



## 2022 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	Kathy Schaeffer	
Legislation	Sherrell Cuneo	
Member Mentoring	Sean Carlin	
Administrative Coordinator	Tara Sitser	
Treasurer	Kim Neistadt	
Education	Malcolm Orrall	
Partners Communication & Engagement	Kristy Pace	
Enviro. Justice & Rights of Nature	Judy Glass	
Bee the Change Actions	Amy Ellenberger	
Digital Communications & Website	Sharon Ungersma	
Sustainability Advocate	Terry Saucier	
Zero Waste Advocate	Andy Hattala	
Newsletter Production	Anwei Chen	



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

## SAN FERNANDO VALLEY, CA CHAPTER

## II. COMMITTEE DESCRIPTIONS

Below is a list of tasks and responsibilities for each position on the SFV Chapter Leadership Team. Each committee is led by a Committee Coordinator. The Leadership Team meets once a month to discuss chapter business and align efforts and projects to our chapter's mission and 2022 Strategic Plan.

### 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 the Vice Chair, support activities of committee coordinators.
- Lead monthly meetings for the SFV Leadership team.
- Guide the chapter along the SFV strategic plan and mission.
- Coordinate with digital communications, website and newsletter leads.

### Vice Chair

- Assist Chapter Chair in running the inner workings and organization of the chapter.
- Facilitate administration of chapter calendar.
- Lead or support 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 information about chapter meetings and events.
- Develop and sustain conduits to include: Online community websites, local online and hard copy news publications, other organizations' newsletters and Facebook pages, SF Valley colleges communications to students, etc.
- Update chapter mailing list in Mail Chimp using monthly meetings registration lists and weekly Climate Reality opt-in reports.



# The Climate Reality Project®

SAN FERNANDO VALLEY, CA CHAPTER

## 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.
- 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.



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

SAN FERNANDO VALLEY, CA CHAPTER

- 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.

## Education

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

- Research action items based on monthly speakers & themes.
- Write action items for newsletter and website.
- When appropriate, provide follow-up links for further action.
- Attend leadership meetings.



# The Climate Reality Project®

SAN FERNANDO VALLEY, CA CHAPTER

## Digital Communications

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

## 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

## Newsletter Production

- Create and maintain newsletters, keeping it up-to-date with accurate information regarding upcoming meetings and events.
- Maintain direct communication with other Chapter members to consistently provide detailed newsletter content.
- Explore and build new sections for any additional or recurring Chapter news.



# The Climate Reality Project®

SAN FERNANDO VALLEY, CA CHAPTER

## III. CANDIDATE INTRODUCTIONS

Below are the bios of the candidates who have applied to join the 2022 SFV Chapter Leadership team and the committee each will lead when elected. At the February 8th chapter meeting, there will be a vote to accept this slate of candidates in totality.

### **Diana Weynand** (Chapter Chair)

Diana is an author, producer, and editor. She's authored over 15 books on video and Apple's Final Cut Pro software. Her latest book, *LIPSTICK FOOTBALL*, is a motivational mashup of football and life. 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 and singer-songwriter.

### **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. In her spare time, she loves hiking, biking and spending time with her dog and best pal, Luna.

### **Vivian Deutsch** (Outreach)

I am worried about the future for all humans, and especially for my own children and grandchild. It seems clear that if we don't rein in and mitigate the extreme damage we are doing to the natural environment it will be catastrophic. I feel a personal responsibility to do whatever I can to prevent this from happening. In addition to my own individual efforts, our chapter of Climate Reality provides an effective way to work with others.

### **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 nationwide alliance of jurisdictions committed to upholding the standards of the Paris



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

## SAN FERNANDO VALLEY, CA CHAPTER

Accord. Recently relocated to his hometown of New York, Sean now serves the SFV Chapter in a Member Mentoring capacity.

### **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** (Co-Coordinator, Legislative)

Sherrell is a retired costumer, with a deep concern for the environment. She recently completed the Climate Reality virtual training program and is excited to have found a community of like minded people. In the past she has combined her sewing skills with her concern for endangered species to create community quilt projects, but is excited to be working with the Legislative Committee to help with the real work needed to fight Climate Change. She also enjoys gardening and native plants.

### **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



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

SAN FERNANDO VALLEY, CA CHAPTER

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.

## **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 Actions)

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 had no previous experience with Digital Comms, I learned by making the chapter website in November/December 2020 and



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

SAN FERNANDO VALLEY, CA CHAPTER

have enjoyed maintaining and improving it. I am working on building SFVCR's digital presence, especially during the pandemic when in-person activities are limited. I am also a physicist and mom to two kids ages 7 and 11.

## **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 Los Angeles in 2019 reinforced my commitment. In 2020 I joined the SFV Climate Reality group where I currently serve as the Sustainability Advocate, a member of the Legislative Committee and on the Programming Pod. 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 work to be a resource to monitor and report on local sustainability issues to the SFV Chapter. I look forward to continuing my role as the Sustainability Advocate 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.