



San Diego County Democrats for Environmental Action  
**Minutes for February 24, 2016 Meeting**  
La Jolla Village Square Community Room  
8657 Villa La Jolla Dr.  
San Diego, CA 92037

**Minute Taker** – Cara Furio, Secretary

**Meeting called to order by President Tommy Hough at 7:00 pm**

**Present**

- Tommy Hough, president
- Brian Elliot, first vice president
- Fred Rogers, second vice president
- Brett Fisher, treasurer
- Cara Furio, secretary
- Lori Kern, events and fundraising

**Members and Guests in Attendance**

- 29

**Approval of Feb. 24, 2016 Agenda and Minutes from Jan. 27, 2016 Meeting**

- Tommy called for motion to approve agenda and minutes
- Fred Rogers made motion to approve agenda, seconded – agenda and minutes approved

**Remarks from Candidates and Elected Officials**

- Mark Gracyk, candidate for Helix Water District Three
- Martha Welch, candidate for San Diego City Council District Three
- Keith Mikas, candidate for San Diego City Council District Five
- Ed Harris, candidate for Mayor of San Diego, spoke about the necessity for city lifeguards to have authorization to save marine life injured, entangled in nets or otherwise threatened
- Bill Fowler, candidate for Carlsbad City Council

- Douglas Applegate, candidate for U.S. Congress in CA-49

### **Remarks from Club President**

- Closeness of the grassroots campaign to defeat Carlsbad Measure A. As of the meeting there were 200 more “no” votes than “yes,” leaving the No on A campaign with a very slim lead. At meeting time more absentee ballots needed to be counted; ultimately Measure A would fail by over 1,000 votes.
- Update on the firing of Dr. Charles Lester by the California Coastal Commission in Morro Bay several days earlier. The club had extended an invitation to commission alternate Olga Diaz to address the club regarding her vote to fire Dr. Lester, but we had not heard back from her by the time of the meeting. However, we wish to keep lines of communication open, and the invitation for her to address the club on her vote stands.
- Thanks to the efforts of Senator Dianne Feinstein, President Obama designated three new National Monuments in the Mojave Desert, as part of Sen. Feinstein’s 2010 California Desert Protection Act proposal. As of meeting time all three monuments were to be managed by the National Park Service, which affords a high level of protection and conservation:
  - Mojave Trails National Monument
  - Sand to Snow National Monument
  - Castle Mountains National Monument

### **Treasurer’s Report**

Treasurer Brett Fisher reported a balance of \$3,668.38

### **Political Committee**

Fred Rogers, political committee chair and second vice president, proposed bylaw changes for dues to be good from the day a member joins to one year later on same day. Fred also proposed club executive board members should serve full two year terms.

- Debbie Hecht motioned to approve – the motion was seconded, and the club voted to approve the bylaws changes
- Fred proposed to entertain an endorsement in the San Diego D-5 race at the April club meeting
- Supervisor Dave Roberts is seeking the club’s endorsement in his re-election bid in District 3; the club will entertain an endorsement at the March meeting
- Lori Kern motioned to revisit San Diego city council endorsements for D-9, but to limit the candidates to the top three “vote getters” from the November endorsement consideration: Ricardo Flores, Sara Saez and Georgette Gomez
  - Discussion
    - Jason Bercovitch expressed concern about legitimacy of vote
    - Tommy said the purpose for re-visiting the race would be to define a clear candidate endorsement; would be a healthy move for the race and provide a clear endorsement for club members

- Brett noted the club didn't take a "no position" stance at the November consideration, therefore the club could entertain another vote on the race
- Caridad Sanchez, chair of the club's elections committee, said the club can revisit a D-9 endorsement vote.
  - Motion made to agendaize a second consideration of the D-9 city council race for March
    - Tommy asked club member Howard Wayne for his thoughts on the matter
    - Howard motioned to amend the motion on the floor to re-visit the D-9 endorsement in March and instead move the endorsement vote to a point in time following the June primary
    - The motion carried

### **Elections Committee Report**

Fred introduced Caridad Sanchez, club elections committee chair to oversee executive board officers vote.

- Fred introduced two new positions to be added to the executive board: a new communications position, and a member at large
  - Club member Richard Ram was proposed for communications
  - Club member Alex Kiwan was proposed for member at large
- Fred called for motion to approve the two new positions and the slate of incumbent candidates for the club executive board
  - A motion to do so was made, seconded – the motion passed

### **Programs and Outreach**

First vice president Brian Elliott talked about club's first-ever hike and member outing, at Mission Trails Regional Park on Saturday, March 13, before the Barbara Bry fundraiser event that afternoon.

- An e-mail will be sent to members who would like to RSVP
- The hike will be led by club members Cara Furio and Renée Owens
- There will be no charge for the hike, and is open to members, friends, family or other interested parties

### **Guest Speaker**

Attorney Cory Briggs gave an excellent, hour-long presentation on the Citizens' Plan for San Diego.

### **Upcoming Meeting Details and Announcements**

- Tommy Hough announced a D-3 precinct walk with other environmental organizations and labor leaders in support of candidate Chris Ward will occur on

Saturday, March 19, beginning at 10:00 am. Club member are encouraged to attend and walk for the first candidate ever endorsed by San Diego County Democrats for Environmental Action.

- The next club meeting will be held Wednesday, March 23 at 6:30 pm at the La Jolla Village Square Community Room.

### **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned by Tommy Hough at 10:05 pm.