

Appreciation for Rob Wilder

Along with his Tesla, his Green Index Fund, his good-naturedness and his ever-present smile, Rob Wilder brought a unique set of insights and experience to the Sierra Club's board. Holding both a law degree and a Ph.D., Rob has taught and lectured extensively at the university level, including UC Santa Barbara and the University of Massachusetts. He was served in various capacities with not only the Sierra Club, but organizations including the Scripps Institute of Oceanography, Society for Conservation Biology, and the Nature Conservancy, and he often pressed the Sierra Club to be more active on ocean protection.

Aside from his natural affability, Rob also has an expert investor's knowledge of renewable energy, an expertise that often served our board especially well when a comment from Rob would add a crucial perspective about market share and the real-world economics of wind and solar. Yet even as he kept us grounded in facts, Rob never left any doubt about his commitment to helping the Club lead the way to the carbon-free future we so desperately need.

Like most board members, Rob paid his dues in the Club organization. Before his election to the board, he served in various capacities at the group and chapter levels, including Group Political Chair, Group Vice Chair, San Diego Chapter Excom Member, more than one marine issues committees, and two years on the former Environmental Quality Strategy Team at the national level. When the internal Club topics came up, Rob understood them, and brought the perspective that only a former group and chapter Excom member can.

Rob has described himself as driven to find green solutions, and he walks the walk with solar power at his home. He brought the Club's board a practical, business-world perspective that is often in short supply on an activist board. His ready willingness to engage in conversation and his bright, pleasant demeanor will be genuinely missed.

Thank you, Rob, for all you've contributed over these past three years – for your time, talent and dedication. Whether it's through a green index fund, or through continued work as a Sierra Club volunteer or work with other environmental organizations, you will undoubtedly keep contributing to the good fight to protect our planet. It's been a pleasure and an honor to have you work with us.