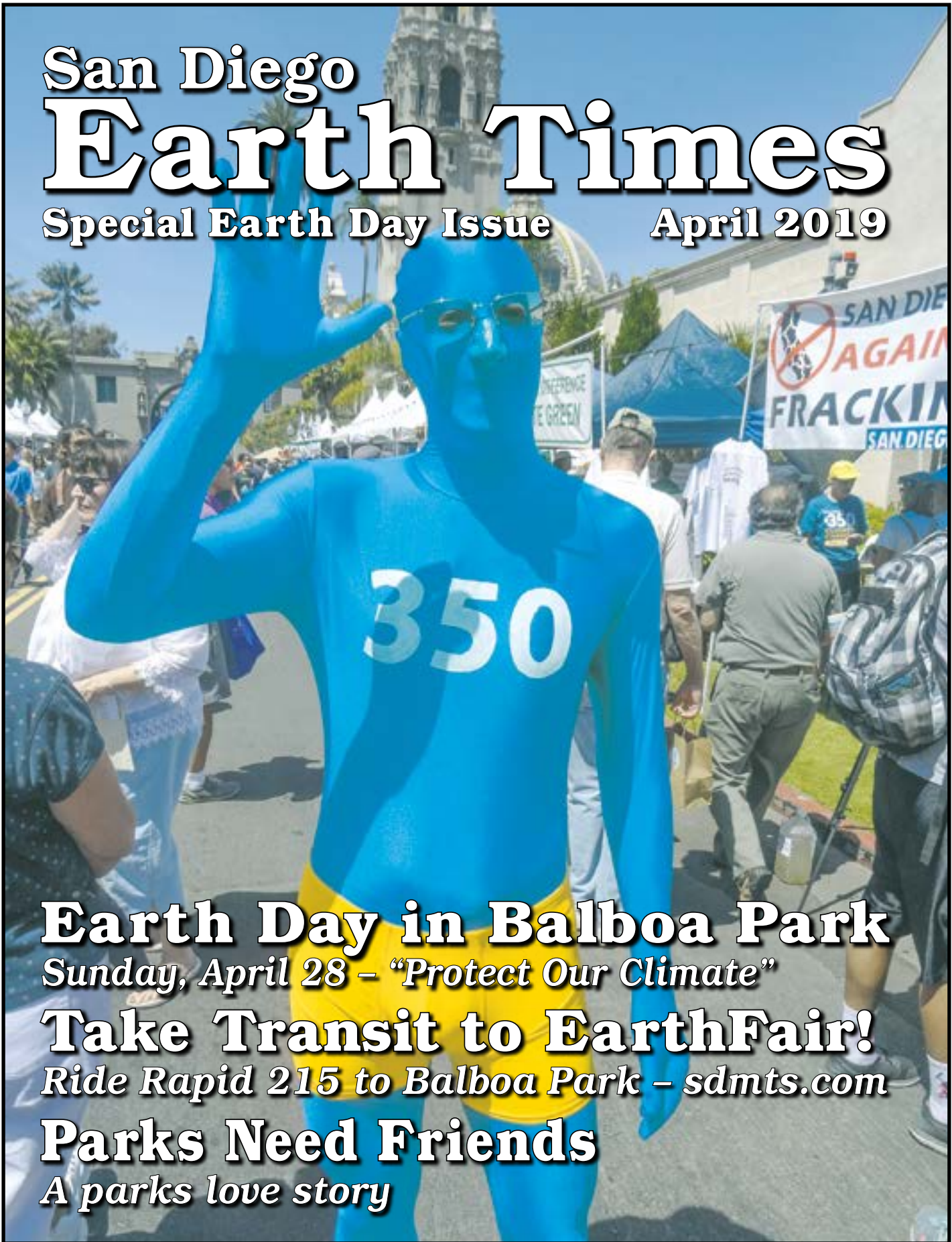


San Diego

Earth Times

Special Earth Day Issue

April 2019



Earth Day in Balboa Park

Sunday, April 28 - "Protect Our Climate"

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Ride Rapid 215 to Balboa Park - sdmts.com

Parks Need Friends

A parks love story

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Transit or Traffic?



by Carolyn Chase

Raise your hand if you think traffic is a choice. Well, it may not be your first choice, but it's the choice of our elected officials.

The choice of our governments is to grow at all costs and the #1 documented cost is time lost in transport. I served on San Diego's Planning Commission for a few years and now volunteer for my Community Planning Group, and I'm watching Community Plan Updates with interest.

We are not against growth per se, but we're fed up with stupid growth which is to say that our love affair with the car has blinded us to the need for well-designed transit in order for the City to grow-up to be great rather than traffic-limited.

Every big, great city has functioning transit to get around. There may be traffic, but most importantly, there are ways to get around without a car.

Sadly, here in Southern California, transit is still considered a welfare program for the poor who can't afford a car and not a requirement for a great, bigger city to function. Expensive (current estimate and rising for about 10+ miles is >\$1.2 Billion), slow, glamour-trolley projects slow down an already slow bus system where the vast majority of buses are stuck in traffic too.

The definition of transit priority areas, where "villages" are being added to plans and parking requirements are being eliminated, is that they are within a half-mile of a train station or 15-minute bus services. Problem is, most people don't want to walk more than 1/3 of a mile. Second – waiting as much as 15 minutes for the next bus? Only in la-la land where we don't know better would 15 minute services be considered fast enough for most to change to transit.

Without getting serious about increasing support for better-performing transit, we have to understand that the plan is for traffic to get so bad that you have two unpalatable choices. The first choice is to take the poor transit that does exist, or move. The second, without any practical options to get to major job centers, is to choose traffic. Those who can, rather than choosing traffic, are choosing stay home rather than shop retail. Let delivery services fight traffic.

Finally, to add insult to injury, where is the requirement for developments to pay a fair share toward transit within these areas? It doesn't currently exist. Plans are to ask voters to raise sales taxes to pay for the funds required to improve transit.

Yes but. Yes, transit deserves more funding. But regional planners must prove that the funds are going to improve transit service to regional job centers by creating a practical network of rapid bus/emergency lanes. And, prove that transit actually does reduce climate emissions, and that developers benefiting from transit-related "village" upzones will pay their fair share. **ET**

LOCAL ECOLOGY

[Parks need friends: a parks love story..... 5](#)

We play; we celebrate; we recreate; we walk, we bike, we skate, we paddle; We love our parks, but they are still being encroached upon, even today. Some public open spaces are neglected. Others risk being over-planned for growth.

[Ten ways to support our parks..... 5](#)

[Rose Creek native plant garden work party..... 6](#)

[San Diego's Green Deal:](#)

[2019 Climate Action Plan report card..... 7](#)

Spoiler: San Diego Region is not on track to meet local, regional, and state climate targets.

[Creek to Bay Cleanup..... 7](#)

NATIONAL ISSUES

[The Green New Deal, by the numbers 9](#)

The proposal would boost the US economy and eliminate fossil fuel use in ten years.

GLOBAL ECOLOGY

[Polish firm produces bee-saving paper 10](#)

One-third of our food supply, and much of the plant life in earth, depends on bees for pollination. And bee populations have been critically declining. This product could help make a difference.

EARTH DAY 2019

[EarthFair 2019 in Balboa Park on April 28 12](#)

A quick guide to what to see and do at the 30th annual celebration

[EarthFair 2019 Program and Map..... 15](#)

[Art and artists at EarthFair 20](#)

Watch local artists create murals, and help color in one yourself, at the Mural Wall at EarthFair.

[Tree walkabout: the wonderful trees of Balboa Park..... 20](#)

POLLUTION AND WASTE

[PU 4 PLU!..... 22](#)

All about those annoying little tags on fresh fruit.

[City of San Diego plastic ban takes effect..... 23](#)

... with Styrofoam having a special place in regulator's hearts.

[Before you buy new... 25](#)

Reduce waste by simple repairs and repurposing.

Special thanks to Jennifer Hewitson for creating this year's "Protect our Climate" artwork, shown on [page 15](#).

Cover photo by Carolyn Chase. The number 350 on the blue man's chest signifies climate safety: to preserve a livable planet, scientists tell us we must reduce the amount of CO₂ in the atmosphere from its current level of 400 parts per million to below 350.

San Diego Earth Times

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Parks need friends: a parks love story

WE PLAY; WE CELEBRATE; WE RECREATE; WE WALK, WE BIKE, WE SKATE, WE PADDLE; WE LOVE OUR PARKS BUT THEY ARE STILL BEING ENCROACHED UPON, EVEN TODAY. SOME PUBLIC OPEN SPACES ARE NEGLECTED. OTHERS RISK BEING OVER-PLANNED FOR GROWTH. KNOW YOUR PARKS AND PROTECT THEM.

by Carolyn Chase

By national measures, the City of San Diego has more acres of public parkland *per capita* than anywhere else. For this, I raise a toast to our forebears who fought to see parks and open spaces protected from encroachment as much as a possible. This toast includes the landowners and developers who cared about conservation and quality of life. This article is about how today's parks need your help.

Parks are us

This is tale of two “friends” groups active in and around Mission Bay Park: Friends of Rose Creek and Fiesta Island Dog Owners (FIDO). Both are run by volunteers who have taken it upon themselves to seek protections for their favorite piece of public open space. Both mobilize volunteers several times a year to clean-up and recycle trash leftover or dumped in the areas. Both are working to get the City of San Diego to increase protections. Both are great examples of how to make

difference and why people still have to fight for protections.

Friends of Rose Creek

Rose Creek has its own watershed that drains Rose Canyon from Miramar Base into Mission Bay Park west of I-5 in eastern Pacific Beach. Karin Zirk has lived in the neighborhood next to the creek for 17 years and is the driving and sometimes exhausted force behind efforts to get the City to take better care of Lower Rose Creek (note: Friends of Rose Canyon looks after Upper Rose Creek). Lower Rose Creek is an urban gem where the City is adding a “village” by planning an additional 4,000 units nearby.

Friends of Rose Creek’s vision is for lower Rose Creek to be protected as public parkland in order to keep this precious piece of wildlife



Lower Rose Creek: part of this urban watershed just before it empties into Mission Bay,

and water. The City’s current status is to ignore it maintenance-wise but keep it as a location for a potential storm water treatment plant.

Friends of Rose Creek asks you to attend the City Council April 9th hearing. Visit their website: SaveRoseCreek.org for info on how to help.

(Continued on page 6)



Dogs enjoying a sunset run in the water at Fiesta Island Dog Park, one of only 2 beaches – and the only bay front – in City of San Diego that allows dogs.

Ten Ways to Support Our Parks

Thanks to ParksProject.US for the inspiration #radparks

- 1. Know Your Park:** learn about its significance, the importance of preservation, and any threats.
- 2. Volunteer:** participate in clean-ups, restoration, and/or maintenance projects.
- 3. Get Involved:** join a local conservation or environmental group to stay informed on park issues in your community.
- 4. Leave No Trace:** when visiting parks, pack it in, pack it out. In life, move towards zero waste.
- 5. Respect Nature:** Do not disturb plants, wildlife, or natural features.
- 6. Reduce Your Environmental Impact:** reduce and mitigate your climate change emissions, including reducing, reusing, and recycling.
- 7. Donate:** what you can to non-profit groups that work to protect parks.
- 8. Share:** Be an advocate. Share your park knowledge with friends and family.
- 9. Take Action:** support candidates that vote for policies that protect parks. Contact your representatives on behalf of your parks.
- 10. Enjoy Your Parks!**

Rose Creek native plant garden work party

SECOND SATURDAY OF EVERY MONTH: APRIL 13, MAY 11, JUNE 8...
9:00 AM TO 11:00 AM • PACIFIC BEACH

Join Friends of Rose Creek for native plant gardening on the second Saturday of every month, from 9AM until 11AM. Snacks and tap water will be provided. Please bring your own water bottles.

Meet behind the Rose Creek Cottage, 2525 Garnet Ave. in Pacific Beach. Park on



Put on some sturdy pants and shoes...

Fogg Street just South of Garnet.

Help with weeding, watering, removing invasive non-native plants and trash, and planting native species (fall and winter months). Get involved with your creek and your community, hands-on! Our easy one- to two-hours projects are great for children



and help move some of this crap...

of all ages. Community service credit hours are available.

Please wear sunscreen, closed-toe shoes, and a hat. Volunteers should bring water and heavy-duty work or gardening gloves. Heavy rain cancels. Drizzle means we work. **ET**



out of this guy's living space.

Park friends

(cont from page 5)

Fiesta Island – Paradise for dog owners

As a result of a political battle in the early 70s, all city beaches were closed to dogs with the exception of Dog Beach in Ocean Beach and most of Fiesta Island. Each has a distinct kind of shoreline available.

Too Big

The whole of Fiesta Island was too big for many dog owners to use. When the fenced area on the Southwest corner became open to the public, dog owners discovered what many now describe as “doggie paradise”: about 90 acres of fenced open-space and about a 1-mile walking perimeter around the shoreline.

Just Right

It's big enough to allow dogs and their owners to walk and exercise together; but not so big that you can't get your dog back (with reasonable effort).

Stop a Road Through It

Fiesta Island Dog Owners (FIDO) is the friends' non-profit run by volunteers intent on protecting the unique character of the fenced, off-leash location.

The city: not so much.

One proposal being heard at City Council in May proposes to divide the dog park with a road. FIDO has proposed, and asks the public to support, Option B. This option leaves the fenced area intact and removes other intrusions. They are asking people to attend the City Council hearings in May.

Visit their website: FIDOSD.org for more info and to join their email list for notices. Or follow them on Fiesta Island Dog Owners on Facebook.

Friends need persistence

Another things friends groups have in common is persistence and vigilance. Effective policies require patience. You don't always win. You can't always get what you want. But you usually can gain some things over time and you often can stop encroachments – if you're vigilant.

In urban areas like San Diego, parks need friends. Without individual members of the public standing up and fighting for park protections and services, in cities, parks get encroached upon.

Rose Creek faces growth

The City's Balboa Avenue Station Area Specific Plan (BASASP) is designed to create a high-density residential community within a “transit priority zone” west of the Mid-Coast Trolley stop servicing Pacific Beach and Clairemont.

The BASASP identifies lower Rose Creek in this area as critical for the densification and relies on its open space and the Rose Creek Bike Path for safe ingress and egress from Pacific Beach to the station. But it does not address ongoing maintenance issues created [\(Continued on page 27\)](#)



Fiesta Island's unique mix of beach and bay-side mesa provides a natural playground for dog of all sizes and breeds.

San Diego's Green Deal: 2019 Climate Action Plan report card

SPOILER: SAN DIEGO REGION IS NOT ON TRACK TO MEET LOCAL, REGIONAL, AND STATE CLIMATE TARGETS.

by Alice Martinez

Earlier this year the San Diego-based Climate Action Campaign released the 3rd Edition of its Climate Action Plan Report Card, which assesses the city's Climate Action Plan (CAP) implementation efforts in the San Diego Region. The report shares regional trends as well as scores progress of individual cities

The Report Card states that the San Diego Region is not on track to meet local, regional, and state climate targets.

The City of San Diego achieved a 98/100 for its CAP and a 64/100 for implementation, with a final score of 81.

The city earned points for progress towards implementation of a Community Choice Energy Program and the initiation of construction of the Downtown Mobility Plan Cycle Track Network, but lost points for lack of progress towards the transportation mode share targets, equitable implementation, and urban tree canopy.

Issues bringing down the score included:

- Climate is still not a top priority for cities
- Transportation near jobs and housing
- Equity
- Climate not embedded in every decision
- County of San Diego jeopardizes regional progress by continuing sprawl without transit

Areas for Improvement:

- Transportation
- Equity
- Urban Tree Canopy

The recommendations below were made to help the city address CAP implementation more effectively.

Climate Action Campaign recommendations

- Complete the Transportation Master Plan as a roadmap to reach the CAP mode share targets.
- Require all staff reports to address CAP

impacts. If applicable, identify which Climate Action Plan strategies would be hindered or supported by the action presented (similar to the Fiscal Considerations and Environmental Impact sections).

- Include a CAP Five-Year Forecast as an addendum to the Five-Year Financial Outlook on an annual basis. A five-year implementation plan for the CAP, with associated costs, would offer the Mayor and Council a clear understanding of the actions and investments needed to hit the 2020 and 2035 CAP targets.
- In CAP annual monitoring reports, include

The city earned points for progress towards implementation of a Community Choice Energy program and the initiation of construction of the Downtown Mobility Plan Cycle Track Network, but lost points for lack of progress towards the transportation mode share targets, equitable implementation, and urban tree canopy.

a description of actions taken towards implementing each action in the CAP.

Environmental Justice?

The Environmental Health Coalition recommended “Start Here, Start Now” to address environmental justice, noting that “Equity is mandated in the CAP.” In San Diego, Environmental Justice (EJ) communities are hit first and worst by the harmful effects

of climate change. They are home to the largest sources of climate change emissions and toxic pollution known to cause serious health impacts. They therefore requested that the investments in impacted communities be increased by the year 2020 such that it be “proportionate to the population (about 60% of the total)”.

Other recommendations included: transparent direct and indirect funding reporting, increase staff capacity, retention of state resources, and ensuring that regional transportation plans meet climate change emissions targets. “Zero-emission transit and trucks” and improving transit connections to jobs were identified as key improvements.

Annual Report from the City of San Diego

The city provides an annual report and technical appendix. The 2018 Climate Action Plan Annual Report Appendix can be found at www.sandiego.gov/sustainability

A few highlights of the city's report is below, primarily focused on calendar year 2017 data compared to a 2010 baseline:

- 13 percent growth in sustainability-related jobs
- 11 percent reduction in residential energy use

[\(Continued on page 10\)](#)

Creek to Bay Cleanup

SATURDAY, APRIL 27 9AM – NOON

This annual event takes place at more than 100 sites in San Diego County, and lower Rose Creek is one of them. The mission of the event is to engage community members in removing debris from San Diego's beaches, waterways, canyons,

and parks. For the Rose Creek cleanup, meet at 9am at Mission Bay High School.

Find other locations at Creektobay.org. For events on other dates, visit www.ilacsd.org/events/category/events/ **ET**



Driving positive environmental change — inside our company and within the communities we serve — is one of the most important things we do.

In 2007, we launched our national sustainability program, Cox Conserves, and over the past decade we've made meaningful progress in our journey to become a more sustainable company. Visit CoxConserves.com for more details.

National Issues

The Green New Deal, by the numbers

THIS VISION WOULD BOOST THE U.S. ECONOMY AND ELIMINATE FOSSIL FUEL USE IN TEN YEARS.

provided by Kate Schimel / High Country News

Not long after Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, D-N.Y., was elected last November, she began gathering support for a “Green New Deal,” mobilizing young climate activists and pushing Democratic leaders to pursue the concept.

The idea, which was first floated by New York Times columnist Thomas Friedman in 2007, is modeled on Franklin D. Roosevelt’s sweeping Depression-era New Deal and proposes tackling climate change as a massive job creator to boost the American economy. In its current form, it also marries climate action with a host of other progressive aims.

On Feb. 7, Ocasio-Cortez introduced a nonbinding resolution articulating what a Green New Deal might include, from eliminating fossil fuels entirely to establishing universal health care and ensuring stronger rights for Indigenous people and nations. Here’s the proposal — and some context — by the numbers.



PHOTO BY DINITRI RODRIGUEZ/CC VIA FLICKR

Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, D-N.Y., at the New York City Women’s March in January 2019.

- 68** Number of co-sponsors of the nonbinding resolution as of February 15.
- Zero** Number of Republicans who have signed on.
- 35%** Percentage of co-sponsors who come from Western states, including California, Washington, Colorado, and Arizona.
- \$4.03** Average hourly wage for a US worker in January 1973.
- \$23.68** Equivalent hourly wage in today’s dollars, in terms of purchasing power.
- \$22.65** Average hourly wage of a US worker as of July 2018.
- 457,169** Estimated number of jobs in the wind and solar energy industries as of 2017.
- 11.3%** Estimated percentage of the energy Americans used in 2017 that came from wind, solar, hydropower and biomass.
- 80%** Estimated percentage of the energy Americans used in 2017 that came from fossil fuels.
- Zero** Percentage of the energy mix in the Green New Deal resolution that would come from fossil fuels.
- 10** Number of years the resolution proposes for achieving that goal.



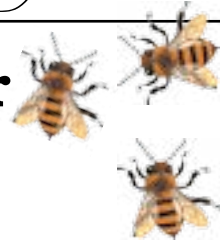
Find out what the new generation has to say. Visit High Tech High students’ ECO Project Youth Voice Stage at EarthFair, in the Plaza de Panama, in front of the Timkin Gallery.

- Just over one** Number of centuries fossil fuels have dominated US energy consumption.
- 8%** Percent by which natural gas production is expected to rise in 2019, projected to be the highest year on record.
- \$500 billion** Projected annual cost of climate change to the US economy by 2100, if temperatures increase by 2 degrees Celsius (3.6 degrees Fahrenheit) or more.
- \$1 trillion** Projected cost of climate change-related infrastructure and coastal real estate damage in the US, if temperatures increase by 2 degrees Celsius (3.6 degrees Fahrenheit) or more.

This story was originally published at High Country News (hcn.org) on Feb. 19, 2019. Kate Schimel is an associate editor at High Country News, overseeing Alaska, the Pacific Northwest, and the Northern Rockies.

Polish firm produces bee-saving paper

ONE-THIRD OF OUR FOOD SUPPLY, AND MUCH OF THE PLANT LIFE IN EARTH, DEPENDS ON BEES FOR POLLINATION. AND BEE POPULATIONS HAVE BEEN CRITICALLY DECLINING. THIS PRODUCT COULD HELP MAKE A DIFFERENCE.



provided by Saatchi & Saatchi IS

Probably the first paper nature would love you to litter with has just been released. Bees and other pollinating insects are thought to be responsible for keeping 90% of all wild plants in existence. The pollination “services” provided by bees are estimated to have a global economic value of €150 billion (\$169 billion).

Unfortunately, bee numbers are declining. In fact, in Poland, 222 out of 469 species are already on the verge of the extinction. The potential absence of bees poses a great risk to the economy and to human prosperity.

Why the decline?

This dramatic decline is a result of multiple factors, including the extensive use of pesticides, rapid industrialization, and unprecedented urban development. All of this makes bees have to fly much further in search of the plants they need. Long distances exhaust them. As a result, many of them lack

the energy to survive, and they end up on the ground, dying.

To the rescue...

To help bees, Saatchi & Saatchi IS Warsaw has teamed up with City Bees, an organization that encourages a passion for bees in urban communities, to launch Bee Saving Paper: a unique project that aims to promote an innovative, biodegradable material that can be used for many purposes and works like an energy drink for bees.

Bee Saving Paper has been developed with Manufaktura Papieru Czerpanego w Kobylce, thanks to close cooperation between many professionals, including entomology experts and other paper craftsmen. It contains a unique form of energy-rich glucose and honey plant seeds, and is covered in water-based UV paint that is applied in patterns that are seen by bees as a meadow full of pollen.

The special kind of glucose in the paper



Closeup view of Bee Saving Paper.

doesn't make the paper sticky, and gives bees a boost of energy. What the bee leaves behind, once it's revived and continues on its flight, is a seed from one of its favorite plants, *Lacy Phacelia*. This plant will grow and flower, and next season, more bees will benefit from it as they stop on their long journeys.

“We've managed to develop and

[\(Continued on page 12\)](#)

SD Green Deal

[\(cont from page 7\)](#)

- 13 percent reduction in daily per capita water use
- 3 percent reduction in municipal energy use
- 45 percent use of renewable electricity citywide
- 6,800 linear feet of improved sidewalks
- 25 compressed natural gas municipal solid waste trucks in operation in 2017 – now at 36 compressed natural gas municipal solid waste trucks in operation currently.

While nearly all actions in the Climate Action Plan are in progress, major areas of focus for 2019 are around 100% renewable energy, mobility, and climate resilience. Additionally, the 2015 CAP states that an update will occur by 2020.

The city's plan is still considered a model

for other cities in the state and country.

The city was named a Top 20 leadership city in Bloomberg Philanthropies American Cities Climate Challenge, which includes a wraparound award of approximately \$2.5 million.

This grant aims to achieve short-term (2020), high impact projects in the transportation and building sectors and includes a fully funded 2-year city advisor position.

Additionally, the city received a \$150,000 grant from the Active Transportation Grant Program for an education, encouragement, and awareness campaign titled “MoveFreeSD” to encourage commuters to choose active forms of transportation and transit through a series of educational opportunities and events.

Another two grants came from the Energy Commission. The first was \$1.9 million

to install energy monitoring systems in five municipal building locations, and the second awarded \$2.7 million to convert three existing libraries (Malcom X, Point Loma, and Serra Mesa) to zero net energy buildings.

The city is currently developing a climate adaptation and resiliency plan, a project being led by the Planning Department, through a multi-year process funded partially through \$500,000 of grants awarded by Caltrans, the State Coastal Conservancy, and the California Coastal Commission. The development of this plan is a multi-year process that will address potential impacts to the city and infrastructure from a changing climate.

While the Annual Report demonstrated continued progress, there are still many opportunities and much work to be done to reduce the city's carbon footprint. **ET**



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EarthFair 2019 in Balboa Park on April 28

CHOOSE WISELY: WHAT TO SEE AND DO AT THE 30TH ANNUAL CELEBRATION.

EarthFair 2019, presented by MESO Healthy, is San Diego's 30th annual event. EarthFair is the largest free annual environmental fair and Earth Day celebration in the world, and has been for decades!

Produced by 300+ volunteers, EarthFair 2019 will feature more than 300 exhibitors, 3 food courts, a Children's Activity Area, four entertainment stages, the Earth Day Parade, the eARTH Gallery eco-arts and crafts show, and two sustainable beer gardens.

Earth Day is a "big tent" celebration, including everyone and everything that concerns the care and preservation of our environment. EarthFair mirrors this broad view.

Exhibitors

The exhibitors are the heart of EarthFair. They represent every type of non-profit organization, governmental department, and commercial enterprise with goods, services,

Bee-saving paper

(cont from page 10)

produce what is probably the first paper nature would not only like you to use, but maybe even to drop" said Tomasz Bujok and Anna Gadecka, senior creatives on the project. "Currently, we are focusing – through beesavingpaper.com – on seeking partners who, just like us, care about the future of bees. We know our innovation won't solve the worldwide problem of the declining bee population by itself, but we hope we'll at least make people realize how important bees are to us."

Field tests

Bee Saving Paper has already passed a successful field test, when it was used to create the visual identity – or as the creators prefer to call it, beesiness identity – for a beekeeper who had lost more than 95% of his hives. Now it's ready for mass production and collaboration with bigger brands. **ET**

or causes that address our environment and quality of life.

It's impossible to list everything you'll find at EarthFair: traditional conservation organizations, wildlife preservation groups, green building, products made from natural and organically grown crops, electric cars, gardening information, alternative energy vehicles, ecotourism opportunities, many alternative and traditional health care products and services, clean air and clean water products, habitat preservation groups... the list goes on and on.

Use our Exhibitor Finder on the web at EFExh.org to local exhibitors by topic.

If your organization, club, or company is interested in exhibiting at EarthFair, please visit www.EarthDayWeb.org.

Special for Kids

In our Children's Activity Area, you'll find crafts, games, face painting, and hands-

For more information about the project, visit the website: www.beesavingpaper.com.



Honey jar with Bee Saving Paper Label. What we see as an off-white paper stock (left), bees see as a pollen-rich field (right).

on activities for children of all ages. Activities are designed to educate, entertain, and inspire youth in the spirit of Earth Day. Participants can take part in a number of eco-friendly projects and crafts, including Jeanné's Connecting with Nature gardening project and the "Trashed" Scavenger Hunt.

Earth Day Parade

The Earth Day Parade begins at 10:30AM; see the map on pages 16-17 for the route. Participants are invited to dress up as endangered species or present their favorite earth-friendly messages. To find out more, see photos of previous parades, or to register, visit www.EarthParade.org. Entry is free!

This year's **Parade Grand Marshall is San Diego County Supervisor Nathan Fletcher.**

eARTH Gallery

The eARTH Gallery features crafts made from recycled, discarded, or waste materials and artwork depicting "Endangered Spaces" in San Diego County. The Gallery is located close to the corner of Park Blvd. and Presidents Way, next to our International Food Pavilion and the Moon Stage. For information about displaying or selling your eco-arts or



From simple signs to elaborate costumes, everyone with an earth-friendly message is welcome in the Earth Day Parade.

by Chris Klein



The Fixit Clinic meets regularly to help community members get their broken stuff up and running, by doing repairs and by training attendees how to do it themselves. Visit them at the Reuse & Repair area.

-crafts, please visit EarthGallery.org.

If You Care, Repair

The San Diego Reuse & Repair Network, The County of San Diego, the City of Chula Vista, and the City of San Diego are sponsoring a special area at EarthFair to showcase "higher use" ways to keep items out of the landfill. The message is simple: fix it, don't pitch it. See the article on [page 25](#).



The eARTH Gallery features a wide variety of hand-made arts and crafts for sale, like these exotic paintings.

Cleaner Car Concourse & EVs

Since 2009, our Cleaner Car Concourse has featured alternative-fuel and high-efficiency privately-owned vehicles of all descriptions (hybrids included). See the vehicles and hear enthusiastic owners talk about them. The vehicles will be on display in the Pan American Plaza.

In addition, this year San Diego Gas & Electric's Plug-in EV Program is sponsoring a show of new electric vehicles in the Plaza de Panama. (Personally, I've been driving electric



The Cleaner Car Concourse offers a closeup view of all-electric and energy-efficient vehicles, like this early model Tesla. Talk to the owners and get your questions answered.

cars for many years. You want one... you just may not know it yet.)

Youth Voice Stage

High Tech High's ECO Project' Youth Voice Stage will host a variety of teen poets, speakers, and storytellers advocating for growth, awareness, and justice surrounding environmental issues. You can find the stage in front of the Timkin Modern Art Museum on the Plaza De Panama.

Cannabis Row

EarthFair has hosted hemp-related exhibitors since 1996. Beginning in 2017, enabled by the easing of legal restrictions on cannabis products, we dedicated a large exhibit area exclusively to the presentation of cannabis-related goods, services, and causes. Consistent with the popularity of this area with both exhibitors and visitors in 2017 and 2018, in 2019 we again dedicate this area – designated Cannabis Row – to cannabis/hemp goods and services.

(Continued on page 14)

Choose Transit for Earth Day!

Take any Blue or Orange Trolley Line to the City College Station in downtown San Diego. The station is located between 11th Ave. and Park Blvd., and C St. and Broadway. The Route 7 bus stop is just steps away at the corner of 11th Avenue and C Street. Or, walk up Park Blvd. Remember to get a Day Pass when you start your trip on the trolley.

Use the Transit Trip Planner online at transit.511sd.com. For automated schedule info, call: 619-685-4900.

Remember, riding MTS buses and trolleys make every day "EARTH DAY." When you use transit instead of driving a car, you reduce greenhouse gases, slow global warming, and improve our air quality. Saving just one gallon of gas can eliminate 19 pounds of carbon dioxide emissions.

EarthFair 2019
 presented by MESO Healthy
50,000 Visitors – 350 Exhibitors
 Managed by 300 Volunteers...
... AND YOU!
Make it happen.
VOLUNTEER at EFVol.org

EarthFair 2019

(cont from page 13)

... and the Cannabis Row Backstage Lounge

If you are intrigued by the Cannabis Row offerings, you may want to take part in the Cannabis Row MESO Healthy VIP Lounge hosted by Sensi Magazine, backstage at the Sun Stage. Relax and recuperate while learning about cannabis brands and mingling with Sun Stage performers. Entry fee includes beverages, food vouchers redeemable at EarthFair food courts, \$10 off EarthFair organic T-shirts, a hemp swag bag (for first 250 attendees) and access to the URBN buses. Attendees will have a chance to experience Deploy VR's award-winning virtual reality scenario "Tree." Advance tickets may be ordered online through 4/27/19 for \$35; or at the door for \$40. Available to ages 21 and up.

Ocean Conservation

The Pacific Ocean is our backyard and oceans around the world have been subjected to rising plastic and carbon pollution.

Find out how you can help by visiting these groups at the EarthFair, all together this year on the south side of El Prado, west of the Plaza de Panama:

- Pacific Marine Mammal Center: www.pacificmmc.org
- Ocean Connectors:

On-line EarthFair Exhibitor Finder

To help you find specific exhibitors that present what YOU are interested in, we have a special web-based service.

Go to EFExh.org. You will find a list of 60 topics, like "Climate Change," "Peace," "Solar-electric" and "Waste Reduction." Check off the topics you are interested in, press the "Show Exhibitors" button, and the system will list the exhibitors that address those topics, their exhibit descriptions, and a link to their websites. One week before EarthFair, we will also list their exhibit locations.

oceanconnectors.org

- CoastKeepers San Diego: www.sdcoastkeeper.org
- Route USA: routeusa.org
- Surfrider San Diego Chapter: sandiego.surfrider.org
- Oceana So Cal: usa.oceana.org
- SD 350: sandiego350.org

Sponsored by Sand Cloud, all of these groups make a difference for marine conservation in their own way.

In addition, Sand Cloud is sponsoring artist Jared Blake Lazar, who will be producing a Whale Shark mural at the Mural Wall Project. See details on page 26.

Don't forget to eat!

This year, EarthFair features three International Food Courts: one in the Plaza de Panama in the north end of the park; one centrally located on the Federal Building lawn, in the Pan American Plaza; and one next to the Moon Stage at Park Blvd. and Presidents Way, in the south.

When you think of food at a "fair," what comes to mind? Hot dog on a stick. Cotton candy. Burgers. Fried everything. You know: American food.

Here are some items you'll find at EarthFair this year: Turkish, Polish, African, Filipino, and Hungarian dishes; samosas, sambusas, papusas, and pierogis; organic salads; Portobello sandwich; vegan tacos; cabbage and mushroom steamed buns. There are many more items, but I'm running out of space.

All food served at EarthFair is vegetarian, and much is vegan. And it's really good. Any other considerations aside, animal-based diets are hard on the environment, so we forgo meat items in observance of Earth Day. (If you are a dedicated carnivore, give it a try, you'll be surprised – for the better.)

Think Globally, Drink Locally

Visit our two Beer Gardens, in the Plaza de Panama (in front of the Museum of Art), and next to the Sun Stage (behind the Federal Bldg). Refresh yourself with Sierra Nevada Sierraveza, their easy-drinking light lager, or Hazy Little Thing, unfiltered IPA. Also featured this year are two kombucha varieties from Boochcraft: Ginger + Lime + Rosehips, and Apple + Lime + Jasmine.

First, you have to get there

If you plan on arriving at EarthFair after 10:00AM, there will be little or no car parking close to the park. Try one of these alternatives: **bike, transit, car sharing, or off-site parking.**

Ride a bike

The San Diego County Bicycle Coalition will offer free, guarded bike parking in two locations (see map on pages 16-17):

- On Village Place (off of Park Blvd., south of the Zoo).
- West of the Laurel St. Bridge (just before crossing the bridge to enter the park).

If you don't want to ride the entire way to the park, drive part way, park in a convenient spot, and ride the rest of the way.

Ride public transportation

There is a trolley stop about a ten-minute walk from the Park, and San Diego Transit runs extra buses for EarthFair. See the details in the **Choose Transit for Earth Day** box on page 13, and on the web at EFGo.org.

Taxi and Car Sharing

Car sharing drop-off is available on 6th Avenue, north of Laurel.

Off-site Parking


About 1,000 off-site parking spaces are provided at City College, a short walk from EarthFair. For a map and instructions on how to get to the City College lots, visit EFGo.org.

No wheels in the park!

Wheeled vehicles are prohibited inside the park during EarthFair. You can ride a scooter across the bridge, for example, but no further. Wheelchairs are exempted.

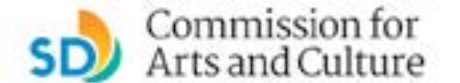
And... VOLUNTEER!

It takes more than 300 volunteers to produce EarthFair. In fact, without this community participation, EarthFair would not be possible. Come make a difference and help create a fun, safe, productive event for 50,000 of our closest friends.

There are 22 different volunteer jobs, and multiple shifts: some are active and physical, others mental and social, still others almost contemplative. No experience required – you will be trained so you know exactly where to go and what to do. Work one 3-hour shift, or pitch in all day. Your choice. Check it out: EFVol.org. 

SAN DIEGO EARTHWORKS' EARTHFair 2019

PRESENTED BY MESO HEALTHY
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30th San Diego Earth Day 2019



30TH ANNUAL



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San Diego EarthWorks acknowledges and thanks our sponsors and supporters, without whose generous support the EarthFair would not be possible.

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 URBN Leaf
 Cox Communications
 City of San Diego Dept. of Environmental Services
 Wheelhouse Credit Union
 Metropolitan Transit System (MTS)
 Plus CBD Oil • Solar Turbines
 EDCO Waste & Recycling Services
 County of San Diego
 Solid Waste Planning & Recycling
 City of Chula Vista
 Sierra Nevada Brewing • Boochcraft
 San Diego County Bicycle Coalition
 Urban Corps of San Diego
 Zero Waste San Diego
 Radio Latina • Loma Media

Sun Stage Federal Bldg. Lawn

Produced by The Honey Flower Collective and Sensi Magazine



10:00 Welcome
 10:10 Michael Gabriel and MC Flow – Hip Hop
 10:30 Sensi Trails – Reggae
 11:30 Lucy Morningstar – Reggae
 12:30 Skunk Dub – Reggae
 1:30 Unsteady – Reggae
 2:30 Cappo Kelly – Reggae
 3:14 Speakers and Awards – SD Cannabis Award
 4:00 Fluid Foundation – Reggae

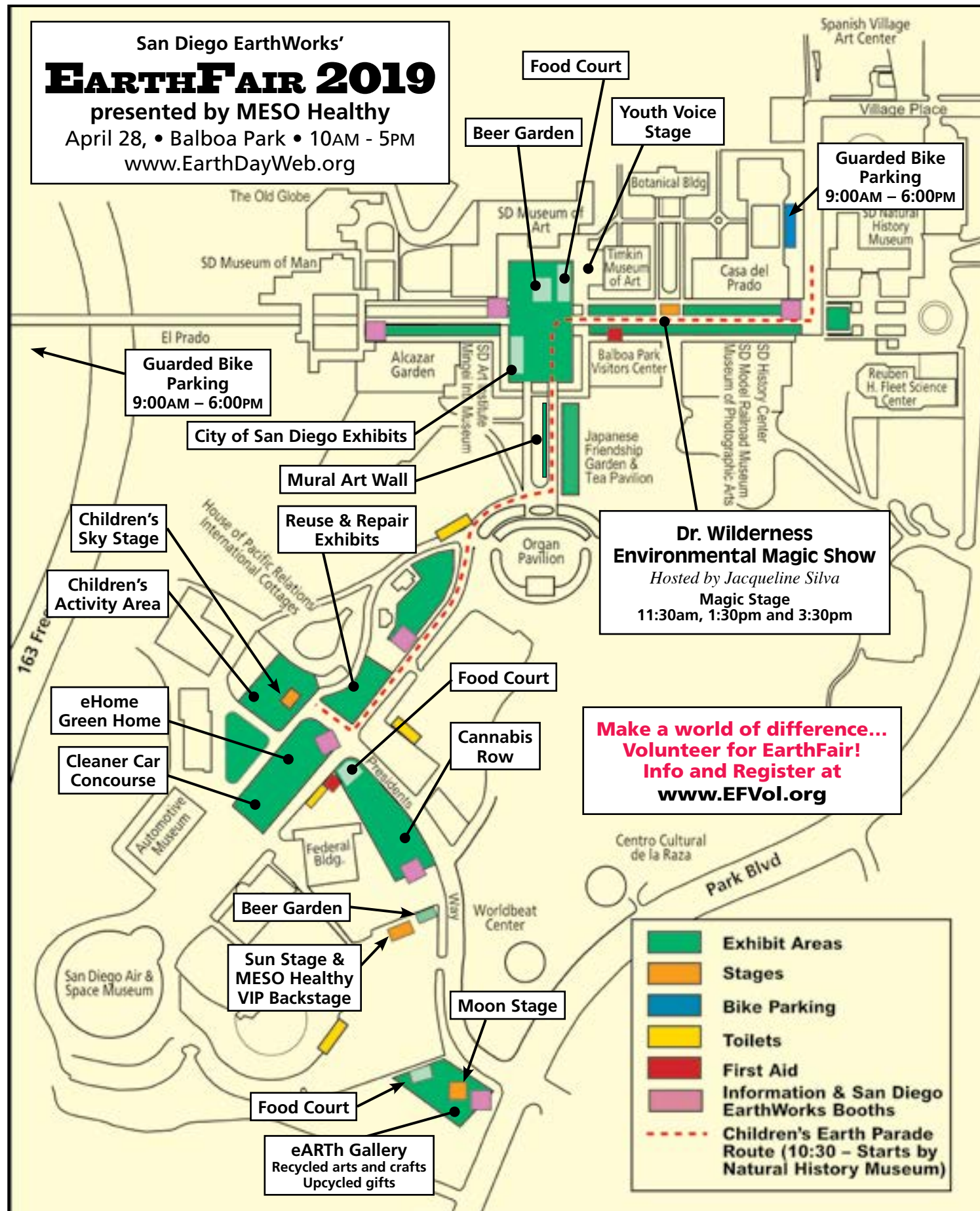
Presentations by MESO Healthy staff between sets

Moon Stage

Park & Presidents Way

Produced by Donna Larsen and DeuxRay Productions

10:15 The Liquorsmiths – Rock/Americana
 11:05 Christy Gilardi – Rock & Roll with Heart & Soul
 11:55 Ingenua – Female-Fronted Rock
 12:45 Donna Larsen and Messengers – Indie Pop for The Spirit
 1:35 Normandie Wilson – Jazz/Pop
 2:25 Julia Othmer – Dynamic Pop
 3:15 True Stories – Rock
 3:05 Winterhawk – Americana – Music that Flies



Zero Waste at EarthFair

EarthFair has a goal of Zero Waste, meaning everything that is thrown away will either be recycled or reused. Last year, almost 80% of our waste was diverted from the landfill.

If you have food, paper or other waste, don't just put it in a trash can. Instead, go to one of the 25 Zero Waste Stations throughout EarthFair and recycle! Each station, under a big umbrella, will have blue Recycling and green Composting bins, and our volunteer Trash Talkers who can answer any recycling or composting questions you have, and help you get your waste in the right bin.

Magic Stage El Prado

Produced by Jacqueline Silva, Harmony Playground



Dr. Wilderness Family Magic Show NATURAL RESORCERY!—MAGIC FOR PLANET EARTH

11:30am – 1:30pm – 3:30pm

10:30 Earth Day Parade Introductions
 11:30 Dr. Wilderness Family Magic Show
 12:30 Music by Nathan Welden – Fresh Fusion
 1:30 Dr. Wilderness Family Magic Show
 2:30 Music by Lee Coulter – Mindful Acoustic
 3:00 Jacqueline Jax Silva – Positive Pop
 3:30 Dr. Wilderness Family Magic Show

Make a world of difference...
 Volunteer for EarthFair!
 Info and Register at
www.EFVol.org

Children's Sky Stage Children's Area

Produced by Maria Connors, VIP School of Music,

10:00 Dance Scene San Diego – Variety show performed by all ages of all forms of dance under the direction of Sandy Arce.
 12:00 Steale Canyon Battle of the Bands Winner – Winners from this year's Battle of the Bands at Steale Canyon High School performing a 30 minute set of their songs.
 12:30 VIP School of Music – Students of all ages performing solos, and groups with a variety of tunes from artists such as Ziggy Marley, Nirvana, Janis Joplin, and many more!
 3:30 SludgeHummer – Alternative rock group performing various covers and originals.

EARTH FAIR EXHIBITORS

AS OF 3/14/19

- | | | | |
|--|--|---|---|
| Absent Design | Dr. Bronner's ALL-ONE | Lagom Teas | San Diego Gas & Electric |
| American Association for Nude Recreation | Earth Made Snow Cones | Last Chance for Animals | SDG&E |
| American Cetacean Society | Earthwell Refill | Le Clair Inc. | San Diego NORML |
| American Chemical Society | Eat Your Heart Out SD | League of Women Voters of San Diego | San Diego Peace Corps Association |
| Amnesty International | EDCO Waste & Recycling Services | LeChonne Wright | San Diego Police |
| Amusement Artists | Electric Vehicle Association of San Diego | Ledesmas Foods | San Diego Veterans For Peace |
| Art FORM (Found Objects Recycled Materials) | Elixinol | Leo's Kitchen | SanDiego350 |
| ArtHose: Online Art Marketplace | Energy Upgrade California | Live Edge Furniture Design | Sandra Pentney |
| B 'N' B Kettle Corn | EnviroGreen Electronic Recycling | Love, Create & Help | Save Mission Trails |
| Bags and More by Tess | Environmental Center of San Diego | Lumbercycle | Sea Shepherd Conservation Society |
| Balboa Park Cultural Partnership | Environmental Services Department | Lunatec, Inc. | Self-Heal School of Herbal Studies and Healing |
| Bastyr University California | Fairy Fly Entertainment | Magic Flight General Mfg, Inc. | Sensi |
| Be The Vote | Farm Animal Refuge | Malia Designs | Share International USA |
| Beautiful MB, Inc. | Farm Fresh To You | MaMa Pooch | Shore Buddies |
| Beignet Belly | Fashion Design Club | ManKind Project San Diego | Sierra Club |
| Big Joy Family, Inc. | Feeding San Diego | March and Ash | Sierra Nevada Brewing Company |
| Boho Vibes | Fiesta Island Dog Owners | Masala Cottage | Sipsee |
| Boochcraft | Flavors of East Africa | MELE LIFE | Sisters of Perpetual indulgence |
| Buddha Sauce | Fleet Readiness Center | Melissa Heaney | SociallyAbstractArt |
| Buddha's Light International Association | Southwest - US Navy | Mia Sorella Chimney Cakes | Solana Center for Environmental Innovation |
| Bye Bye Mattress | Foundation for California Community Colleges | Modern Day Hippie | Soul.Much |
| CAKED | Fry King | Mura Mana Alchemy | Spay Neuter Action Project |
| Cali Life Co. | Getaround | Norwex | Spirit Soul and Friends - A Musical PEACE Troupe |
| California Institute for Human Science (CIHS) | Give Pants A Second Chance | Nurse Next Door | State Water Resources Control Board |
| California National Party | Global Conservation Force | Ocean Connectors | Succulently Designed Gardens |
| Canna Pride | Golden State Greens | Oceana | Sullivan Solar Power |
| Canna Sport LLC | Goodwill Industries | One Message Foundation Corp. | Sunday Assembly San Diego |
| Catholic Diocese of San Diego | Gratitude and Love Bottles | Pacific Coast Naturals | Surfrider Foundation |
| Center For Life | Green Energy EPC Inc | Pacific Marine Mammal Center | Tanglewood North HOA |
| Center for Sustainable Energy | Gudi's Aromatherapy | PaintCare | Taste of Poland |
| Cheetah Conservation Fund | Harbor Collective MMJ | Palomar Mountain Water | Terra Vela by Natural Body & Bath |
| Choose Nature Now | Heifer International | Patara Shoes | The Bonobo Project |
| Christian Vegetarian Association | HempMeds | Pixyglø Designs | The Camping Bares |
| Chronic Kookies | HENNA TATTOO | Plant With Purpose | The Climate Mobilization |
| Citizen's Climate Lobby | High Tech High | PlusCBD Oil | The Climate Reality Project |
| Citizens Oversight Projects | High Tech High Media Arts | Population Connection | The Friendly Feather Shop |
| City of Chula Vista | Hippy Geek Girl | Poster Heaven | The Honey Flower Collective |
| City of San Diego | HiQ Choice | Radio Latina 104.5 | The Raven Corps |
| City of San Diego Environmental Services | Holy Paleta | Rafikiz Foodz | Torrey Holistics |
| City of San Diego Public Utilities | House of Bao | RED Sambusas | Trashed Scavenger Hunt |
| COBO Bottle | House of Israel | ReFind Kitchens | U.S. Fish & Wildlife Serv., Office of Law Enforcement |
| Committee Opposed to Militarism and the Draft | IBEW Local 569 | Regeneration-Art | United States Navy |
| Community Through Hope | Ibos | Reptile Association of San Diego | UPcycled Works |
| Cosmic Flow Yoga | Imperfect Produce | Rerip.com / Coconut Peet's Surfboard Repair and Trading Co. | Urban Corps of San Diego |
| County of San Diego/Solid Waste Planning & Recycling | Integral Health and Wellness / ULC | Reusable Finds | Venice Vinyls |
| CPUSA San Diego | International Cannabis Farmers Association | Rita's of Murrieta | Vohra International |
| Cruisin Juice | International College of Holistic Studies | Route USA | WateReuse Association |
| Culture For Good | Intertwined Conservation Corporation | Salty Lemonade | Welk Resorts |
| Cuyamaca Rancho State Park Interpretive Association | ISKCON | Salvadorean Food Pupusas | Wheelhouse Credit Union |
| Democratic Socialists of America | Jingle Sprinkles | San Diegans For Gun Violence Prevention | Wild Zone Conservation League |
| Didjeridoo Daddy & ReWear Clothing | Josie's Kitchenette | San Diego Audubon Society | WishGarden herbs |
| Dirt Don't Hurt | Kali Foods | San Diego Beekeeping Society | Word Of Mouth Kitchen |
| | kb Pure Essentials | San Diego Coastkeepers | ZasGrass Artificial Turf Recycled |
| | Kulla | San Diego County Air Pollution Control District | Zero Waste San Diego |
| | Kynd Clothing Inc. | San Diego County Democrats for Environmental Action | Zumo Zuzhi Burrito |
| | | San Diego County Fair | 48Solar |
| | | San Diego County Registrar of Voters | |
| | | San Diego Floral Association | |



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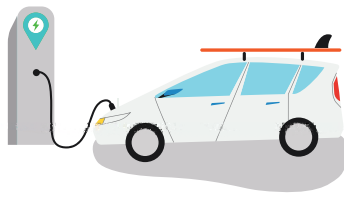

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Art and artists at EarthFair

THIS YEAR'S EVENT FEATURES A HOST OF "ARTISTS IN RESIDENCE" THAT YOU CAN WATCH CREATING THEIR WORKS, AND A CHANCE FOR YOU TO EXPRESS YOURSELF ARTISTICALLY ON THE MURAL WALL PROJECT.

Artwork is probably not the first thing that comes to mind when you think about the environment. If not, then this EarthFair 2019 will offer some pleasant surprises. In addition to our usual offerings in the eARTH Gallery arts & crafts area, and the Mural Wall Project presentation of Earth Day art, volunteer photos, and a public coloring space, this year we feature no less than 5 artists who you can watch creating their eco-friendly art pieces. Here's a teaser of what you can expect to see.

Rosenblatt Redux

Michael Richard Rosenblatt, of Rosenblatt Studios, presents his third annual out-

door wildlife and nature mural exhibit. Michael began creating murals for the public to color at the EarthFair in Balboa Park in 2016, and also paints a panel during the event. His art has been a popular feature ever since. (Last year, it was often hard to see the mural through the crowd having their picture taken in front of it.)

Born in New York, Michael mounted his first one man show in high school. He moved to San Diego in 1977 and has been creating art ever since. He has been producing murals since 1983.

In addition to his live painting this year, the Mural Wall will feature four of Michael's existing 7' by 15' impressionist canvas



"Superbloom" mural on canvas by Michael Richard Rosenblatt. The inspiration for this picture was the superbloom in the desert two years ago, just like the one occurring now.

by Alice Martinez

murals: Earth Day Moose, Earth Day Lion, Desert Bloom, and California Dreamin'. We are told these murals will be available for sale after the event.

Hip Hop Hooray

Joining Michael Rosenblatt this year is the "Hip Hop Art Team." Joe Ire Segura and Raquel Rhone will also be painting mural panels live at the event.

Joe is a Southeast San Diego Rapper. Artist and graphic designer Raquel Rhone was born and raised in San Diego. She graduated from San Diego State University in 2013 with a Bachelor's Degree in Graphic Design. Currently, she freelances as an artist



Artist Raquel Rhone

and Graphic Designer, and sells artwork on Etsy under Raquel's Art Studio. She is apart of a team of artists called the Southeast San Diego Art Team, a group that is in the process of fundraising to open an Art Gallery in the Southeast San Diego Community. See her on Instagram: @raquelsartstudio.

Accompanying the artists with live music will be Hariel Cosair, who joins with his wife Lisa to promote safe, fun events for like-minded individuals who enjoy dance (Continued on page 26)



Musician Hariel and Lisa Cosair

Live Artist Painting at the Sun Stage Beer Garden

Hosted by Sierra Nevada, San Diego native and surrealistic artist Jimmy Ovidia will be painting live in the beer garden next to the Sun Stage at the EarthFair.

Throughout the day, raffle tickets will be sold and the painting will be awarded to the winning raffle ticket drawn at 4:45pm. The beer gardens at EarthFair open from 11am to last call at 4:30pm and closing at 5pm.

Jimmy attended EarthFair growing up: "I absolutely enjoy Earth Day! It's been part of my life since I was about 14 in San Diego at Balboa Park and I look forward to it every year. It's like my Christmas!"

Jimmy Ovidia's art leads us on a transformative psychedelic odyssey full of unique and creative dreamlike portholes. Come and see him work!

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Tree walkabout: the wonderful trees of Balboa Park

Roger Boddart, the Tree Man of Fallbrook, and Mark Wisniewski, each certified arborists (tree experts), will lead two walks during EarthFair. These walks, held at 11AM and 1PM, will increase your appreciation of trees in general and at the EarthFair: The Wonderful Trees of Balboa Park.

kind of trees are present, and the important benefits they provide. You'll come away with a much greater appreciation of the trees.

Meet Roger and Mark behind the seats at the back of the Organ Pavilion. Each walk is limited to the first twenty participants to arrive.

Roger Boddart – arborist, landscape designer, and horticultural expert – has

by Alice Martinez served many organizations and has been acknowledged for planting hundreds of trees. His accomplishments include working with Cal Trans to plant 2,000 oak trees along I-15. Working with 750 volunteers, he managed the planting of 435 native trees in Fallbrook in only five hours. Really, he should be called the Forest Man! **ET**

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CleanVehicleRebate.org/EarthFair

PU 4 PLU!

ALL ABOUT THOSE ANNOYING LITTLE TAGS ON FRESH FRUIT.

When thinking of small, single-use disposable plastic items (like drinking straws), I often curse the existence of those terrible, tiny stickers on individual pieces of fruits. Not only do they damage many fruits (peaches, pears, nectarines, and most other soft fruit), but ... what's the point? And if there is a point, then why aren't they required to be edible?

Why are there stickers on individual fruit?

Online research eventually brings you to The International Federation for Produce Standards, made up of "national produce associations from around the globe." The long-term objective of the Federation is "to improve the fresh produce industry supply chain efficiency through developing, implementing, and managing harmonized international standards." Got that? **HA!**

They are based in the United Kingdom, and the US member is the United Fresh Produce Association. One of the objectives includes, "To develop, implement, and manage an international standard for Price Look Up (PLU) numbers."

What do the stickers mean?

Those numbers are evidently the reason for these little stickers on fresh fruit. According to the IFPS, the "voluntary PLU system has been used by supermarkets since 1990 for pricing, inventory control, and sales data."

In order to receive a PLU code, the product must be a unique variety, available to the entire global produce industry, and available from multiple marketers. So if it has a sticker, it's a globalized product. There are currently 1,450 PLU codes in use.

The PLU code also tells if the fruit was organically grown or produced "traditionally" with chemical fertilizers, fungicides, or herbicides.

A 4-digit code represents convention-

ally grown produce. The digit '9' is placed in front of the 4-digit conventionally-grown code to identify organic produce. So an item with the code "1234" would have been conventionally grown; code "91234" would mean organic.

No GMO marker

A "9" prefix was used to identify genetically-modified items, but that use has been eliminated.

The IFPS media release states, "Stripping the prefix of this particular designation will yield one thousand additional PLU numbers to be used in future years," and, "This is not a statement on the social or scientific acceptance of GMO items; it is simply that methods other than PLUs are being used to communicate regulatory and other information to consumers." The release then asks whether you would like to buy a bridge.

What it does as a practical matter is eliminate any standardized means of identifying GMO products from non-GMO (although organic products should never be GMO).

The Produce Marketing Association notes, "The codes are not intended to convey information to consumers. They are simply business tools for accurate price rings at the cash register, inventory control, and category management."

What they are is: TRASH

You have to give them a certain kind of credit for even having this question on their FAQs sheet: "How are PLU stickers sustainable in terms of recyclable, biodegradable, and compostable?"

After a few paragraphs of techno-babble, you learn: "Many of the individual components that make up a PLU sticker can be either recyclable and/or compostable. However, as a composite, PLU stickers are difficult to

by Carolyn Chase



Big plastic sticker on a small avocado. At least you can peel the sticker off the avo without breaking the skin. On peaches, nectarines, pears and even apples, not so much.

recycle and/or compost."

In fact, to recyclers, pressure-sensitive labels contaminate the recycling stream.

So, as a "composite," which is the only way these stickers come (i.e., plastic or paper, ink, and adhesive, all composited together), they are not just trash, but contamination for recyclers.

They are also fruit contamination in my kitchen, and tend to stick in the trash can, taking more time and effort in service of the cause of global "supply chain efficiency."

Misinformation online

While searching for background on these little stickers, what I found was a lot of misinformation. Some claimed that PLUs are required by the US Department of Agriculture. I could find no evidence of that.

Others "claimed" that they must be printed on paper or use edible ink. No such luck.

The most that can be said is that they are so small that eating them probably won't hurt you. But pooping out tiny pieces of plastic into the sewer system is not a great way to go.

While the trade associations claim that supermarket cashiers use the stickers, others

[\(Continued on page 24\)](#)

City of San Diego plastic ban takes effect

... WITH STYROFOAM HAVING A SPECIAL PLACE IN REGULATOR'S HEARTS.

by Alice Martinez

If you have been paying attention at all to the national and local debate about waste plastic, you probably know the horror stories: Texas-sized islands of plastic waste mid-ocean, more plastic in the sea than fish by 2050, micro-sized plastic particles in our food and water doing who-knows-what to our health, etc. Like me, you may have wondered: is anyone actually going to do something positive about it?

Ready for some good news? This past January, the San Diego City Council approved the Single Use Plastic Reduction Ordinance, which restricts the distribution of polystyrene foam products, and plastic straws and utensils.

The ordinance takes effect in two steps, the first of which has already taken place, and the second taking effect this May.

Effective February 23, 2019

These rules are now in effect in the City

of San Diego:

- A food vendor may only distribute plastic straws upon request of the customer (sit down or takeout).
- A food vendor may only distribute plastic utensils upon request of the customer (takeout only).
- The following shall not be sold or distributed if made in whole or part from polystyrene foam unless encased within another material:
 - Coolers, ice chests, or similar containers;
 - Pool or beach toys; and
 - Dock floats, mooring buoys, or anchor or navigation markers.

Note that **reusable** coolers and other items are still allowed.

- All-polystyrene food service ware, food trays, egg cartons, coolers, ice chests, and pool or beach toys are prohibited from City of San Diego facilities (including

special events) at parks, recreation centers, beaches, lakes, offices, and other city-owned or -leased facilities.

Effective May 24, 2019

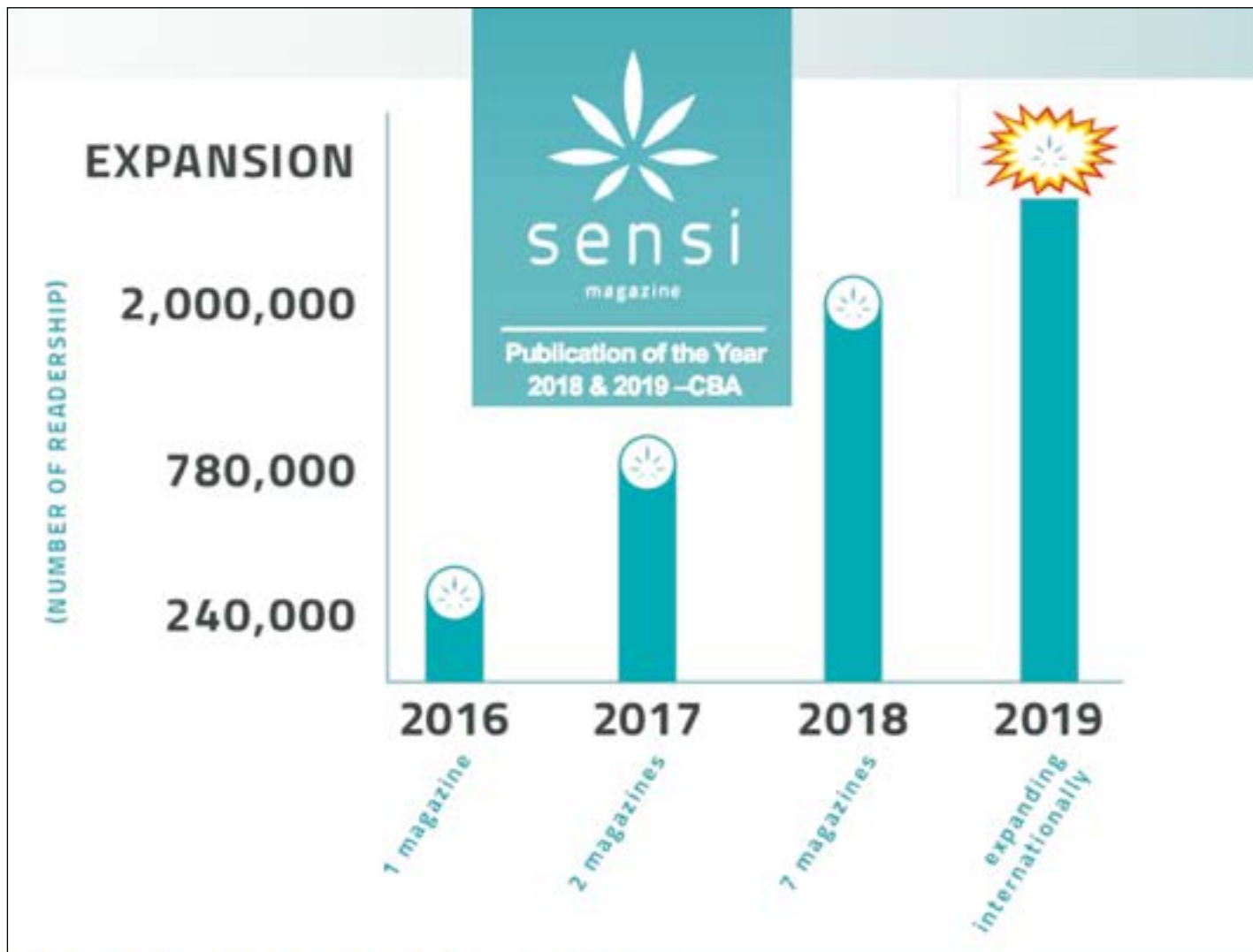
These rules may have already taken effect by the time you read this:

- No person may distribute egg cartons, food trays, or food service ware made in whole or in part from polystyrene foam.

Food service ware includes: bowls, plates, trays, cups, lids, and other similar items designed for one-time use for prepared foods, including containers for eating in, takeout food, or leftovers.

Relief hiding in the fine print

The city is accepting applications for feasibility-based and contractual waivers, and the ordinance provides for an automatic financial-based waiver for entities with gross [\(Continued on page 24\)](#)



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REDUCE WASTE BY SIMPLE REPAIRS AND REPURPOSING.

In 2015, each American generated about 4-1/2 pounds of solid waste per day. That's a little over **260 million tons per year**. Now, some of that can be easily recycled (like cardboard) or composted (like tree trimmings). Others materials are a real challenge. But there is still some low-hanging fruit that can be picked, to help reduce the waste load AND save money: fixing stuff that is broken, and finding a new life for discards instead of sending them to the landfill.

Choose to Repair

No one thinks twice about getting a car repaired. But what about repairing a common household item like a toaster, dishwasher or camera? Choosing to repair an item instead of purchasing a new one helps extend the life of the product, prevents it from ending up in the landfill, and saves you money!

If you are looking to repair items like shoes, appliances, electronics, jewelry, watches, furniture, clothing, and even sport gear like surfboards, look for local repair businesses or repair experts for help.

If you are more of the "hands-on" type of person... do it yourself! Websites like [iFixit](http://iFixit.com).

com have guides on how to repair common electronics, like cell phones, tablets, cameras, and even game consoles.

Choose to Reuse

Opt to shop second hand. San Diego has a great selection of thrift stores, swap meets, and swap events to attend.

Expand the local sharing economy by borrowing and sharing more, visiting your local library, setting up your own little free library in your neighborhood, or checking out a local tool lending library.

San Diego is home to many "Buy Nothing" groups. You can join through Facebook and receive notices directly in your feed. Or, visit buynothingproject.org for more information. Not on social media? Consider downloading a swap app to find regular people selling gently used items at a reasonable price.

Reuse & Repair at EarthFair

Be sure to visit the Reuse & Repair Area at the EarthFair, located at the corner of President's Way and Pan American Way (see EarthFair map on [page 12](#)). Get your questions answered about where you can get

broken items repaired, and meet some of the individuals involved.

This year, when you are walking around EarthFair celebrating Earth Day with other like-minded people, know that your choices make a HUGE impact. By choosing to reuse and repair before recycling, we prolong the life of the item and encourage the practice of consuming less.

The Reuse and Repair Area at EarthFair is sponsored by the San Diego Reuse and Repair Network, City of San Diego, County of San Diego, and City of Chula Vista. The goal of the Reuse and Repair Area at EarthFair is to highlight ways to keep items out of the landfill. The area will showcase local businesses and non-profits as well as provide fun and creative ways to repair, reuse, or repurpose household items to extend their usefulness. **ET**

For more information, visit www.facebook.com/SDRRN. Ani Putnam is an employee of the City of San Diego Environmental Services Department and a member of the team creating the Reuse & Repair Area at EarthFair 2019.

PU for PLU

(cont from page 21)

claim this is not that case. I don't see them scanning the stickers when I check out. They seem to have their own codes for pricing.

The only current answer to avoid these stickers is to buy produce without them, mainly available via local farmer's markets. Search for them locally and ye shall find.

Fix fruit stickers

Shouldn't we have a similar attitude toward this sticky single-use PLU trash as we have toward single-use plastic straws? At the very least, there should be requirements that they be edible, or compostable.

If this bugs you too, please email me at: fixstickers@earthdayweb.org. I'm looking to put together the next steps on a campaign

and could use your help. **ET**

Carolyn Chase is co-founder of San Diego EarthWorks, the non-profit organizers of the annual Earth Day Fair in Balboa Park, San Diego. She also served as a Planning Commissioner for the City of San Diego, and was a founder of Move San Diego (now Circulate San Diego), committed to improving the sustainability of transportation choices in the San Diego region.

SD plastic ban

(cont from page 20)

annual income of less than \$500,000.

And then...?

It can take time to overcome ingrained habits. It took me years before putting recyclables in the blue bin instead of the black trash can was automatic. Restaurants and shopkeepers will probably have some of the

same resistance to these changes. You can help them along by showing your support for the new policy.

So, you sit down at a table in your favorite cafe, and they bring you a glass of coke with a straw that you were not asked about... what do you do? Well, you might kindly inform them about the new law. The server might not know about it. Or, ask the manager to please be more careful about the plastic ban. They

might not know either.

On the other hand, if they DO ask you if you want a straw, you can thank them for asking.

Polystyrene egg cartons at your favorite store? Ask the manager why they are there.

In the end: know the facts. Don't be a jerk, but help others take steps to overcome our "plastic plague." **ET**

Artists at EarthFair

(cont from page 20)

and music, while supporting the community. They used their love of percussion and the Caribbean flava to establish “House Gone Wild International” to promote dance, music, art, and culture worldwide.

Do-It-Yourself Art

Panels that the public can color them-



Artist Kim Phillips-Pea

selves – like huge coloring books – have become a favorite activity. In addition to the live painting, **Kim Phillips-Pea**, **Ashley Hawkins**, **Jeneva Rose**, and **Art by Autumn** are creating panels in advance for public coloring. Michael Rosenblatt is also donating a new set of three panels for the public to color.

Kim Phillips-Pea is a San Diego art director and artist opening an art gallery and bringing new murals to Southeast San Diego as part of the Hip Hop 5k Art Team and Southeast Art Team. She will be the host of the Southeast Summer Art Camp beginning in June 2019. Kim received art training at San Diego School of Creative and Performing Arts. Find her work on the web at kimberlyartshow.com.

Ashley Hawkins was born and raised in Southeast San Diego. Poet and painter Ashley, a.k.a Ash Cash, uses various media to express her thoughts, moods, and opinions to speak out to those willing to listen. Her goal is to provoke thought, encourage others to go after their dreams and to not place themselves in a box.



At the Mural Wall Project you can join the creative team by adding color to designs created by local artists especially for EarthFair visitors to complete..

Sand Cloud at EarthFair

Sand Cloud is known both for their stylish beach towels and for their dedication to ocean conservation. At EarthFair this year, they are sponsoring the exhibits of seven conservation organizations (see “Ocean Conservation” text on [page 12](#)). In addition, Sand Cloud is sponsoring **Jared Blake Lazar**, who will be producing a Whale Shark mural at the Mural Wall Project.

Jared is a Southern California-based visual artist, graphic designer and muralist. He was encouraged to create from a young age as his mother had keen interest in crafts and sculpture. In his youth, Jared used skateboards and surfboards as his canvas. Today, most of his original pieces are on large wood panels.

His work has appeared at countless art shows around southern California. Jared also partnered up with TEAM PHUN, a San Diego-based lifestyle apparel and accessories brand, to introduce a line of clothing showcasing his art. **ET**



Sand Cloud brings artist Jared Blake Lazar to EarthFair to create one of his Whale Shark creations. See Jared at the Mural Wall project, across from the Japanese Friendship Garden.

How To Make a Difference in 6 Easy Steps

- 1) Go to EFVol.org
- 2) Read the EarthFair volunteer job descriptions
- 3) Sign up to volunteer
- 4) Go to a training
- 5) Do your job at EarthFair
- 6) You made a difference!

That wasn't so difficult now, was it?

Park friends

(cont from page 6)

by increasing use of the creek seven-fold. Currently the only “management” of Rose Creek is done by community volunteers such as the Friends of Rose Creek.

This section of Rose Creek from Mission Bay Drive downstream to Mission Bay Park contains coastal wetlands, is used by many local and migrating birds and is listed as a

“Multi-Habitat Planning Area.” But it is not being managed by the City of San Diego for habitat, wildlife, or water quality.

What happens in Rose Creek, happens in Mission Bay. This includes trash, human and dog feces, invasive non-natives, and the heavy metals associated with this impaired waterway. If you care about Mission Bay, one of the areas most beloved parks and used by citizens from around the region, then please support parkland dedication for Rose Creek.

Seek out your local parks and enjoy them. Learn how they are governed. In the City of San Diego, there are Recreation Councils. There is a Park & Recreation Board. Each year there are programs and policies that are presented for public input. **ET**

Carolyn Chase is President of Fiesta Island Dog Owners (FIDOSD.org), serves on the Pacific Beach Planning Group, and is a friend of Friends of Rose Creek (SaveRose-Creek.org).

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One person can make a difference. Earth Day is every day.



For almost two decades, SDG&E® and I Love A Clean San Diego have been partners in Coastal Cleanup Day to care for and beautify San Diego. That means cleaner beaches, parks, and canyons for everyone to enjoy.

Be the change for a cleaner San Diego.

