

Our newsletter is being sent to all current active Sierra Club members in the Shasta Group that have given permission to send email to them.



### Calling for Newsletter Contributions by Sierra Club members

We would like to invite everyone to submit nature-related photos, poems, articles, suggested outing descriptions, plant-based food recipe's, and restaurant reports of good vegetarian food.

### November Elections

The Sierra Club has an ongoing major effort to influence the outcome of the November US election. To comply with federal laws, local Sierra Club Groups are allowed to work toward the election of specific candidates so long as they are not working with the candidate or their direct election team. We can work as individuals focusing on local, state and national elections as independent citizens. The states of Arizona, Florida, Michigan and Pennsylvania are major focus points for the presidential elections. **If we can organize enough volunteers to contact**

**enough voters, we will win.**

We're going to contact voters in three important ways:

1. **GOTV (on the ground):** In Arizona, Florida, Michigan, and Pennsylvania, we will mobilize at least 4,000 volunteers to canvass, if safe to do so, for a two week get-out-the-vote period before the November 3rd elections. We'll secure additional shifts from volunteers able to canvass just the last two weekends, or the last weekend.

We want to be clear: **We are asking those who can afford to make this commitment to volunteer remotely or in person for two weeks before the election in these states.** To defeat Trump, this is the most valuable, most important thing you can do. It is a big deal, but we will support you every step of the way.

2. **GOTV (remote):** In addition to in-person conversations in those states, we will organize 10,000 volunteers across the country to send a total of one million personal, hand-written letters, make 2 million phone calls, and send 7.5 million text messages to climate and environmental voters in our four priority states. **If COVID-19 impacts our in-person organizing, we will massively scale our remote voter contact.**

3. **Persuasion (remote):** Finally, we intend to broaden our impact with a direct mail and hand-written persuasion campaign. We have identified a universe of over 1.5 million voters who we can

micro-target with specific, tested messages that will be most powerful to them. If you wish to participate please go to the Sierra Club website. <https://www.sierraclubindependentaction.org/2020-plan-to-win>

If you want local Shasta Group help please contact John Livingston at [Livingstonjohn@att.net](mailto:Livingstonjohn@att.net). The Sierra Club has formally endorsed Joe Biden for President.

### **Shasta Group Outings & Events August 1 to December 31, 2020**

The Sierra Club has suspended all outings and face to face events of all types due to the Covid 19 pandemic. This includes all foreign and domestic outings for all Sierra Club programs. We hope to have an update at the end of August on when and how the outings and other programs will be permitted. We usually have the Fall Salmon Festival in October and our Annual Potluck in February. We will have to wait and see what is permitted by the Sierra Club as the months go by. For the latest information check the Shasta Group website: [www.motherlode.sierraclub.org/shasta](http://www.motherlode.sierraclub.org/shasta).

### **2020 Sierra Club Calendars**

We are ordering wall and engagement calendars to sell to our members and friends. We would like to see how many people would like to reserve them. If you would like to reserve calendars please send an email with the type and number needed to: [sierrashastagroup@gmail.com](mailto:sierrashastagroup@gmail.com).

### **Live Stream Event**

**Friday, August 21, 7:00 pm to 9 pm**  
**Wild and Scenic Film Festival -Virtual**

The Whole Earth and Watershed Festival and Shasta Living Streets are excited to be bringing the **2nd Annual Wild & Scenic Film Festival** to you VIRTUALLY from home this year! The COVID-19 pandemic has

moved WEFW to offer this important film festival as a virtual-live streamed event that also includes additional access to the films for 5 days afterwards! This year's Film Festival will feature 14 inspiring films, (ranging from 1 minute to 20 minutes). We hope that this year's film selections will ignite your activism and create new partnerships for the work that lies ahead! *Stunning Films, Gorgeous Cinematography, & Fabulous Storytelling: Designed to Inspire Us to Act on Behalf of Our Community and Our Planet!*

Please visit:

[www.wholeearthwatershedfestival.org](http://www.wholeearthwatershedfestival.org) for tickets and more information!

### **A Personal Plug for having an Electric Plug-in Hybrid Car**

By Noreen Ford

I know it doesn't seem to be the right time to be talking or even thinking about buying a new car..... However, just in case you are in the market, I'd like to share some information I learned while trying to reduce my carbon footprint. I have used over the years: a Ford Escape hybrid, two models of Nissan LEAFs and recently, a Kia Niro plug-in. My current personal opinion is that a hybrid plug-in is the way to go due to its versatility, and incentives such as city, state and federal rebates/tax credits (which are being restricted and eliminated yearly).

Driving a car in this somewhat rural area of northern California is a necessity. Public transit options are not plentiful, bike paths/sidewalks aren't usually available on thoroughfares (and then there's that hot weather....), carpool systems are not really in place (that's even before COVID-19) and often there is distance and a highway involved while running errands (I know someone who had to travel 40 miles just to get to a laundromat to do their laundry).

The good news is that nowadays there are a lot more fuel source options available for cars. Years ago, when I lived in the Bay Area the only electrical vehicles out there were souped up golf and/or maintenance utility carts (GEM -- Global Electric Motorcars) such as these that capped out at speeds around 25 mph.



Global Electric Motorcars (GEM)

Then, along came the conventional hybrids such as the original Toyota Prius that utilized an internal combustion engine in combination with a “battery that could take over during times of modest power needs when the combustion engine would be forced to run well below its peak efficiency” such as in stop and go traffic. Now along with electric vehicles (EVs), there are even three hydrogen-powered car models (Hyundai Nexa, Toyota Mirai, Honda Clarity Fuel Cell) that only emit water vapor although hydrogen refueling stations are limited.

In the electrical vehicles arena, I view the two EV options as: (1) the 100% all electrics with ranges from 130 miles to over 300 (and always being improved) <https://www.motortrend.com/news/longest-range-electric-cars-2020-19-evs-can-go-distance/> or; (2) a PHEV = plug-in hybrid electric vehicle with ranges of 21 to 37 miles. Originally, I thought these ranges were pathetic; however, with braking regeneration technology that continually recharges, these ranges prove to be fairly adequate for most daily mileages near Interstate 5 as long as you don't live way out in the country. Also, with the lower mileage range, you don't really need to install a 240V fast charger at home as these PHEV cars easily recharge overnight using a standard 110-volt outlet. And, you can take a long trip with great mpg performance without having to be concerned about finding a public EV charging station since PHEV vehicles will seamlessly switch over to hybrid/gas mode once the electrical battery depletes.

**AND** plug-in EVs qualify for state and federal rebates/tax credits (rebate/credit amounts are based on the size of the EV battery) as most of these vehicles have been recently developed and haven't yet sold 200,000 units (that's why cars such as the Nissan LEAF and Teslas are no longer eligible for federal rebates). For example, the Kia Niro plug-in qualifies for \$4,543 federal tax credit but now \$0 for the state tax credit because starting Dec. 2019 a plug-in hybrid needed to have 35+ miles electric range. Previously, the Niro qualified for a \$1,500 rebate from the state. California has also added income qualifications so that the state's resources will be distributed more towards lower-income communities and away from wealthy buyers. Here is the link to current eligible vehicles and restrictions:

<https://cleanvehiclerebate.org/eng/ev/incentives/state-and-federal> . Redding Electric Utility even had a rebate for residential electric vehicles and chargers. Check out [redding.conservationrebates.com](http://redding.conservationrebates.com) for current status.

**AND** new public EV charging stations are being installed. Just in the three years I've lived here, Anderson alone has two new stations (one behind Vittles restaurant and the other in front of the Safeway). Shasta College near Redding has had several EV charging stations installed under their new solar panels but these weren't operational yet when I checked last year. (Hint: the Chargepoint station at the Target store in Redding was free to use as of last year as long as you have registered for a Chargepoint account). (Warning: Tesla charging stations are much more numerous but specific only to Tesla cars.)

Have I convinced you? Remember, you can charge a PHEV at home on a regular electrical outlet and rebates/tax credits are still here for the year 2020. My eyes are on the 2020 Ford Escape plug-in with a 37 mile range bumped back to launch by the end of this year, or the Mitsubishi Outlander PHEV which is the world's best-selling plug-in hybrid SUV at a confidence EV range of 24 miles.

But here, click on this link and you can learn about [every plug-in-hybrid vehicle for sale in the U.S. today](#)

Still waffling? Did I mention that in the last month after taking round-trips to Nevada City, Mad River and

Oak Run; sitting in the car for 30 minutes with the air conditioning on; and traveling many trips to Redding from Cottonwood I still have about 200 miles range left to go on my first tank of gas. Update July 27, 2020: I have now put 1,500 miles on the car with an overall MPG of 91 while the sticker rating is 105 mpg. Not in the market for a new car?

GOOD NEWS -- I have read that changing to a plant based diet has about as much impact in terms of

reducing carbon footprint as driving an electric vehicle. So, take your pick..... Give up tri-tip or head to a dealership? You can e-mail me at [noreen2913@gmail.com](mailto:noreen2913@gmail.com) if you have any questions.

**Sierra Club Actions** –As everyone knows, White House actions over the past 4 years have reduced protections for both the natural and human environment that have been achieved over many years of very hard struggles by many environmental organizations. As Sierra Club members, we are trying hard to stop or slow the implementation of these dangerous actions. Please step up and make your opinions known to your elected federal officials for if we do not act our world will suffer. You can call the U. S. Congressman in our area, Doug LaMalfa, at his Washington DC office and speak to an intern and give them your message about any issue or bill before congress. His phone number is 202-225-3076. A letter is even more powerful and you can write one to:

US. Congressman Doug LaMalfa, 506 Canon Office Building, Washington DC 20515.

You should also feel free to send communications to our two U. S Senators, at

U.S. Senator Dianne Feinstein

331 Hart Senate Office Building Washington DC 20510

Phone (202) 224-3841

To send an email go to: [www.feinstein.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/e-mail-me](http://www.feinstein.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/e-mail-me)

Harris, Kamala

112 Hart Senate Office Building Washington DC 20510

Phone (202) 224-3553

To send an email, go to: [www.harris.senate.gov/contact](http://www.harris.senate.gov/contact)

**Redding Planning Commission:**

Chairman Bert Meyer-- [bmeyer@cityofredding.org](mailto:bmeyer@cityofredding.org),

Commissioner Randy Memeo--[rmemeo@cityofredding.org](mailto:rmemeo@cityofredding.org)

Commissioner Michele Goedert--[mgoedert@cityofredding.org](mailto:mgoedert@cityofredding.org)

Commissioner Frank Coughlin--[fcoughlin@cityofredding.org](mailto:fcoughlin@cityofredding.org)

Commissioner Leslie Williem--[lwilliem@cityofredding.org](mailto:lwilliem@cityofredding.org)

Commissioner Wally St. Clair-- [wstclair@cityofredding.org](mailto:wstclair@cityofredding.org)

Commissioner Rick Bosetti--[rbosetti@cityofredding.org](mailto:rbosetti@cityofredding.org)

**City Council:**

Michael Dacquisto, Mayor --[mdacquisto@cityofredding.org](mailto:mdacquisto@cityofredding.org)

Adam McElvain, Vice Mayor -- [amcelvain@cityofredding.org](mailto:amcelvain@cityofredding.org)

Erin Resner, Mayor Pro Tempore -- [eresner@cityofredding.org](mailto:eresner@cityofredding.org)

Julie Winter, Council Member, --[jwinter@cityofredding.org](mailto:jwinter@cityofredding.org)

Kristen Schreder, Council Member--[kschreder@cityofredding.org](mailto:kschreder@cityofredding.org)

**City Manager:** Barry Tippin -- [mrhoads@cityofredding.org](mailto:mrhoads@cityofredding.org)

## **Public Comment Period Open for Critical Shasta Dam Proposal to Increase Water Storage**

The Bureau of Reclamation has proposed raising Shasta Dam for many years and is now seeking public input on the Shasta Lake Water Resources Investigation Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement. By raising the 600-foot-tall Shasta Dam an additional 18.5 feet, the proposed project would increase water storage capacity in the Shasta Lake reservoir by 634,000 acre-feet. The Shasta Lake Water Resources Investigation evaluates the potential of raising Shasta Dam to increase anadromous fish survival and water supply reliability while additionally increasing flood damage reduction, water quality, hydropower generation, and recreation opportunities. Reclamation completed a Final Environmental Impact Statement in July 2015 and a Draft Environmental Impact Statement in July 2013, each of which investigated the potential effects of enlarging Shasta Dam by 6.5 ft, 12.5 ft, and 18.5 ft. Reclamation has prepared a Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement to address new and updated information that has come available since the publication of the Final and Draft Environmental Impact Statements. The draft supplemental includes updated information on the potential impacts of the project to waters of the U.S., a revision of the wild and scenic river considerations for the McCloud River that refocuses on federal requirements, and updated modeling to reflect the operational changes to Shasta Dam in the 2019 Biological Opinions issued by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Marine Fisheries Service. The draft supplement is available for public comment August 6 2020 through close of business on September 21 2020. It is 84 pages long. View the Draft Supplemental EIS online at [https://www.usbr.gov/mp/nepa/nepa\\_project\\_details.php?Project\\_ID=1915](https://www.usbr.gov/mp/nepa/nepa_project_details.php?Project_ID=1915).

Submit comments by close of business on September 21 to David Brick, Bureau of Reclamation, CGB-152, 2800 Cottage Way, Sacramento, CA 95825, via telephone at 916-202-7158 (TTY 1-800-877-8339) or via email at [dbrick@usbr.gov](mailto:dbrick@usbr.gov).

The Shasta Group and the entire Sierra Club has fought this project for many years. Please write a letter with your comments. If you do not have the time to read the EIS document please send a letter of your overall objection and specific objection to the flooding of the McCloud River. Please contact John Livingston, Group Chair at [Livingstonjohn@att.net](mailto:Livingstonjohn@att.net) if you wish to discuss your positions.

## **Draft EIR on the Fountain Wind Project Now Available**

The approximate 4,464-acre proposed project site is located within approximately 29,500-acres of private property operated as managed forest timberlands. The property is located approximately one mile west of the existing Hatchet Ridge Wind Project, 6 miles west of Burney, immediately north and south of California State Route 299. Nearby communities include Montgomery Creek, Round Mountain, and Big Bend. The proposed project site is also within a geographic area that is traditionally and culturally affiliated with the Pit River Tribe. Lassen National Forest lies to the southeast, and the Shasta-Trinity National Forest is to the north.

The applicant has applied for a use permit to construct, operate, maintain, and ultimately decommission up to 72 wind turbines and associated transformers together with associated infrastructure and ancillary facilities. Each turbine would be no more than 679 feet tall, as measured from ground level to vertical blade tip (total tip height) and would have a generating capacity of 3 to 5.7 megawatts (MW). The project would have a maximum total generating capacity of up to 216 MW. Copies of the Draft EIR are now available for



public review at [www.co.shasta.ca.us/index/drm/planning/eir](http://www.co.shasta.ca.us/index/drm/planning/eir) or you can request a free thumb drive from Shasta County Planning Department. Public comment on this document is invited during a 45-day review period extending from Monday, August 3, 2020, through Friday, September 18, 2020, at 5:00 p.m.

There is a grassroots organization opposed to the Project: Citizens In Opposition to the Fountain Wind Project (CIO FWP) whose website is [www.stopfw.com](http://www.stopfw.com). Until COVID 19 they had been holding regular community meetings. They continue to speak out at Shasta County Supervisors and Planning Commission meetings. The Shasta Group will review the Draft EIR and submit appropriate pro or con comments.

Copies of the Draft EIR are now available for public review. Public comment on this document is invited during a 45-day review period extending from **Monday, August 3, 2020**, through **Friday, September 18, 2020, at 5:00 p.m.**

The Draft EIR and other project related documents and technical studies may be reviewed online by clicking on the Fountain Wind Project link at [www.co.shasta.ca.us/index/drm/planning/eir](http://www.co.shasta.ca.us/index/drm/planning/eir) . A hard copy of the Draft EIR and electronic appendices are available for inspection by appointment at the Shasta County Department of Resource Management, Planning Division, 1855 Placer Street, Suite 103, Redding, CA 96001 during regular business hours and subject to any new laws, regulations, or orders concerning the operation of facilities. For an appointment to inspect a hard copy or to obtain electronic and/or hard copies, contact Lio Salazar, Senior Planner, by telephone at (530) 225-5532 or e-mail at [lsalazar@co.shasta.ca.us](mailto:lsalazar@co.shasta.ca.us). Hard copies will be provided at the requester's expense at the direct cost of reproduction; electronic copies on thumb drive or CD format are available at no cost. Hard copies of the Draft EIR and electronic appendices are available for review by appointment at the Anderson, Redding, and Burney branches of the Shasta Public Libraries, Cottonwood Community Library, and Hill County Community Clinic (Round Mountain) during regular business hours and subject to facility policies and/or any new laws, regulations, or orders concerning the operation of facilities:

Anderson Branch 3200  
West Center St. Anderson,  
CA 96007  
(530) 365-7685

Redding Branch 1100  
Parkview Ave.  
Redding, CA 96001  
(530) 245-7250

Burney Branch 37116  
Main St.  
Burney, CA 96013  
(530) 335-4317

Cottonwood Community Library  
3427 Main St.  
Cottonwood, CA 96022  
(530) 347-4818

Hill County Community Clinic (Round  
Mountain) 37116 State Highway 299 East  
(530) 337-5750

Future notifications regarding scheduled Planning Commission hearings on this proposed project will be published and distributed in accordance with law. Please send your comments to the Shasta County Department of Resource Management, Planning Division, 1855 Placer Street, Suite 103, Redding, CA 96001 to the attention of Lio Salazar, Senior Planner, at, or by e-mail at [fw.comments@co.shasta.ca.us](mailto:fw.comments@co.shasta.ca.us); an automated reply will confirm receipt of comments submitted by e-mail. For general questions and assistance, please contact Lio Salazar, Senior Planner, by telephone at (530) 225-5532 or e-mail at [lsalazar@co.shasta.ca.us](mailto:lsalazar@co.shasta.ca.us).

**Executive Committee (Excom):** Group Chair &

Outings Chair: John Livingston:

[livingstonjohn@att.net](mailto:livingstonjohn@att.net);

At-Large: Debra Atlas: [debraatlas@gmail.com](mailto:debraatlas@gmail.com),

David Ledger: [dledger@sbcglobal.net](mailto:dledger@sbcglobal.net),

Noreen Ford: [noreen2913@gmail.com](mailto:noreen2913@gmail.com),

Don Jacobs: [whitesage@sbcglobal.net](mailto:whitesage@sbcglobal.net).

We need new Excom members that are willing to put in an average of 4 hours a month to attend meetings and volunteer at events. Please step forward to help our group. Contact John Livingston (email: [Livingstonjohn@att.net](mailto:Livingstonjohn@att.net)).

**ExCom meeting dates:** Meetings are normally held monthly in the Redding Library in one of the conference rooms either upstairs or downstairs and begin @ noon and end before 2 pm on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of every month. Meetings may be cancelled during the summer. No meetings are currently planned in the library due to Covid 19 concerns. Meeting discussions include local and regional environmental issues, planning for events, and issues our members want to explore. All Shasta Group members are welcome; we value your ideas and suggestions.

**VIRTUAL YOSEMITE**

The Sierra Club's Yosemite Conservation Center will offer several virtual programs beginning in August. The topics will include Yosemite Photography and Landmarks, Yosemite's Night Sky, and more. The programs will be presented by some of the regular summer presenters, who are unable to offer live programs this year since the building is closed due to COVID-19. [Learn more and sign up for announcements here.](#)