



SIERRA CLUB
SAN DIEGO CHAPTER

8304 Clairemont Mesa Blvd
San Diego, CA 92111
858-569-6005
www.sandigosierraclub.org

News Release

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CONTACT: George Courser
858-273-2426

Sierra Club Opposes SANDAG ½ Cent Tax Measure

Joins Growing List of Environmental Organizations, Elected Officials, Business and Labor Groups Opposing

SAN DIEGO, CA –The Sierra Club today joined the lengthy list of elected officials, environmental organizations, business and labor groups urging San Diego County residents to vote no on the SANDAG ballot measure to raise the county sales tax by ½ cent. “SANDAG’s ballot measure will do nothing to relieve traffic congestion, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and improve the health of our communities. It will spend our hard-earned tax dollars to worsen traffic problems, it fails to invest in systemic public transportation infrastructure, and it does not guarantee good jobs for local workers. SANDAG’s measure is bad for our environment, bad for underserved communities, bad for public transit, bad for taxes and bad for workers. We urge citizens to vote “no” on the SANDAG tax increase” stated Chapter Chair Davin Widgerow.

Conservation chair George Courser added, “Sierra Club San Diego cannot support any measure that threatens our future by intensifying the drivers of climate change. We are especially concerned that our underserved communities, such as those in the South Bay, will pay the highest price, both economically and environmentally.”

If passed, the measure would add an additional ½ cent tax to the existing ½ cent currently being collected by SANDAG. It could also prevent the City of San Diego’s recently adopted Climate Action Plan from reaching its goal of 100% renewable energy, and could jeopardize the city’s ability to secure state and federal dollars to fund sustainability efforts. The measure needs to be approved by a two-thirds majority of the voters.

Founded in 1892, the Sierra Club is the nation’s oldest and largest grassroots environmental organization. There are over 750,000 members in 50 states and Puerto Rico. The San Diego Chapter was founded in 1948 and has over 12,000 members. Serving San Diego and Imperial Counties, it strives to preserve the special nature of San Diego through education, activism and advocacy.

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