



The Climate Reality Project®

SAN FERNANDO VALLEY, CA CHAPTER

2024 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-Coordiators	Kathy Schaeffer Sherrell Cuneo	
Member Mentoring	Sean Carlin	
Graphic Designer	Tara Sitsler	
Treasurer	Kim Neistadt	
Programming & Education	Malcolm Orrall	
Partners Communication & Engagement		
Environ. Justice & Rights of Nature	Judy Glass	
Speaker Training	Jeff Drongowski	
Digital Communications	Sharon Ungersma	
Programming & Education Coordinator, Sustainability Advocate	Terry Saucier	
Zero Waste Advocate, Water Specialist	Andy Hattala	
Newsletter	Zina Block	
YouTube Channel	Wayne Morgan	



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.
- Report to and coordinate with the Climate Reality Project 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.
- Along with the Vice Chair, provide oversight for committees and pods.
- Lead monthly meetings for the SFV Leadership team.
- Guide the 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 report to CRP
- Facilitate administration of chapter calendar.
- Lead the book club.
- 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 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.



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Legislation (con't)

- 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.

Graphic Designer

- Graphic Design resource for the chapter
- Source, download, and create text information and images needed for the design and execution of visual promotional items including:
 - Monthly Chapter meeting fliers
 - Committee social media campaigns
 - Community informational fliers
 - Book club meeting announcements
 - Templates for ongoing committee meeting announcements
 - Volunteer opportunities announcements

Administrative Coordinator

- Assist Chair and Vice Chair with administrative tasks as needed
- Help create and share Google docs (docs, sheets, polls, etc.)
- Do light graphics (place logos in letterheads)
- Help support tabling events and outreach efforts
- Maintain Leadership Team contact list



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Treasurer

- Maintain a financial balance sheet for the chapter.
- Oversee incoming and outgoing chapter financial transactions.
- Develop a fund-raising strategy and schedule 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.
- Obtain input from the chapter members and leadership team as to what educational topics would be helpful and appropriate.
- Meet monthly with the Programming & Education pod to plan and/or help coordinate the guest speaker presentations for the monthly Chapter meetings.
- Coordinate supportive educational opportunities with other Committee Coordinators.
- Produce programs for chapter meetings

Partnership Communications and Engagement

- Engage with outside organizations and chapter members to build relationships across and within Campaigns to strengthen our collective communities.
- Support in drafting communications with partner orgs new and old.
- Coordinate volunteer opportunities to participate with local and 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.



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Speaker Training

- Provide support, training, and motivation to chapter members looking to do more Climate Reality Presentations. Special focus on deck building, finding your own authentic voice, and standing in your power as an activist.
- Host two Speaker Training Bootcamps yearly or more as capacity and level of interest allows.
- Assist anyone trying to take this on in whatever way works for them.

Newsletter

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

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.
- 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.

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.



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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

YouTube Channel

- 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

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 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)

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.



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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 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)

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, as well as a founding member of the SFV Chapter of the Climate Reality Project. After training as a Climate Reality Leader in 2018, he worked directly with the Chief Sustainability Office of Los Angeles to bring L.A. into the County Climate Coalition, a nationwide alliance of local jurisdictions committed to upholding the standards of the Paris Accord. In addition, he has given public presentations in support of federal climate legislation, which we finally got in 2022, when President Joe Biden signed the Inflation Reduction Act, an historic investment in green infrastructure, into law. Having relocated to his hometown of New York during the pandemic, Sean now serves as the SFV Chapter's Membership Mentor.



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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 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)

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

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.



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Jeff Drongowski (Speaker Training)

Jeff Drongowski is an artist, a storyteller, and a passionate advocate for a sustainable and equitable future for all. Jeff spent most of his life chasing consumeristic goals, moving market share, and creating content for big corporations before finding the greater sustainability movement in 2018 and making some major changes. Jeff has completed the UCLA Extension Sustainability Certificate program, a further specialization in Sustainable Business and Management, is a Qualified Water Efficient Landscaper (QWEL), and a LEED Green Associate. Jeff has served as Co-Chair of the LA Chapter of Climate Reality, as Team Leader of the LACI FBA Climate Reality Partnership, and is active with the US Green Building Council. Jeff now helps cities, school districts, and other large entities reduce their water consumption with smart irrigation tools as a Technical Sales Representative for Calsense.

Zina Block (Newsletter)

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 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.

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. The hyperlocal nature of the group appealed to me and felt accessible. Though I had no previous experience with Digital Communications, I have enjoyed the learning experience of making the chapter website and maintaining it. 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 a PhD physicist, currently a stay-at-home mom to two kids ages 9 and 13.



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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 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.

Wayne Morgan (YouTube Channel)

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.