

Environmental activism -- without leaving home

Government and private actions affecting the natural world we depend on have not stopped while we shelter. We can't meet or march right now, but "speaking truth to power" collectively, online, can provide a sense of connection and contribution – whether we're letting off steam or supporting positive change. All it takes is a few clicks – although your own words, or a mailed letter, can be more effective.

The list is just possibilities, showing the wide variety of requests for emails, letters, and sign-ons from some well-established environmental groups. You don't need to agree with all; check news articles, original documents, and other points of view if you're unsure. You could pick a few groups you trust and sign up for action alerts on their web sites. For those interested in going deeper, the Ecology Center is offering webinars April 26 and May 3 on using social media to drive environmental change.



The national **Audubon Society's** Action Network asks for letters or email on many federal issues, for example to oppose weakening of the Endangered Species Act and the Migratory Bird Protection Act, as well as to better protect specific species such sage grouse and seabirds like the albatross.



Baykeeper, which fights pollution in San Francisco Bay, wants emails to the City of Richmond thanking them for banning shipments of coal through their port. This may encourage the city to stay strong in the face of lawsuits.



The **Center for Biological Diversity's** Action Network always has many current appeals with a focus on wildlife, including banning the wildlife trade (and potentially spreading disease), opposing the US EPA's halting of some environmental enforcement due to Covid-19, and banning neonicotinoid pesticides, lethal to bees.

Clean Water Action wants you to urge 14 laggard retailers to do more to get toxic materials out of products and packaging and hold major manufacturers liable for cleaning up PFAs, so-called "forever" chemicals long used in nonstick products.



The **Environmental Defense Fund's** current appeals include asking Congress to protect climate standards, keeping consideration of climate effects in environmental analysis of infrastructure projects, and asking your local officials to protest federal steps that would weaken lifesaving standards for mercury, arsenic, and other toxins.

The **Natural Resources Defense Council's** requested actions include opposing a proposed rule that would greatly restrict the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's ability to use recent scientific findings (May 18 deadline) and opposing the US EPA's weakening of clean-car standards, a setback for efforts to curb global warming. You can get updates on urgent alerts by texting NRDC to 21333.



Save the Bay, storied pioneer in Bay restoration, is asking folks to write the Redwood City Council, urging them to oppose Cargill Salt and a home developer's plans to build on former salt ponds that we once part of San Francisco Bay.

The **Sierra Club's** current campaigns include two asking cities, campuses, and community leaders to support 100% clean energy by 2030, along with other clean-energy actions. The club also lets you support current California campaigns and recruit supporters for campaigns.



Not every request by a national organization deals with the federal government. **350.org**, focused on halting global warming, wants emails to California Governor Newsom and the state's Geologic Energy Management Division (formerly Oil and Gas) objecting to California's issuing 24 new fracking permits. Its page on response to COVID-19 has ideas on virtual organizing and using social media that could be widely applied.

Suggest additions and updates to Friends of Five Creeks. www.fivecreeks.org, f5creeks@gmail.com.