

SIERRA CLUB NON-VIOLENT CIVIL DISOBEDIENCE REVIEW CRITERIA

The Sierra Club Board of Directors has recognized “the usefulness and importance of non-violent civil disobedience in promoting social change. Non-violent civil disobedience has helped to secure and protect the right to vote for women and African Americans. It;s helped to end segregation, enact child labor laws, and protect ancient forests. In the United States and around the world, peaceful “direct action” has been used to support human rights, protect our land, air and water, and fight climate change. The Sierra Club believes that the strategic use of non-violent civil disobedience can be important tool in advancing our mission.”

The Board also recognizes that non-violent civil disobedience is a tactic that comes with a greater degree of organizational risks and need for caution. It is a tool that should be used sparingly and under special circumstances

As the Board considers whether it will allow for participation in non-violent civil disobedience actions, it will evaluate whether the proposed event meet one or more of these overarching criteria:

Contribute to the Sierra Club’s mission and priorities

Does it help accomplish a top organizational priority in a way that other activities would not?

Align with Sierra Club values and strengths

Is it an especially good fit for the Sierra Club to undertake rather than any other group, given our values and particular organizational strengths?

Present a significant opportunity to meaningfully change the debate and/or impact change - Is it a real game changer?

Build demand for protecting our planet and people - Will it lead to deeper relationships with other movements, bring in more people to the environmental community, and help broaden people’s perspectives of why our issues and mission are so critical?