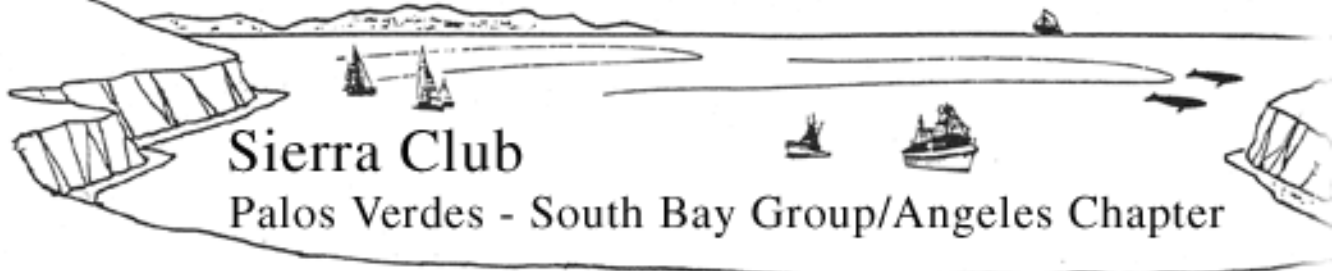


The Foggy View



Since 1976

Supplement to the May 2005 Southern Sierran

The Gabrielino-Tongva

By Linda Gonzales

I am Gabrielino-Tongva and Yaqui Indian. We Gabrielino-Tongva believe we were here in the Los Angeles Basin long before the land bridge. Our territory reached from the Catalina Islands to the Santa Monica Mountains, down the San Gabriel Mountains and to the south to the Newport area. We had 200 villages within two hours walk of each other, and mostly populated the Peninsula, (the top village being Chowigna) and in the Ballona Wetlands. The City of San Gabriel and the California Legislature passed resolutions recognizing the "Gabrielino-Tongva Nation", in 1994, as the indigenous peoples of the Los Angeles Basin with a continuous unbroken history. We are still here today and many of us now teach about our culture, traditions, songs and history.

We lived on this lush land, teeming with herds of elk and deer, where we hunted, gathered and maintained edible plant gardens. We practiced burn techniques, pruning for straight shoots and dug to aerate the land as well as for edible roots. We ate seeds, cattails, acorns, fish, snakes, birds, squirrels, skunk, raccoons, bees, the larva of many insects and much more. Oak trees are sacred to us and where there is an old oak, we most likely had a village there. We used acorns to make a hot gruel and cakes with honey and pine nuts.

In the early 1900's, there were studies done of the Gabrielino-Tongva by J. P. Harrington, C. Hart Merriam, A.L. Kroeber, and Constance DuBois. Hugo Reid, a Scotsman married a Tongva from my ancestral village in the Santa Monica Canyons, and wrote manuscripts on our culture, religion, ceremonies, our social order and what we looked like.

We Tongva love to get together to sing, to play our music and to share a meal. We have always been peaceful people and feel it is our inherent duty to take of our Mother Earth. We take pride in our heritage and welcome those eager to learn, to hear us and to ask questions about us.

May All Good Go With You - E'Ehe Tihoovkoa' Mii

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From Your Chair

March 17, 2005

As I am writing this, the final results for the March 8 Redondo Beach municipal elections are being tabulated. According to the City Clerk's office approximately 13,000 voters (24% of those registered) cast ballots in the election. Sierra Club records indicated that there are approximately 700 members living in Redondo Beach.

What most intrigued the Group was the proposal, known as the Heart Park proposal, which would turn the current Power Plant site into a regional park with wetlands restoration and interpretative facilities. While the earlier Heart of the City Plan and the current Heart of the Village Plan were schemes that chiefly varied in the intensity of development, the Heart Park plan strived to return developed coastal area to natural open space with wildlife habitat. The Group saw direct parallels between the Heart Park concept and the principles of the Sierra Club. Therefore the Group management committee decided to endorse the Heart Park Plan. We obtained approval for that endorsement from the Angeles Chapter.

The next logical step for the Group to consider was whether it would commit the prestige of the Group and the Club in endorsing candidates for the election. While the endorsement of the proposition was fairly straight forward (though not without criticism), endorsement of candidates is very complex. The Sierra Club requires that the endorsement process be fair, equal and transparent. There must be a process in which all the candidates who desire Sierra Club endorsement can participate. That process must be seen as being even handed to all candidates.

A questionnaire was prepared, asking for the views of the candidates on environmental issues in Redondo Beach. This questionnaire was mailed to all of the candidates for whom contact information was available at the City Clerk's website. Follow-up phone calls were made to all of these candidates, and interviews were held with all who had returned questionnaires. Twelve candidates chose to respond to the endorsement process: all four of the Mayoral candidates, six of the Council candidates, and two candidates for City Attorney.

I cannot fully express the joy and optimism that this process personally brought to me. To have the opportunity to discuss important local issues with the people who were seeking the approval of the voters to become the decision makers for these issues was a rare privilege. That the candidates should consider the Sierra Club as being important enough that they were willing to spend time filling out our questionnaires and sitting down and talking with our committee brings into perspective the influence and prestige that the Sierra Club enjoys and the responsibility that those of us on the management committee have in our endorsement role. The candidates themselves all impressed us with their sense of civic duty, their articulateness, their grasp of the issues and their approachability.

After the interview process, the elections committee had to decide whether to recommend endorsements in the various races as well as which candidates to recommend to the management committee for club endorsement. The criteria for club endorsement are broad. We look for candidates we judge will support environmental issues, who will be approachable to seriously considering club positions and who are viable candidates. The endorsement decision making process can be painful. To some extent we wished we could endorse multiple candidates, but realistically we knew there were differences and in most cases the differences were significant enough to sway us to choose one over the other.

The management committee then had to decide which of the elections committee recommendations it would accept, a process which took place the following night at the monthly group management meeting. After the management committee had made its decision, that decision had to be approved by the Angeles Chapter. The Group then mailed a letter to Sierra Club members in Redondo Beach, telling them of our endorsements.

The results of the Group efforts are mixed. The voters endorsed the Heart Park vision by 55%. One of the candidates we endorsed was elected and two others are in the "run off" election.

It has been said that democracy is a terrible form of government, but all the rest are worst. The process of choosing our leaders is a complex and human one. So too, the process of endorsing candidates is a complex and human one. A lot of work by many members went into the process. Some individuals have been very supportive and thankful for our efforts. Others have criticized that we did not do enough. From yet another direction some have criticized that it is improper for candidates for office to seek endorsement of the club since it might prejudice them in their decisions.

Thank you to the many people who worked on this effort including Al Sattler, Barbara Sattler, Dean Francois, Lori Kessler, Hersh Kelly, Joyce White, Borzoo Rezai and Martha Pendleton. In addition I would like to thank the Catalina Coffee Company for allowing us to use their facilities for the interviews.

This was an inspiring process for me. I hope to have the opportunity to do it again.

Keith Martin

Palos Verdes-South Bay Group Chair

Conservation and the Demand for Natural Resources

By Barry Holchin, Conservation Chair, PVSF Group For a long time, we in the Sierra Club have been active in promoting conservation of natural resources and the preservation of natural open space, with what some may regard as considerable success. Of course that, like beauty, is in the eye of the beholder. I tend to be optimistic and believe that public officials will respond favorably to our grass roots efforts, assuming we are able to convince them it is in their best interest as well as that of their constituents. On the other hand, I am constantly frustrated in seeing the constant pressure to develop the last vestiges of open space, both here in the South bay and elsewhere. Any victory is almost always temporary, and seems to require constant defense.

I view our predicament to come from a few basic sources. The first, of course, is an increasing population making ever increasing demands on a decreasing supply of natural resources. Unfortunately, as the population progresses up the socioeconomic scale, the demands for resources also increase. Another aspect of this situation is the emphasis on growth in our economic system (and perhaps in most others). My understanding of this is that growth implies increased consumption, and that means increased demand for (and use of) resources. Someone has to be available to buy your increased production, and so there's no real economic incentive to keep population growth down. This is a no win scenario, in the long run. We need to develop an economic system that permits us to exist in a world in which technology develops at a rate that permits sustainable use of natural resources, i.e. population is maintained at a rate that does not outstrip available resources.

One part of the solution is increased levels of education for the socioeconomically disadvantaged portions of the population. For example, studies have shown that population growth decreases with increased levels of female education. Of course, support for family planning has long been a Sierra Club position, with the view that when given a reasonable choice, parents (especially women) will often elect to limit the size of their families. Unfortunately, many powerful forces (religious groups and others) oppose such freedom of choice for potential parents, not the least of which is our current president and his “right” thinking supporters.

What can you do? There are a lot of smart people in the ranks of our members. Maybe someone can devise an economic system that permits sustainable use of natural resources, i.e. is not dependent on “growth” (increasing consumption). Contact our public officials and tell them that you support using your tax dollars to support worldwide family planning and better education for the poor, and most especially for females of child bearing age.

PV-SB Group Honored

We are delighted to announce that several member of the PV-SB Group will be honored at the upcoming Angeles Chapter Awards Banquet to be held Sunday evening May 1st at the Brookside Country Club near the Rose Bowl in Pasadena. Barry Holchin and Donna Lauck will each receive Outings Awards. Keith Martin, Pat Holleman, and Greg Hitchings will each receive Special Service Awards.

But last but not least, the PV-SB Group will also be receiving a Special Service Award. This is due to the extraordinary amount of effort expended by this group by engaging in local environmental and political issues and providing numerous trips and outings to its members.

The next time you see one of the above named members, congratulate them. Also, be sure to thank all of the leaders and ExCom members who have made it possible for our group to receive a Special Service Award.

Hiking Is Great But Be Alert

Hiking has to be one of the best ways to get aerobic exercise and our lungs filled with fresh air. Aside from these positive things, the big bonus is that hiking is also fun.

But hiking also has its hazards which you should pay attention to, namely poison oak, rattle snakes, ticks, and West Nile Virus.

Poison oak is easily spotted by its three leaves that resemble the leaves of the oak tree. It has no leaves in the winter but can still cause skin eruptions. Have your leader point it out to you. The best way to avoid it is to not touch any vegetation. Rattle snakes will give you warning by their rattle; but just be aware of where you place your feet. If you step on one, you will most likely get bitten. Ticks attach themselves to you when you brush up against vegetation. Wear light colored clothing (so they can be easily spotted) and closed at the ankles and wrists. West Nile Virus is new to our list of local hazards. You may have seen some of the new signs warning of it posted along trails in Palos Verdes. It is transmitted by mosquitoes. Again wear clothing that covers your skin and apply insect repellent.

Don't let these warnings deter your outdoor activities. Just be informed, pay attention, and have a good time!

Correction: In the last issue of the *Foggy View*, the Heart Park article had erroneously called the inhabitants of the area Chowingas. In actuality Chowingna is a village of the Gabreilino-Tongva, located in Palos Verdes. The actual inhabitants of Redondo Beach were the Gabreilino-Tongva.

Next Schedule Deadlines: *Foggy View*: May 13. Angeles Chapter Schedule: July 3. Submit all outings to Outings Chair Bob Beach before these dates.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Chair	Keith Martin	316-7617
Vice Chair ExCom Rep	Hersh Kelley	832-0013
Secretary	Jackie Childers	518-4086
Treasurer	Martha Pendleton	375-4642
Conservation	Barry Holchin	378-3780
Political	Al Sattler (Ex Officio)	831-0032
Outings, Safety	Bob Beach	375-0898
Membership	Lori Kessler	748-5342
Publicity	Lise Allard	377-1892
Social, Programs	Joyce White	833-6136
Special Projects Alt ExCom Rep	Sue Castillo	489-3026
Special Projects	Barbara Sattler	831-0032
Foggy View Editor	Greg Hitchings	373-0447
Website	Bruce Ecker	larux@pacbell.net

For the most current information regarding activities, meetings and contacts, please visit the Palos Verdes - South Bay Group website at: www.angeles.sierraclub.org/pvsb/

You may also click on the following links to be taken directly to pages for:
[Activities Calendar](#) | [Monthly Activities](#) | [Weekly Activities](#) | [Group Meetings](#) | [Group Leaders](#)

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