



## San Diego County Democrats for Environmental Action

### **Minutes for Jan. 18, 2017 Meeting**

Elijah's Restaurant and Deli  
7061 Clairemont Mesa Blvd.  
San Diego, CA 92111

**Minute Taker** – Cara Furio, Secretary

**Meeting called to order by President Tommy Hough at 7 p.m.**

### **Present**

- Tommy Hough, President
- Brian Elliot, First Vice President
- Fred Rogers, Second Vice President
- Brett Fisher, Treasurer
- Cara Furio, Secretary
- Richard Ram, Communications
- Alex Kiwan, Board Member-at-Large

**Members and Guests in Attendance** – 60

### **Approval of Agenda and Minutes**

- Tommy called for motion to approve the Nov. 2016 minutes. Kevin Lourens motioned to approve, seconded. Club voted to approve minutes.
- Tommy called for motion to approve Jan. 2017 Agenda, Joe LaCava motioned to approve, seconded. Club voted to approve agenda.

### **Remarks from Candidates and Elected Officials**

- Daniel Smiechowski, running for San Diego City Council District Two (D-2)

### **Treasurer's Report**

Treasurer Brett Fisher reported the club has \$4,911.49 in our account. FPPC report due at end of month.

## **President's Remarks and Welcome to New Members**

Tommy Hough, club president:

- Discussed the recent executive board retreat to plan for 2017, and addressed local issues as well as challenges with the incoming Trump administration.
- Discussed the proposed rollback of the 1973 Endangered Species Act (ESA), and how that could leave significantly-sized ecosystems vulnerable to habitat destruction and resource extraction.
- Announced club hike on Sat., Feb. 18, at 9 a.m. the Tijuana Slough Estuary in I.B. The flow of the Tijuana River and resultant slough and wetlands, as well as are wildlife corridors, would be impacted by a so-called "Border Wall" if constructed.
- Announced club hike on Sat., March 4, at 9 a.m. in El Monte County Park in Lakeside's El Monte Valley, which is threatened by a sand mine along the San Diego River.

## **Political Committee**

Fred Rogers, political committee chair and second vice president:

- Discussed bylaws changes to be voted on at Feb. 15 meeting.
- Announced executive board positions and election at Feb. 15 meeting.
- Talked about the active role the club will take in the election of a new commissioner to the California Coastal Commission.

## **Guest Speakers**

- Club member and wildlife biologist Renée Owens elaborated on the threat to native wildlife and habitat in the El Monte Valley from a sand mine, and a mine's potential impact on the area's biodiversity. Renée also encouraged members to contact congressional representatives to push back against a rollback of the ESA, and emphasized how the act creates thousands of jobs.
- Club members Derek and Nancy Casady announced a climate mobilization event on Tues., Feb. 21, outlining climate demands.
- Club Member Kevin Beiser announced his candidacy for re-election to the San Diego City School Board in 2018.
  - Discussed environmental improvements he's spearheaded in our local schools during his time on the board. Working on a climate action plan with Nicole Capretz for zero footprint in San Diego City Schools.
  - Announced a San Diego City Schools environmental forum at Kearny High School on Feb. 9 at 7 p.m.
- Maryanne Viney of Carlsbad Community Voices gave an update on the status of the Agua Hedionda Lagoon.
- Chula Vista city councilman Steve Padilla announced his candidacy for the California Coastal Commission, and shared details of his qualifications and prior term as a commissioner.

## **Upcoming Events**

Brian Elliott, programs and outreach chair and first vice president:

- Reiterated details on upcoming club hikes in Feb. and March, and announced at least three additional hikes for 2017, in addition to visits to the:
  - County Pure Water facility in later summer or early fall
  - Mass solar installations in the desert
  - Carlsbad desalination plant

## **Announcements**

- Tommy Hough thanked everyone for attending meeting at our new location.
- Brian Elliott announced Congressman Scott Peters has been appointed to the House Energy and Commerce Committee.

Meeting adjourned by Tommy Hough at 8:50 p.m. Next club meeting will be Feb 18, 2017, at Elijah's.