computer consultant and software training specialist offered experience in technical writing and graphic design for clients such as Universal Studios and UCLA. Participating in the Climate Reality Project 2020 Leadership Training was a leap into learning about the history, science, and solutions available in the fight to heal our planet and an opportunity to support the effort to address the challenges of Climate Change.

## **Kim Neistadt** (Treasurer & Land Acknowledgment Coordinator)

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.

## **Judy Glass** (Environmental Justice & Rights of Nature)

I believe the climate crisis is the existential issue of our time. We already see the disappearance of plants, animals, birds and insects. Many others are on endangered lists. Human lives, too, depend on a sustainable future. Hence, our focus is on Rights of Nature as well as Environmental Justice. 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.

## **Zina Block** (Newsletter & Events Coordinator)

I have an undergraduate degree in Psychology, with a Master's in Counseling, Business, Industry & Government. I worked in HR in a variety of Fortune 500 Companies as well as smaller organizations. I've worked in Aerospace, Consumer Goods and Commercial Real Estate. Following in my father's footsteps, I have volunteered almost all my adult life in a multitude of capacities, which includes working with elementary school kids, adults and children with special needs, hospice patients, teaching English as a second language, mentoring young women in foster care, fundraising, event planning and community outreach. Currently, I am a Board Member of Heart of The Brain Foundation which raises funds for brain cancer research for UCLA. I am also on the board of Animal Tracks, an exotic animal sanctuary. Being with animals is my happy place. I don't remember where I



# The Climate Reality Project®

## SAN FERNANDO VALLEY, CA CHAPTER

learned about The Climate Reality Project but I joined because I want to help mitigate the damage our generation has done to our environment for my kids and all animals. I have learned so much from the meetings and am awed and inspired by the breadth, depth and heart of the people involved in this chapter.

### **Terry Saucier** (Artificial Turf Task Force)

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 includes sharing resources such as the L.A. Sustainability Department's Green New Deal Neighborhood 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.

### **Wayne Morgan** (Video Editing)

I am a retired electrical engineer who is advocating for a fast transition to electrifying buildings and transportation. I have converted our home to all electric, drive only EVs and generate enough energy on our roof to have an annual net extra. I have honed my video editing skills by editing the monthly SFV Climate Reality meetings for over a year and have recently assisted other climate groups with their video editing. I am presently chair of the South Central Coast (SCC) Climate Reality chapter which consists of the counties of San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara and Ventura. I really enjoy working with the SFV chapter and am looking for ideas from their organization to incorporate into the SCC chapter.

### **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.

### **Diana Weynand** (Chair Emeritus)

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



# The Climate Reality Project®

SAN FERNANDO VALLEY, CA CHAPTER

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

## **Vivian Deutsch** (Member At Large)

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.

## **Malcolm Orrall** (Member At Large)

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