

Redwood Needles

Explore, enjoy and protect the planet

Volume 52 Number 6

Newsletter of the Redwood Chapter of the Sierra Club

December/January 2011

Solar Permit Fee Campaign Expands in Northern California

BY KURT NEWICK

Back in February we told you about the Sierra Club photovoltaic (PV) permit fee campaign for municipalities in Napa and Sonoma counties. Recently, similar surveys have been conducted for Solano and Humboldt counties. Sierra Club activists are following up with a long-term campaign to encourage cities to support the installation of solar power by lowering permit fees to fair levels.

Recent surveys reveal 1 in 5 local cities are charging twice as much as what is required to recover costs for residential PV permits. More significantly 1 in 3 cities are charging over 5 times a reasonable amount for larger commercial projects!

Some of these cities may be inadvertently strangling progress for solar power with exorbitant fees which is in violation of state law. Surveys reveal some municipalities are complementing solar policy of the federal and state governments with reasonable permit fees, while other cities are doing just the opposite, charging many times more than what is

needed to recover costs. This conflicts with laws which require minimal solar permit fees. California Government Code Section 65850.5 states "it is the intent of the Legislature to encourage the installation of solar energy systems by removing obstacles to, and minimizing cost of, permitting for such systems." Charging more than the reasonable cost to administer a permit violates California Government Code Section 66014, which states fees associated with permits "shall not exceed the estimated reasonable cost of providing the service for which the fee is charged."

With the law on our side Sierra Club volunteers are making steady progress by politely requesting that cities reduce PV permit fees to fair levels. The city council in Napa, for instance, adopted our Sierra Club PV permit fee recommendations in April 2011. Fees for a 131 kW commercial project in Napa fell from \$12,823 to \$1,219.

"Solar Fee Campaign Expands"

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Vision for Greenway to Spring Lake

Final AIA Report to be Presented at a Community Meeting December 3 in Santa Rosa

The Southeast Greenway Campaign Committee received the American Institute of Architects' (AIA) report "Imagine...A Greenway to Spring Lake and Beyond" which is available at <http://www.southeastgreenway.org/sdat-report-imagine--a-greenway-to-spring-lake-and-beyond.html>.

The report offers a provocative, conceptual vision for the old Highway 12 right-of-way, rooted in ideas collected from more than 300 residents, State, City and County officials who participated in town hall meetings and roundtable discussions in June.

With striking visuals, the report paints a picture

the community at large. This new jewel of open space would provide amenities including:

1. Bike and walking paths
2. Open space with restored native habitat and restored creeks
3. Historic orchards & community gardens
4. Spaces for meeting, relaxing and recreating

The report also addresses implementation, starting with the recommendation that

the community work closely with Caltrans to develop the Greenway as a corridor for alternative transportation, offering safe routes to school and ways to move around the neighborhood without a highway or motorized transportation.

Looking beyond the Greenway, the consulting team recommends appropriate development at strategic locations to provide

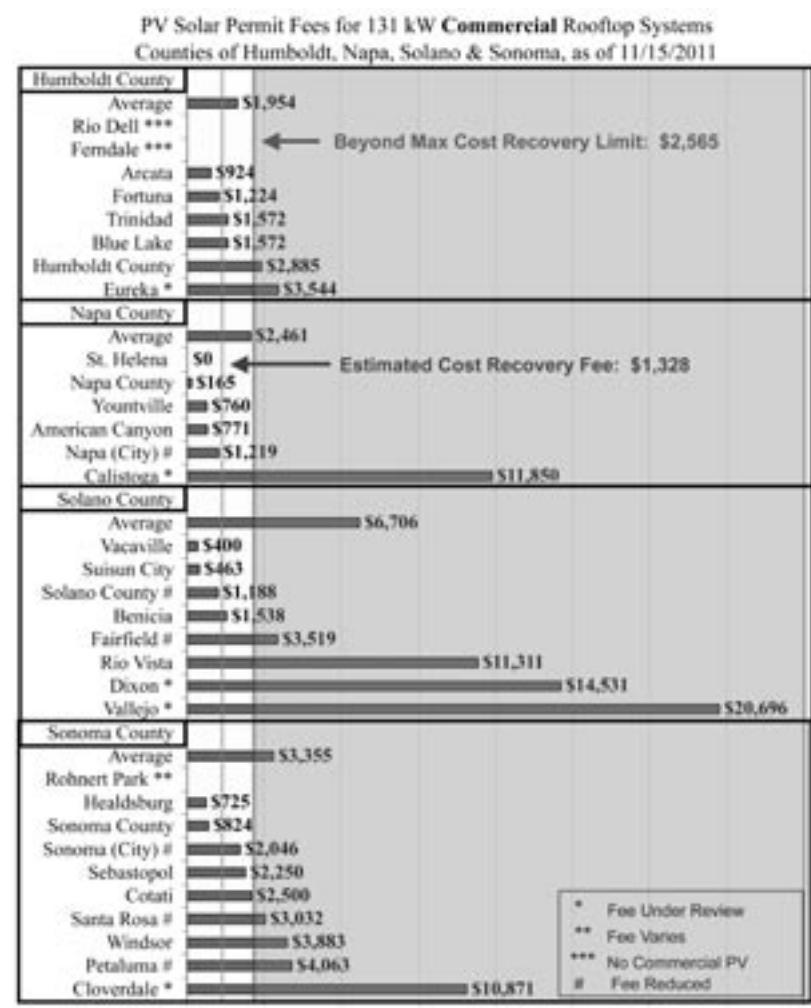


AIA's Sustainable Design Assessment Team views the Southeast Greenway in June.

of a linear Greenway stretching from Spring Lake Park to Farmers Lane that is very much tied into the fabric of the surrounding neighborhoods and

"Vision for Greenway"

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Sierra Club Stands in Solidarity with Occupy Wall Street Protests

For the past several weeks Occupy Wall Street protesters have peacefully held vigil in support of a broad vision for financial, political, and environmental reform in America. From this creative hub of activity, a diverse group of students, members of labor unions, environmentalists, and concerned citizens have helped this grassroots protest spread to more than 1,400 events nationwide. Many Sierra Club staff and volunteer leaders have participated in and/or lent support to these demonstrations standing up for the end to corporate greed. The demands and values of the protesters are very much in line with Sierra Club's strategic priority of confronting the power of the coal and oil industries.

In a vibrant democracy, peaceful protest and demonstration is among the highest form of citizen engagement in the democratic process. Since the founding of our republic, ordinary citizens have accomplished extraordinary things by joining together to express their convictions. It is our heritage to speak truth to power, and our nation's historic respect for peaceful dissent has helped the United States enact civil rights legislation, promote human rights internationally, and end unjust wars. Citizen engagement has brought this country out of its darkest hours and helped us fulfill our promises of justice and equality to millions.

The Sierra Club affirms its support for the exercise of political expression through the Occupy Wall Street protests. Corporations that pollute our air, land and water, that put greed ahead of community good, public health and the nation's economic well-being must be held fully accountable. In our work around the country, we have seen first-hand how international coal and oil companies have wrecked communities, polluted our environment, and dominated the political process. We stand with Occupy Wall Street protesters in saying "enough."

The corporate accountability message these protests are carrying fits very well with our strategic priority of confronting the power of coal and oil and contribute to our strategic priorities of building a movement and fostering key partnerships. Sierra Club supports lawful and peaceful Occupy Wall Street protests.

Redwood Chapter Sierra Club Directory

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Office Address: Environmental Center, 55A Ridgway Avenue, Santa Rosa (West off of Cleveland Ave., to the west of Hwy 101)

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The Redwood Chapter is governed by an executive committee, with one (1) member delegated by each of six (6) regional groups and six (6) members elected at large. Each group elects its own executive committee.

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The Office is staffed most weekday afternoons. Call ahead to confirm,

544-7651. The Office is also open during evening meetings (see listings on

last page) and at other times when volunteers are present.

Redwood Chapter Online

Redwood Chapter Website: <http://www.redwood.sierraclub.org>
 for Group Websites, add: /napa, /north, /sonoma, /lake, /mendocino,
 or /solano

Sequoia Paddlers: www.sequoiapc.org

Redwood-Sonoma-Alerts Listserve: Instructions at Sonoma Group Website

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Sierra Student Coalition: Chair position open

Treasurer

Chapter and Group elections

Please read the candidate statements from folks running for the vacant Chapter and Group positions and remember to cast your ballots.

California National Marine Monument

The CCNM was established by presidential proclamation in 2000. It consists of lands (islands, rocks, reefs and the like) controlled by the United States within 12 miles of the shoreline of California. The CCNM is recognized as a biological and geological treasure, rich in biodiversity, which provides essential habitat for many species. The CCNM designation mandates the protection of historic and scientific objects, particularly geologic formations and the habitat that they provide. Through an MOU that went into effect in 2000, the federal Bureau of Land Management agreed to collaborate with the California Department of Fish and Game and the California Department

Chapter Chair Report

of Parks and Recreation in the management of the CCNM.

With the particular help of one of our members, Julie Verran (Mendocino), the Chapter has researched an opportunity to become a collaborative partner with the Bureau of Land Management in preservation and stewardship of the CCNM. As a result Redwood Chapter is supporting a Memorandum of Understanding between the BLM and the Sierra Club. This will allow the Chapter to have useful input into future management of the coast. Thanks, Julie!

Usal and Redwood Forests

Funding for conservation easements on Usal Redwood Forest (50,000 acres) and the nearby Garcia River Forest (24,000-acres) in Mendocino County has now been approved by the Wildlife

Conservation Board for both forests. These forestlands were once thriving ancient redwood and Douglas fir forest containing many creeks and tributaries including spawning and rearing habitat for listed salmon and steelhead trout. The Redwood Chapter and other environmental groups successfully lobbied for approval of this funding.

State of the Chapters Assessment

I have earlier mentioned that National Sierra Club has been conducting an assessment of the nearly 70 Sierra Club chapters. This meant collecting data from each chapter. A report on the assessment was discussed in September at the annual Council of Club Leaders meeting. It emerged that Redwood Chapter spends a lot of its budget directly on conservation issues, more than most other Chapters.

-JAY HALCOMB, REDWOOD CHAPTER CHAIR

"Solar Fee Campaign Expands"

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These jurisdictions have recently reduced their commercial PV permit fees:

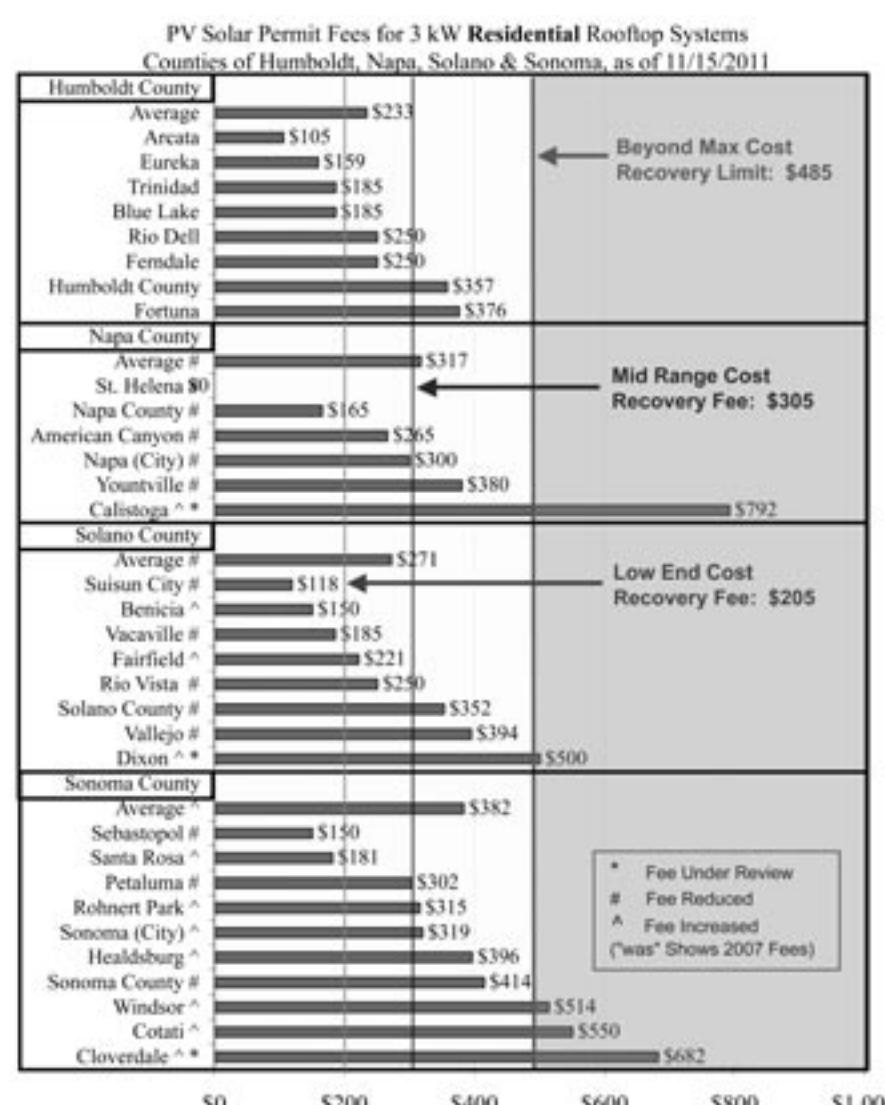
Fairfield from \$7,300 to \$3,519
Napa (city) from \$12,823 to \$1,219
Petaluma from \$11,383 to \$4,063
Santa Rosa from \$8,959 to \$3,032
Solano County from \$22,477 to \$1,188
Sonoma (city) from \$4,951 to \$2,046

For all of our reports on solar permit fees throughout California, see: www.SolarPermitFees.org

What You Can Do:

If your local fees are beyond the Maximum Cost Recovery Limit as indicated on the charts below, please contact your local municipal officials and encourage them to reduce the fees.

Kurt Newick is chair of the Global Warming and Energy Committee, Loma Prieta Chapter, Sierra Club. He is leading a state-wide campaign to lower PV permit fees. To get involved contact him: KurtNewick@yahoo.com or 408-370-9636.



"Vision for Greenway"

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neighborhood amenities and put eyes on the Greenway. They also recommend an entirely new idea for the intersection of Farmers Lane at Highway 12 – a greenway gateway.

The AIA report provides a roadmap for turning the community's good ideas into a real Greenway. Plan to attend the next **community meeting at the Glaser Center on Saturday, December 3, from 10:00 am to 12:00 noon** and weigh in on plan ideas and the action steps needed to move forward.

The Southeast Greenway Campaign Committee has been busy addressing the key recommendations of the AIA's Sustainable Design Assessment Team (SDAT). Their most exciting recommendation involves working with the City and Caltrans to create an initial trail along the Greenway. The Campaign has identified a transportation-

consulting group with extensive Caltrans experience to help prepare for and convene a meeting with Caltrans.

Another recommendation suggests that the Southeast Greenway campaign use the AIA's Final Report as an initial road map to engage City and County officials in preparing a "white paper" or "development plan" for implementing the Greenway and building toward a general plan amendment. This is underway.

Get involved in making the Southeast Greenway a reality. **Come to the community meeting on Saturday morning, December 3rd, 10 am to 12 noon at the Glaser Center.** The Southeast Greenway Campaign team will be sharing these plans with you and asking for your feedback, ideas and involvement.

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SHARP

A Journey Inside the Creative Mind of Bill Nellor

Bill Nellor is a Sierra Club volunteer who has created cartoons for the *Redwood Needles* since 2009, most recently "The Eco Kid" series. Perhaps you thought his style seemed familiar. Yep, he's responsible for the art and concept of "Clo the Cow", the beloved icon of local Clover Dairy that has endured for more than forty-three years. Perhaps you recall the nationally syndicated Sunday cartoon featuring humorous and odd patents, that appeared in the Press Democrat in the '70's. This was Bill Nellor's work again, (along with his friend Jim Molica, who did the research.) A collection of these cartoons, "Funny Fizzles" was also published in book form.

William Nellor served in the Navy in the Pacific theater during World War II. He then graduated from Cornish College of the Arts in Seattle. His work was widely exhibited in the Pacific Northwest as well as in Northern California and Hawaii.

Bill has also won numerous awards in a distinguished career in the field of graphics arts. Bill was a co-creator along with Bob Brown of the concept for the animated educational film, "Why Man Creates" while at Young and Rubicam Advertising for its client Kaiser Industries. It was an extension of their advertising theme "At Kaiser the idea is ideas". Bill's team selected Saul Bass Productions to complete the project on film. Saul Bass submitted the film for an Academy Award and won an Oscar for Saul Bass Productions. Bill later moved to Santa Rosa and opened his own advertising agency.

Bill spent nine years in Maui after his retirement. He now lives in Santa Rosa, and continues his life-long pursuit of the arts. In July, Bill was kind enough to share more about his background and some of his environmental insights with the *Redwood Needles*.

—MARY DAVISON, *REDWOOD NEEDLES* EDITOR

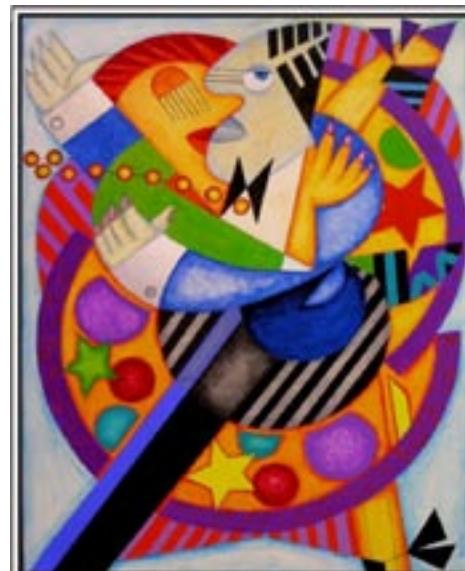
Redwood Needles: Where were you born?

Bill Nellor: I was born in Portland, Oregon. We lived close by in a village called Bridal Veil Falls, a beautiful spot on the Columbia River where my father served as an accountant for a lumber mill there. I spent most of my youth in Eastern Oregon working on cattle ranches on weekends and summers until we moved to Seattle for my senior year of high school. Cowboys were my heroes in my youth. This helped me develop the Eco Kid. It was based on my experience with a good friend whose family owned a large cattle ranch. They had an elder son that was small in stature and tended towards the intellectual pursuit. When he returned to the ranch with a college degree he always had sage comments regarding life on the ranch. We all had lots of good experiences there.

RN: What style of art would you characterize your paintings as?

Bill: Due to my position for some 30

years in advertising it was necessary that I apply different styles for different clients. That carried over to my fine arts career where I worked in series of paintings applying different techniques to each series. Although this is contrary to what most galleries and the public expect, I found it challenging and interesting to explore.



RN: You've lived in a variety of locations - Seattle, Hawaii, San Francisco. What is it that attracts you to Santa Rosa at this time in your life?

Bill: After graduating from Cornish Arts College in Seattle my objective was to go to what was then the center of advertising on the West Coast, San Francisco. I was also very attracted to this city having passed through during WW2. It turned out to be a wonderful experience, I loved the city.

Many years later I wanted to simplify my life after spending years in the San Francisco advertising scene, and Santa Rosa was a nearby city that was growing rapidly. It presented an opportunity to apply my skills in advertising and graphics by opening my own agency there. I dealt directly with my clients and was able to create mutual respect for our common goals. That eliminated the various conflicts that always exist in a large advertising agency. I was very successful and enjoyed numerous awards for my work.

The island of Maui had always attracted me ever since my experience there during WW2. I was a combat medic attached to a Marine Division and our last training location before combat was the island of

Maui. I always wanted to go back. Our two children were now adults and living on their own, so it presented another life change decision. My wife and I decided to move to Maui where I pursued a fine arts and graphics career painting and designing items for the tourist trade. After nine years on Maui we returned to Santa Rosa in order to be nearer to our children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren.

RN: Your cartoons for the Redwood Needles address a wide range of environmental issues. Do you have any favorite sources for information? What inspires you?

Bill: I find that environmental issues exist in so many areas that all of us are confronted with daily. My favorite source is the Sierra Club magazine and the Redwood Needles. Other sources are the Smithsonian and National Geographic magazine, public television and just observing what's going on locally. My conclusion is that we are not taking the serious steps necessary in implementing environmental reform and that time is running out. A bleak assessment is that the solution involves politics. And as the saying goes that's another "can of worms".

RN: You have regularly contributed your cartoon to the Redwood Needles since 2009. Why is it important to you to support the Sierra Club?

Bill: So many reasons, too many to enumerate here. The Sierra Club through its many years of work has accomplished so much good I feel it a privilege to make my small contribution.

RN: Having witnessed many significant changes in your lifetime, what do you think is the most pressing environmental issue we are faced with?

Bill: Global warming. We are witnessing strong evidence of it daily, especially during the past couple of years. Our contributions to alternative energy have been grossly inadequate, unfortunately. The people need to recognize the importance and force the politicians into meaningful action, now! Public demonstrations would inform the public and exert pressure on the politicians nationally. Critical areas are transportation (out of the car into the trains, local and national), solar energy with its unlimited

potential. We have fallen behind many of the other developed nations in providing alternative energy. Not only will it be good for the environment, it would stimulate the economy and produce new businesses and jobs.

RN: You will be turning 88 soon. Would you share with our readers an important lesson from your experience that you'd like to pass along to others?

Bill: The excitement of youth and its influence on a person's career and life add to the broad experience of living. It's an enjoyable time of life. As one ages some of that mellows. I've drifted into a philosophy that a simpler life can be a more enjoyable one. Both my wife and I feel the same and have been applying that thinking for many years now. That's the main reason we moved to Maui to enjoy the abundance of natural beauty there. That natural beauty is here too and throughout the expanse of the whole world.

RN: Please feel free to share any other thoughts or information you think our readers might be interested in.

Bill: My wife Ave was born and raised in Trieste Italy. We met in San Francisco shortly after WW2 and were married after her war bride experience was dissolved. She has been a wonderful companion, mother, and an excellent and creative vegetarian cook for our almost 60 years of marriage (Dec. 22, 2011). Her judgment on many things has opened my eyes to a different perspective on issues and has had a strong influence on the direction of my life.

Thank you, Bill, for sharing so much with our readers about your fascinating life and some insights from your 88 years.



"Maui Moon" By Bill Nellor

The Eco Kid by Bill Nellor



Albion Headlands Decision Upheld

The highly-contested development of the Albion Headlands took another turn last month in the decision of the Superior Court to uphold the denial of a Boundary Line Adjustment (BLA) to reconfigure the headlands parcels. The owners/applicants had sued the County for denying the application, but the Superior Court denied their petition to overthrow the Board decision.

Several determinations were made, some of which affect land use planning in the County and in the coastal zone. The State of California regulates subdivision of land. Certain types of lot-line adjustments (BLA in Mendocino County) are exempted from the Subdivision Map Act and the agency review is limited to whether or not the adjustment is in compliance with the General Plan, Specific Plans, Local Coastal Plan, or local zoning and building codes. The eligible number of parcels is limited to four or fewer, and they are required to be "adjoining".*

Opponents of the BLA proposal, including the Sierra Club Mendocino Group, argued that the proposal would establish parcels that did not touch the original parcels, in effect moving three small parcels away from a county road out onto the open bluffs overlooking the ocean. The court instead focused on the original parcels being "adjoining". The court was unable to find any precedent defining the word "adjoining" as it is

used in this GC Section 66412(d). The legislative history to the amendment in 2001 suggests that adjoining should be interpreted as "physically continuous." While the opposition argued that while the parcel may be enlarged or diminished, the parcels must remain in basically the same geographic relation to one another. The court disagreed, stating that the only likely restriction is that they remain physically contiguous. Therefore "same geographic relationship" was not used as a determining factor in reviewing the case.

However, the Exemption is not mandatory determination, and may not qualify if it does not conform to the local general plan, specific plan, coastal and any zoning and building ordinances. In this case the Board of Supervisors determined that the application did not conform to the Coastal Act or the local Coastal Plan.

The Board also made a finding that the BLA as presented is not consistent with the purpose and intent of the applicable zoning district and does not conform to the county code. While in the county original non-conforming lots do not have to meet minimum parcel sizes, the Coastal Plan states that any new parcel does have to meet the minimum size requirement, in this case 40 acres.

"Highly scenic" protection afforded by the Local Coastal Plan was discussed by both parties, with each defending their plan as the least impactful. While arguments

were deemed reasonable on both sides, the decision of the Board to disallow the proposal did not rise to the level of an "abuse of discretion". To grant or deny an application for a boundary line adjustment is discretionary by the Board.

The environmental review by the Coastal Administrator was determined to have used an inappropriate baseline in review of the environmental impacts. County used the probable development of all five (3 existing, 2 potential) parcels as though those were already permitted, instead of the physical conditions that existed at the time of application. Granting a Negative Declaration of insignificant impact was therefore invalid, and the Board did not abuse its discretion in disallowing the application.

To comply with the Coastal Act and Local Coastal Plan, the County must evaluate the impact in coastal developments by the lot line adjustment. "Buildability" of the current parcels is compared with the potential development of the adjusted parcels.

The current buildability of the smaller parcels was contested by the opponents of the project on the grounds that the parcels were not large enough for septic systems and off-site septic system proposals had not met the requirements. While the applicants argued that the office of Environmental Health had approved "permits", the court found that no actual permits were

issued, just potential approval for permits. Therefore the Board could find that the application had not met the requirements for conformity with the zoning.

The conclusions reached by the Court seem to uphold the opinion of the Sierra Club Mendocino Group that the presence of parcels recognized by Certificates of Compliance cannot be used to break the requirements of the General Plan, Local Coastal Plan or zoning requirements.

* Specifically, it defines the exemption as: [a] a lot line adjustment between four or fewer existing adjoining parcels, where the land taken from one parcel is added to an adjoining parcel, and where a greater number of parcels is not created, if the lot line adjustment is approved by the local agency, or advisory agency. A local agency or advisory agency shall limit its review and approval to a determination of whether or not the parcels resulting from the lot line adjustment will conform to the local general plan, any applicable specific plan, any applicable coastal plan, and zoning and building ordinances. An advisory agency or local agency shall not impose conditions or exactions on its approval of a lot line adjustment except to conform to the local general plan, any applicable specific plan, and applicable coastal plan, and zoning and building ordinances. . . (Gov't Code 66412(d).

—RIXANNE WEHREN, MENDOCINO GROUP
COASTAL COMMITTEE CHAIR

Sierra Club Volunteer/Activist Opportunities

Volunteer Activists Needed:

New position! Membership Engagement Chair: Redwood Chapter is seeking a Member Engagement Chair. The Member Engagement Chair enjoys meeting people and going to social events, meets and welcomes new members and volunteers. The Chair works with all sections of the Chapter to help provide people necessary to achieve our goals. The Chair ensures that people are welcomed and engaged in a way that is satisfying and furthers the Sierra Club mission. Please see <http://clubhouse.sierraclub.org/people/leaders/leader-position/job-descriptions/member-engagement-chair.aspx> and contact Steve Birdlebough, affirm@friendshouse.org

Sonoma Group Hike Leaders: Sonoma Group outings leaders training. Always a need for more leaders for outings. If you would like a training, please email Carol carolvsr@sonic.net or call 546-6308 for info. People are requesting families with children, camping and easy hikes.

North Group Hike Leaders: North Group is desperately seeking hike leaders. Please contact Bill Knight, the Outings Chair, at bill.knight.email@gmail.com.

Sonoma Group Environmental Forum Committee: The Sierra Club needs YOU! If you are willing to take a leadership role in planning Environmental Forums, training and assistance will be provided. Meet exciting environmental advocates throughout our community. Additionally, if you are willing to make a few phone calls periodically to invite Sierra Club members to attend forums, that would be great. Pls respond to Veronica Jacobi, vjacobi@sonic.net

Help the Sonoma Group Water Committee! HELP SAVE WATER. Work with the Committee on water issues. Come to our meetings at 7:00 PM at the Environmental Center on the third Wednesday of most months. The Water Committee is working on issues related to measures to conserve, save, and reuse this valuable resource. Our goal is to preserve and improve the natural water environment, the responsible use of water by people, and the safe reuse or disposal of our wastewaters. The Water Committee is currently working on issues such as the Carneros Ranch Fill Dredging Project water problems, Excessive Vineyard Frost Protection Water Use, and several other water related topics. Come to our meetings with your suggestions and to help in this enterprise. If you are not able to attend our meetings, you may e-mail Len Holt at lholt@sonic.net. Help protect the quality of our water for people, wild life, fish and other aquatic life. Promote water conservation and intelligent reuse. Contact Len Holt at lholt@sonic.net

The Climate & Energy Committee is plugged into Sonoma County! Join our discussion/activities on the 1st Monday/month 4:30 - 5:30 PM at the Environmental Center in Santa Rosa. Contact Shirley Johnson-Foell by email: johnsons@sonoma.edu or call the office at 544-7651.

Non-Sierra Club Outings

The following activities and events are not sponsored nor administered by the Sierra Club. The Sierra Club has no information about the planning of these activities and makes no representations or warranties about the quality, safety, supervision or management of such activities. They are published because they may be of interest to the readers of this publication.

Saturday Saunters for Santa Rosa Area.

Every Saturday. Meets 9am and usually ends around 11:30. These walks are moderate. Fun way to exercise with friends. For info call Bob Martin 707-539-6300.

Sonoma County Regional Parks trail work days.

On the day of the project you can call 707-548-4424 for an update or if you get lost coming to the park. Your support and dedication to our County's trails really makes a big difference. To RSVP for any of these projects please call John at 707-565-3356. ParksVolunteer@sonoma-county.org

Cotati Creek Critters: Creek Stewardship Days.

1st Saturdays of the month (Dec. 3, Jan. 7, Feb. 4),

9 am – 12 noon. Meet at our new planting site

off Gravenstein Way, near Falletti Park. Help plant native trees and shrubs alongside the Laguna de Santa Rosa channel in Cotati.

3rd Sundays of the month (Dec. 18, Jan. 15),

9 am – 12 noon. Meet at Cotati City well lot # 2 on Lakewood Ave. Help take care of native trees and shrubs by pruning, mulching, weeding etc. Dress for work and weather. Tools and gloves provided. See www.CotatiCreekCritters.info for Creek Stewardship Day guidelines, directions and maps. Contact: jenny@creeks.cotati.info or 707 792 4422.

Outings

Sequoia Paddlers - Canoe and kayak roll practice.

Ridgway Swim Center in Santa Rosa Thurs. 7:15 pm - 8:45 pm. *Note: Roll Practice goes on winter break from Thanksgiving to New Years. Check the Sequoia Paddlers website for details. www.sequoiapc.org. *The pool is located on Ridgway Ave off Mendocino right next to Santa Rosa High School. The water is warm but the air is often cold, so wet suits are recommended as well as PFD's and helmets. Paddlers must bring their own clean boats and gear. Instruction is not provided although advice and tips are available for the asking. Showers are available. Cost \$5. Co-sponsored by the Sequoia Paddlers and the Santa Rosa Parks & Rec. Dept. Info: Sig, poolcoord@sequoiapc.org or 292-4947

Sequoia Paddlers Section.

The canoe, kayak and rafting section of the Redwood Chapter. Outings are often dependent on river conditions and do not have long lead times. Please check the Activities Page of our website, www.sequoiapc.org, for upcoming trips.

Sat. Dec. 3 Sonoma Group. Pt. Reyes Hill Hike.

Moderately strenuous loop starting at Muddy Hollow Trailhead, climbing to Inverness Ridge, lunch stop on top Pt. Reyes Hill, and

returning Bucklin Trail. Wear good hiking shoes, dress in layers for the weather. Bring lunch, liquids. Class: M-8-C. Carpools: Meet 9 am Coddington parking lot, in front of the library. By reservation only by 8 pm Dec. 2. Leader Carl Inglin 538-8271 or chinglin@sonic.net. Rain cancels.

Sat. Dec. 10 - Napa Group. Tilden Regional Park Day Hike.

In the hills west of Berkeley, this hike follows a ridge trail to Vollmer and Wildcat Peaks, with sweeping panoramic views of the Bay to the north and west, Briones and San Pablo Reservoirs to the east, and Mt. Diablo and the valley below to the south. The pace will be just a bit on the slow side of Moderate, and there will be lunch at a favorite hilltop with a great view. Towards the end, we'll drop down to San Pablo Reservoir, right past the dam to a peaceful green park called Kennedy Grove. 8 miles, mostly flat or downhill, with a car shuttle. Bring a spare layer in case the ridge is breezy. Bring lunch and liquids. Class: M-8-A. Please RSVP online <http://www.meetup.com/Sacramento-Sierra-Club/events/38998712/> or contact the leader. Co-led with Mother Lode Chapter. Leader Martin Farber 707-253-9606 kowsoi@juno.com co-leader Isabelle Saint-Guilly. Rain cancels.

Sat. Dec. 10 - Solano Group.

Mare Island Shoreline Heritage Preserve.

Hike along Historic Southshore of Mare Island to southern most point of island at Pier 35 for unique views of Carquinez Strait and opportunity to view various wildlife and historic relics along the way (this is a level 4 mile round trip walk on paved and gravel roads) 9:30 -11:00. Take U.S. 101, I-80 or Hwy 29 to Highway 37 and take Mare Island exit just west of Vallejo. Follow Walnut Ave south to 'G' St. (1st stop sign) and turn left. Take the 2nd right at Nimitz and go to 15th St. stop sign and turn right. Go to Railroad Ave. and turn left. Follow Railroad through the South Gate to the Park kiosk and park along road. Leader Brian Collett 530-220-3121.

Sun. Dec. 11 - Lake Group. Boggs Mountain State Forest Hike.

Moderately fast hike on various trails. Neutered dogs on leash welcome. Sturdy shoes reqd. Bring water/snack. Class M-5-7-A. Meet 10 am covered kiosk main parking area. Entrance Forestry Road 1.3 miles north of Cobb Village on Hwy 175. By reservation only. Leader Carol Magill 707-928-5423, 707-295-0862, c.magill@mchsi.com Rain cancels.

Sun. Dec. 18 - Sonoma Group. Singles Holiday Party/Potluck/Gift Exchange.

Come to Randy's annual holiday party. Bring holiday food dish & beverage to share, plus \$1 toward Randy's utilities. Also bring a creative gift that everyone would want (up to \$10) for the optional gift exchange. The party is from 4-8 pm w/ dinner at 6 & gift exchange at 7. Please RSVP, if possible, at Randy@monitor.net. This will be the last potluck unless there is a new coordinator. From dwntwn, take Hwy 12 East toward Sonoma. Take a left on St. Francis Rd. (first left after Calistoga Rd), then turn right on Monte Verde to 5630. Please park responsibly. PLEASE DO NOT PARK between the driveway & the black Mailbox 5649 Monte Verde Drive. Info Karin before 8:30 pm 539-7855. If you'd like to see the potlucks continue volunteer to coordinate them! You can also partner with someone as co-chairs. Call Karin.

Sat/Sun. Dec. 17-18 - Peter Grubb Hut Trip (Beginner-Intermediate).

Snowshoe/Ski 3 miles (800') to Peter Grubb Hut for a Saturday overnight and avoid the shopping crowd. \$23 (\$25 Non Sierra Club members) by Dec 10th to Jim Gannon; PO Box 1038, Rohnert Park, CA 94927. Non-refundable reservations. Please include email address/phone#.

Optional stay at Clair Tappaan Lodge Fri 16th. Make reservations early to avoid disappointment. Lodge reservations 530-426-

3632. Indicate you are with Peter Grubbtrip-Redwood Chapter. Sno-Park pass necessary for parking at Sno-Park trailhead. Central commissary is planned. Meeting time/location provided with trip sign up. Contact Jim Gannon jgannon99@sbcglobal.net (707)-525-1052. Leader Don Anderson donsluck@live.com co-leader Jim Gannon.

Thurs.-Mon. Dec. 29 2011 - Jan. 2, 2012 - Holiday Service in Carrizo Plain.

Once again we return to the Carrizo Plain to celebrate the end of the year and to offer service to the pronghorn antelope in this National Monument. Lying between Bakersfield and San Luis Obispo, this vast grassland is home to pronghorn antelope, tule elk, kit fox, and a wide variety of birds. A welcome hike Dec. 29, two and a half days of service modifying barbed wire fencing, and a full day for hiking and exploring are planned. Use of accommodations at Goodwin Ranch is included. Limited to 14 participants, \$30 covers four dinners and breakfast on New Year's morning. For more info, contact leader: Craig Deutsche, craig.deutsche@gmail.com, 310-477-6670. CNRCC Desert Com.

Fri.-Sun. Dec. 30 Jan. 1 - Napa Group. Hutchinson Lodge Ski Weekend Soda Springs.

Bring in the New Year with a fun filled ski adventure in Tahoe. We will join Claire Tappaan New Year's Eve for a fabulous party and talent show. Weekend includes 2 nights, with 2 dinners & 2 breakfasts. Cross Country skis and snow shoes are available for rental at Claire Tappaan Lodge. Sugar Bowl, Donner Ski Ranch, Royal Gorge, and Soda Springs ski resorts are near-by and accessible by car or shuttle bus. By reservation only. Leader Nanette DeDonato 707-645-8953 or nandedo@netzero.net Cost \$78 for the weekend.

Sat. Jan. 7 - Sonoma Group. Prince Greenway Walk.

Join me for a walk along our beautiful Santa Rosa Creek. Hope the weather is nice. We will stroll along for awhile - you can go at your own pace if you like - and then go back to Railroad Square (optional) for either coffee or breakfast/brunch. Meet 10 am by Railroad Square visitor center close to Peanuts Statue. By reservation only by Jan 6th. Bring layered clothing. Class: E-2-4-A Leader Carol Vellutini 546-6308 carolvsr@sonic.net Sprinkles - bring umbrella/rain cancels.

Sat. Jan. 14 - Solano Group. Mare Island Shoreline Heritage Preserve.

Hike along Historic Southshore of Mare Island to southern most point of island at Pier 35 for unique views of Carquinez Strait

and opportunity to view various wildlife and historic relics along the way (this is a level 4 mile round trip walk on paved and gravel roads) 9:30 -11:00. Take U.S. 101, I-80 or Hwy 29 to Highway 37 and take Mare Island exit just west of Vallejo. Follow Walnut Ave south to 'G' St. (1st stop sign) and turn left. Take the 2nd right at Nimitz and go to 15th St. stop sign and turn right. Go to Railroad Ave. and turn left. Follow Railroad through the South Gate to the Park kiosk and park along road. Leader Brian Collett 530-220-3121.

Sun. Jan. 15 - Sonoma Group. Annadel State Park Hike.

An easy walk from Cobblestone Trailhead to Lake Ilsanjo and back via Cobblestone, Rough Go, Live Oak and North Burma trails. Meet 10 am at Cobblestone Trailhead on Channel Drive. RSVP by 8 pm Jan. 14. Bring layered clothing. Class: E-6-A Leader Carl Inglin 538-8271 or chinglin@sonic.net Rain cancels.

Sat.-Mon. Jan. 14-16 - Bradley Hut Trip (Adv Beginner-Intermediate).

Snowshoe/Ski 5 miles (1500') to Bradley Hut for MLK weekend Sat. /Sun. overnight and back out on Mon. midday. \$38 (\$40 Non Sierra Club members) by Jan 6th to Jim Gannon; PO Box 1038, Rohnert Park, CA 94927. Non-refundable reservations. Please include email address/phone#. Optional stay at Clair Tappaan lodge Fri 9th. Make reservations early to avoid disappointment. Lodge reservations 530-426-3632 indicate you are with Bradley trip-Redwood Chapter. Central commissary is planned. Meeting time/locations provided with trip sign up. Contact leader Jim Gannon (707)-525-1052 jgannon99@sbcglobal.net co-leader Don Anderson donsluck@live.com

Sat. Jan. 21 - Napa Group. Olompali Hike.

This may be our last chance to hike Olompali State Historic Park before it closes. In the hills overlooking Rush Creek Preserve, we'll hike along a cool, shady forest trail to Mount Burdell, about 5 miles along a very steady, gentle upgrade, 1,500 ft. elevation gain, to the summit. Then we'll return 3 miles along a moderate downgrade through the rolling grasslands and meadows of Mt. Burdell Open Space Preserve. 8 miles total, with a short car shuttle. The pace will be just a bit on the slow side of Moderate, and there will be lunch on a mountaintop with a great view. Bring lunch and liquids. Class: M-8-B. Please RSVP online <http://www.meetup.com/Sacramento-Sierra-Club/events/38990922/> or contact the leader. Co-led with Mother Lode Chapter. Leader: Martin Farber 707-253-9606 kowsoi@juno.com

Instructions to hikers

Outings will start not later than 15 minutes after scheduled meeting time. The leader is in charge of the trip and is responsible for your welfare and the good name of the Club. He/she must have your cooperation to make the trip safe, pleasant and rewarding. Never charge ahead of the leader and keep within sight or shouting distance of the person ahead of you so you do not miss an intersecting trail. Do not lag behind rear leader: if you need help, the rear leader will remain to assist you. Do not leave the group without the leader's permission.

Be adequately equipped and prepared. You should carry lunch and liquids. Wear footwear appropriate for the outing. In most cases that would be hiking boots.

Guard against fire. Do not smoke on Sierra Club outings. Build fires only with the leader's permission, and extinguish them completely. Guns, pets, or radios are not to be brought on hikes.

The Sierra Club does not have insurance for carpools arrangements and assumes no liability for them. Participants assume the risks associated with travel. Reimburse the carpool driver. Carpools are not part of the outing but a means of conserving natural resources.

All participants on Sierra Club outings are required to sign a standard liability waiver. If you would like to read the liability waiver please go to: <http://www.sierraclub.org/outings/chapter/forms/>, or contact the Outings Department at (415) 977-5528 for a printed version.

Visitors are welcome

All Sierra Club trips are open to the public unless otherwise announced. You are free to bring all members of your family and guests. Children are usually welcome, but please call the leader to make sure it is an appropriate hike.

DIFFICULTY	MILEAGE	ELEVATION GAIN
E - Easy	Actual	A - Less than 1,000
M - Moderate	Mileage	B - 1,000 to 2,000
H - Hard		C - 2,000 to 3,000
S - Strenuous		D - over 3,000
V - Very Strenuous		

The actual mileage will be listed for each trip. Elevation gain will reflect the gain from the start of the hike to the highest point. If you need to know the cumulative gain, please contact the leader.

To submit outings write-ups

Send all outings write-ups to: Carol Vellutini, Outings Chair, (carolvsr@sonic.net) by the 8th of the month. All leaders must coordinate their outings with their Group Outings Chair.

Outings

com Co-leader Chip Bouril. Rain cancels.

Sat. Feb. 4 - Sonoma Group Snowshoe Day Trip.

A low key excursion for those wanting to try snowshoeing. We'll drive up Hwy 50 to an area east of Placerville and hike 2-3 miles overrolling terrain. Carpool details TBD. RSVP Jan. 31. Bring layered clothing, spare dry clothing, lunch, liquids, rent snowshoes locally. Class: M-2-3-A. Leader Carl Inglin 538-8271 or chinglin@sonic.net. Maybe cancelled if weather/driving conditions are bad.

Fri.-Sun. Feb. 10-12 - Napa Group Hutchinson Lodge Ski Weekend Soda Springs.

Join us for a fun-filled snow adventure! Cross country skiing, snowshoeing, down hill skiing or just playing in the snow all are available. Weekend includes 2 nights, with 2 dinners & 2 breakfasts. Cross country skis or snow shoes are available for rental at nearby Claire Tappaan Lodge. Sugar Bowl, Donner Ski Ranch, Royal Gorge, and Soda Springs are near-by and accessible by car or shuttle bus. By reservation only. Leader Nanette DeDonato 707-645-8953 or nandedo@netzero.net. Cost \$78 for the weekend.

Sat. Feb. 11 - Napa Group. Mt. Tamalpais East Peak Day Hike.

Loop hike from Mountain Theater to East Peak, 9 miles, 700 ft gain, enjoy outstanding panoramic views, well-maintained trails. The pace will be just a bit on the slow side of Moderate. Bring lunch and liquids. Class: M-9-A. Please RSVP online, at <http://www.meetup.com/Sacramento-Sierra-Club/events/38991962/> or contact the

Outings Chair Report

I want to bring attention to an infection that many of you know about. I, however, just learned about it this year. I feel it is important to inform you, as many of you take desert and valley trips. I already informed my outing leaders. My college friend has it and is now unable to walk. She has had it for 2 years and contracted it in the Mojave Desert. Valley fever is a fungal infection. It can cause fever, chest pain and coughing, among other signs and symptoms. The coccidioides species of fungi that cause valley fever are commonly found in the soil in certain areas. These fungi can be stirred into the air by anything that disrupts the soil, such as farming, construction and wind. The fungi can then be breathed into the lungs

and cause valley fever. Mild cases of valley fever usually go away on their own. In more severe cases of valley fever, doctors prescribe antifungal medications that can treat the underlying infection. I have been in many dust storms while camping. Luckily I have not contracted it.

Our winter outing leaders have a great program planned for you. We need more winter leaders and please sign up for the trips if you are interested as you need to be checked out in the winter by one of the leaders. Last year the storms were severe and many trips had to be cancelled. At least we have our lodge as a back-up. If you have never been to our lodges try to make it up this

leader. Co-led with Mother Lode Chapter. Leader: Martin Farber 707-253-9606 kowsoi@juno.com co-leader Doug Condrotte. Rain or shine.

Sat.-Mon. Feb. 18-20 - Ludlow Hut Trip (Intermediate - Adv Intermediate).

Snowshoe/Ski 6.5 miles (1200') to Ludlow Hut for Presidents weekend Sat./Sun. overnight and back out on Mon. midday. \$38 (\$40 Non Sierra Club members) by Feb 4th to Jim Gannon; PO Box 1038, Rohnert Park, CA 94927. Non-refundable reservations. Please include email address/phone#. Optional stay at Clair Tappaan lodge Fri 11th. Make reservations early to avoid disappointment. Lodge reservations 530-426-3632 indicate you are with Ludlow trip-Redwood Chapter. Central

commissary is planned. Meeting time/locations provided with trip sign up. Contact leader Jim Gannon (707)-525-1052 jgannon99@sbcglobal.net.

Sat.-Sun. March 17-18 Benson Hut Trip (Adv Intermediate - Advanced).

Snowshoe/Ski 6 miles (2300') to



Benson Hut Work Party, Leader Jim Gannon.

winter. The Napa Group has one planned. Also Christmas at Clair Tappaan Lodge is so special. Bringing the family creates lasting memories.

All of our groups need more leaders. Please consider leading trips. We need family, teen and conservation outings in addition to the great hikes. Contact your group chair for details.

-CAROL VELLUTINI, REDWOOD CHAPTER OUTINGS CHAIR

Benson Hut for a Sat. overnight. \$23 (\$25 Non Sierra Club members)

by Mar 4th to Jim Gannon; PO Box 1038, Rohnert Park, CA 94927. Checks are non-refundable in case of weather cancellation. Please include email address/phone#.

Optional stay at Clair Tappaan lodge Fri 9th. Make reservations early to

avoid disappointment. Lodge reservations 530-426-3632 indicate you are with Benson trip-Redwood Chapter. Central commissary is planned. Meeting time/locations provided with trip sign up. Contact leader Jim Gannon (707)-525-1052 jgannon99@sbcglobal.net

Ratings for Outings Leaders

How fast or slow do you go?

Wonder if an outing leader walks fast or slow? Keep in mind that the leader's speed is but one part of hiking. How high up a mountain the hike starts, the total mileage and elevation gain (up hill) and loss (down hill) greatly affect the difficulty of a hike, regardless of how fast or slow you walk. If you have any doubts about being able to do a hike or have other questions, please call the leader to discuss your concerns. These ratings only serve as a guide and are not a substitute for you being in appropriate physical condition before participating in an outing.

Leaders are grouped according to how fast they normally hike. Please keep in mind that this info is to help you decide if a hike is right for you. The outing rating instructions to hikers is also important for participants to read. Look at the difficulty of the hike. If the rating is moderate with few or more frequent stops a fast pace hiker must hike slower to accommodate that rating.

Fast-pace with few or no stops:

Jim Gannon Paul Bozzo Carol Magill

Moderate-pace with few stops:

Carl Inglin Penny Proteau Don Anderson Steve Devoto

Isabelle Saint-Guily Lorrie Lagasse Boone Lodge

Val Nordeman Chip Bouril Doug Condrotte Xandra Manns

Jackie Farley Jean Crossley

Moderate-pace with more frequent stops:

Bill Arenander Pete McGee Tim Bartice Bill Knight Susan Whiteside

Carol Vellutini Yvonne Kramer Martin Farber Brian Collett

Ken Roberts Melinda Groom Tom McFarling Nanette DeDonato

Slower-pace: Gina Hitchcock Allison Bronkall Jim Carr

Environmental Center Benefit www.envirocentersoco.org

Presented by Sonoma County Conservation Council and the Sierra Club, Sonoma Group

Holiday Networking Party!

For Environmental and Social Justice Groups

Enjoy food, wine and hot cider provided by local businesses and talented volunteers! Mingle with your friends and local movers and shakers!

Wednesday, December 7, 2011, 5-8pm

At Don Taylor's Omelette Express
112 4th Street, Railroad Square, Santa Rosa

Suggested Donation: \$20 includes dinner and one drink!!

Open to the public - family and friends welcome! RSVPs requested but not required.

<p>Advance Purchase: www.envirocentersoco.org</p> <p>Checks To: SCCC, PO Box 4346, Santa Rosa, CA 95402</p> <p>Volunteers Needed Now: Outreach to other groups Dec 7: Set-up, check-in or clean-up</p> <p>For More Info Wendy Krupnick, wlk@sonic.net</p>	<p>Make This Your Group's Holiday Party! \$100 for groups of 6 plus \$17 for each additional person.</p> <p>The Sonoma County Conservation Council The SCCC is the federation of non-profits that operates the Environmental Center in Santa Rosa. The Council supports the work of member organizations, serves as an information and referral service, and provides connectivity for ad-hoc collaborations.</p>
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Thank You: Don Taylor's Omelette Express, www.omelette.com

Save the Date!! The 2012 Environmental Awards Dinner
March 3, 2012, 5-9pm. Start thinking about nominations today!

Sierra Club Announces 2011 National Awards

SAN FRANCISCO - Two congressman and two people who have written extensively about global warming are among those receiving awards from the Sierra Club this year.

The Club's top award, the John Muir Award, went to Bill McKibben, who has authored 13 books and founded the international organization 350.org. McKibben's 1989 book, *The End of Nature*, is regarded as the first book for a general audience about climate change, and has been printed in more than 20 languages.

Elizabeth Kolbert, a former New York Times reporter who now writes for the *New Yorker*, received the David R. Brower Award, which recognizes outstanding environmental reporting. Kolbert's 2006 book *Field Notes from a Catastrophe*, which was based on an award-winning three-part series for the *New Yorker*, is one of the most powerful commentaries to date on global climate shift.

Congressman Ed Markey from Massachusetts received the club's Edgar Wayburn Award, which honors outstanding service to the environment by a person in government. Since being elected to Congress in 1976, Rep. Markey has been at the forefront of environmental campaigns, pressing for increased fuel efficiency standards for our cars and light trucks, defending the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge from proposed oil drilling, pushing for tougher clean air standards, advancing renewable energy and energy efficiency proposals, and authoring legislation to tackle global warming.

Congressman Keith Ellison from Minneapolis received the Distinguished Service Award, which

recognizes individuals in public service for strong and consistent commitment to conservation. Rep. Ellison has been a strong supporter of the environment and environmental justice since he was in the Minnesota state legislature. He has carried forward legislation to protect children from lead poisoning and to ban the use of the weed-killing agricultural pesticide known as atrazine due to its documented toxicity.

Roderick Bremby, the former secretary of the Kansas Department of Health and Environment, received the Distinguished Achievement Award, which honors persons in public service for a particular action of singular importance to conservation. In 2007, Bremby was the first public official ever to deny a permit for a coal plant solely on the basis of its greenhouse gas emissions.

The club's Ansel Adams Award, which honors excellence in conservation photography, went to Ian Shive of Los Angeles, Calif. Shive's 2009 book, *The National Parks: Our American Landscape*, highlights the rich diversity of the American ecological landscape and Shive has used it in a "wilderness diplomacy" project designed to promote cultural understanding worldwide by sharing images of America's national parks. Shive also has used his photos to remind lawmakers of the importance of preserving our outdoor resources and to address the environmental impact of the U.S.-Mexico border fence.

The club's William Douglas Award, which recognizes individuals who have made outstanding use of the legal/judicial process to

achieve environmental goals, went to Sharon Duggan of Oakland, Calif. Duggan has litigated on a broad variety of issues, including state and federal forestry, water quality, endangered species and environmental quality. She is perhaps best known for her work on a series of cases involving the ancient redwood groves of the Headwaters Forest in Northern California. In a landmark 1983 case known as EPIC vs. Johnson, Duggan established that California state agencies must consider the cumulative effects of logging in a watershed on water quality, soils and wildlife habitat when reviewing logging plans. Since this victory, the Environmental Protection Information Center in Humboldt County has successfully enforced this ruling in nearly two dozen lawsuits to protect biodiversity, endangered species and the redwood ecosystem.

The club's highest honor for administrative work, the William E. Colby Award, went to Edwina Allen of Boise, Idaho. Allen has been involved with the Sierra Club for more than 40 years. She helped establish the Club's Idaho Chapter and helped earn wilderness designation for Idaho's Owyhee Canyonlands.

Others receiving 2011 Sierra Club awards include the following:

Communication Award (honors the best use of communications, either print or electronic, by a Sierra Club group, chapter or other entity to further the Club's mission): Ivy Main and the Virginia Chapter. The chapter has made videos on a variety of subjects to help interest people in its work. **EarthCare Award** (honors an individual, organization, or agency that has made a unique contribution to international environmental protection and conservation): Maude Barlow of Ottawa, Canada. Barlow is the head of the Council of Canadians - Canada's largest public advocacy organization - and founder of the Blue Planet Project, which was started by the Council to protect the world's fresh water from the growing threats of trade and privatization. She is the author or co-author of 16 books, including the best-selling 2007 book *Blue Covenant: The Global Water Crisis and the Coming Battle for the Right to Water*, which some have called "the most important book that's ever been written on the global water crisis."

Environmental Alliance Award (recognizes individuals or groups that have forged partnerships with other non-Sierra Club entities): Carol Adams-Davis of Mobile, Ala. Adams-Davis has partnered with other environmental groups on a variety of environmental issues along the Gulf of Mexico, including recovery from the BP oil spill.

Francis P. Farquhar Mountaineering Award (recognizes contributions to mountaineering): Royal Robbins of Modesto, Calif. Robbins is a pioneer in American rock climbing and an early proponent of boltless, pitonless clean climbing. He is the author of two classic books on rock climbing.

Joseph Barbosa Earth Fund Award (recognizes a Sierra Club member under the age of 30): Victoria Pan of Ridgewood, N.J. Pan has created a web site at studentssavingenergy.org that shows students how they can launch energy-saving initiatives at their schools. Pan's Sierra Club chapter in New Jersey will receive \$500 in recognition of this award.

Madelyn Pyeatt Award (recognizes work with youth): Anne Carroll of Arlington, Mass. Carroll has been chair of the Boston Inner

City Outings program since 2004. The Boston ICO group will receive \$500 in recognition of this award.

Oliver Kehrlein Award (for outstanding service to the Sierra Club's outings program): Marjorie Richman of North Bethesda, Md. Richman has been leading local and national outings for the Club since 1980.

Raymond J. Sherwin International Award (honors extraordinary volunteer service toward international conservation): Michael Gregory of McNeal, Ariz. Gregory has spent more than 28 years working on national and international toxics issues such as the regulation of Persistent Organic Pesticides (POPs). **Special Achievement Awards** (for a single act of importance dedicated to conservation or the Sierra Club): Clayton Daughenbaugh of Berwyn, Ill.; Charles Price of Richmond, Va.; and Lonnie Morris of Lombard, Ill. Daughenbaugh is being honored for his work with the Club's Activist Network Support Team; Price is being recognized for his efforts to establish the Cannon Creek Greenway through inner-city neighborhoods in Richmond, Va.; and Morris is being honored for her work with the Cool Cities program in Illinois.

Special Service Awards (for strong and consistent commitment to conservation over an extended period of time): Rev. Robert F. Murphy of Cataumet, Mass.; Jane Clark of Des Moines, Iowa; and Ken Brame of Leicester, N.C. Murphy has been active with the Sierra Club for more than 40 years, particularly on issues related to human rights and environmental justice. Clark has served twice as Iowa Chapter Chair, many years as Chapter Conservation Co-chair and for the past 10 years as Chair of the Central Iowa Sierra Group. Brame has been involved with the Sierra Club's political program for 25 years.

Susan E. Miller Award (honors administrative contributions to Sierra Club groups, chapters and regional entities): Steve Kulick of Syracuse, N.Y.; Marian Ryan of Winter Haven, Fla.; and the Club's Chapter Treasurer Assistance Support Team. Kulick has served as treasurer of the Club's Atlantic Chapter since 1986 and Ryan has served the Florida Chapter in a variety of administrative capacities. The Chapter Treasurer Assistance Support Team has worked with chapter treasurers to help them complete their annual financial reporting requirements in a timely fashion and migrate to QuickBooks Online.

Walter Starr Award (Honors continuing service to the Sierra Club by a former member of the Board of Directors): Glen Dawson of Pasadena, Calif. Dawson, who is 99, was selected for his many years of work with the Angeles Chapter's History Committee.

Most of the awards were presented Sept. 23-24 in San Francisco. For more information on the Sierra Club awards program, visit www.sierraclub.org/awards.

Classified Ads

WOMEN'S YOSEMITE TRIP - FEBRUARY 26-29, 2012 Visit sierrasisters.net or call (707) 874-2126.

Live potted Xmas trees, one to five feet tall. Douglas fir, redwood, blue spruce, Scotch pine. Self-service tree lot open 9-9 Nov. 26 to Dec. 24. M&M Ranch at 880 Austin Creek Rd. in Cazadero. (707) 632-5602.



Built by Sierra Club members in 1934, this rustic, hostel-style lodge stands atop historic Donner Pass, just an hour and a half from Sacramento.

The Lodge grooms its own cross country ski and snowshoe trails, rents equipment for these activities and offers cross country ski lessons. The unbeatable location of the Lodge provides quick and easy access to the legendary Donner Summit backcountry ski terrain or any of its downhill or cross country ski resorts.

Guests enjoy excellent family style meals, a friendly staff and a casual and communal atmosphere.

See you on Donner Summit...



For more information about our special programs or to receive a full schedule and description of Clair Tappaan programs please visit our website at www.ctl.sierraclub.org or call (800) 679-6775.

A Canadian Perspective on Climate Change

Okay, first of all, we Canadians feel cheated. It was originally called "Global Warming" which caused great excitement up here in the frozen north. Was this the end of long, hard Canadian winters? Would we beat our shovels into ploughshares? Did this mean our credit cards would only be used to buy our insanely expensive gas now instead of scraping frost from our windshields?

Seriously though, we know mankind is hurrying the climate change process along, but on the other hand, we see the improvements we have made over the past fifty years in Canada and realize that we are serious about doing our part. For example, Nova Scotia has a far-reaching pesticide ban becoming law on April 1st. We already have tough laws in place protecting our forests, lakes and streams and although, like the US, we are a race of consumers, we temper that with rules governing our waste, such as the use of clear garbage bags (and how many you can place at the curb) to ensure people are not throwing things into the landfill that do not belong there.

Upon seeing what acid rain was doing to our lakes, streams and rivers, we enacted more laws in order to protect them. Farmers were hit with tough new rules covering the types and amounts of fertilizers that could be used on their land. Our automotive safety inspections had exhaust measurements added to the checklist of items which must be passed before a vehicle is allowed on the road. Canada is a clean country. Maybe not quite "Disneyland" clean, but pretty close.

Our overwhelming concern is what flows across the border from the US into our air and waters and how powerless we are to do anything about that. Unlike the US, we see the results of climate change every day. Nobody in Canada is in denial about it. Our summers are noticeably hotter, but even more obvious, those massive piles of snow we lived with year after year have only been showing up now and then— lately more than than now.

One of our major concerns is the massive volumes of methane gas stored below our tundra

and what might happen if the warming trend picks up any more speed. If huge amounts of it are released into the atmosphere in a short period of time, the least of our (and your) worries will be a polar bear lounging around on a northern beach wearing a pair of sunglasses and drinking an ice cold Coke.

I guess we carry a sense of acceptance that changes in our climate will take place regardless of what we as Canadians do at this point. Having said that, we also have an incredible optimism that taking better care of our environment now will slow that change down so that as a race, we will have time to adapt and survive.

Canadians also realize that access to fresh water is soon to become a massive issue in North America. As the weather becomes warmer and water scarcer (don't even get me started on "fracking" – what are they thinking?), will Americans give up their lawns and the seemingly endless pools you see when looking at any American city on Google Earth?

Canada sits on the largest reserves of fresh water in the world. We have huge deposits of...well, everything, from coal to uranium buried in our soil. As the CIA Fact Book <https://www.cia.gov/index.html> notes, we are "a land of vast distances and rich natural resources." (Although we do everything in our power to hide it, we are a bit smug about the whole thing.) We're fearful of what will happen when a more powerful country decides they need our resources more than we do.

So you see that optimism I mentioned a while back is tempered with a bit of fear for our future. Not so much from what climate change will do to us— we're a hardy people and we will survive. Although climate change does scare us, what others might do to us due to the results of climate change in their country scares us more.

—DANNY LITTLE

Danny Little lives in Halifax, Nova Scotia. He is the author of the novels *Unheard*, *Unseen* and *Conflict in the North*.

Exploding Transformers

Two thousand miles north of here, in the quiet, wind swept waters of the Arctic, the gregarious talkative white whales are exhibiting breast cancer. The decline of Beluga Whales is attributed in large part to Polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) being concentrated in their tissues through bioaccumulation. PCBs are extremely persistent and accumulate in living organisms, from microbes to human breast milk. Many studies have found that human breast milk has four to ten times the amount of PCBs than in the mothers' blood.

PCBs have been linked to lower IQ levels in children and cancer of the biliary tract, breast, cervical, liver and uterus. Due to PCBs' toxicity, production was banned by the United States Congress in 1979 and by the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants in 2001. However, they continued to be allowed in this country for "totally enclosed uses" such as closed system transformers and capacitors. In certain "failure modes or out-of-specification conditions" such as high voltage spikes, the devices can leak, catch fire, or explode. PCBs were widely used in dielectric fluids as a coolant for electric motors, capacitors, and transformers. They are present in old refrigerator compressors and fluorescent ballasts, and utility pole transformers. In the early 1970s the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation found that PCBs leaking from transformers and had contaminated the soil at the bottom of utility poles. (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Polychlorinated_biphenyls)

Exposure to PCBs comes mainly from eating contaminated food like fish, meat, and dairy products but also repairing damaged equipment and living next to contaminated sites can put people at risk. I remember repairing old leaking PCB-containing transformers with my bare hands.

Last week I sat bolt upright out of bed with a realization. A few years ago a Pacific Gas & Electric step down pole-mounted transformer exploded next door to my house on Minahen St. in Napa. The entire block lost its electrical service. The neighbor reported it to PG&E and a crew promptly removed the transformer and replaced it with a new unit. The crew did not clean up the PCB laced oil that had sprayed on the sidewalk, the asphalt street, or the dirt around the pole. Some of the material washed down into the storm drain that year and the rest soaked into the concrete, asphalt, and dirt. It is still there.

Since this is a persistent contaminant and there was apparently no mandatory protocol to follow requiring environmental remediation I filed a formal complaint form, at the California Department of Toxic Substances Control website, describing the incident. Protocols need to be followed in cleaning up the toxic spills by maintenance crews resulting from transformer leakage, a search of past PG&E repair orders of leaking or exploding transformers should be conducted, and testing and remedial actions of these past toxic spills should be performed.

The Redwood Chapter of the Sierra Club is asking the public to report any leaking or exploding pole mounted utility transformers near or at their homes or places of businesses, no matter how long ago the occurrence. The California Department of Toxic Substances Control website is at http://www.dtsc.ca.gov/database/CalEPA_Complaint. Please keep alert and pass the word. The singing giants of the north seas deserve better.

—JOHN STEPHENS, NAPA GROUP



Make a gesture that lasts a lifetime.



A Sierra Club Life Membership is a gesture on behalf of all life - from our oceans to our forests, and from the tiniest insect to the largest sequoia. As a Sierra Club Life Member, you'll be helping to support programs and campaigns that protect endangered species and preserve threatened wilderness areas (and all the life that they support) - not only for today, but for decades to come.

Make a really grand gesture.
Become a Sierra Club Life Member.



Explore, enjoy and protect the planet

Name(s) _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone (optional) _____

Email _____

I am pleased to enroll as a Life Member of the Sierra Club.

Please enroll me as an individual Life Member.

- Full payment of \$1000 is enclosed.
 \$350 first annual installment is enclosed.

We are enrolling as Joint Life Members.

- Full payment of \$1250 is enclosed.
 \$450 first annual installment is enclosed.

Check enclosed. Please make payable to Sierra Club.

Please charge my: Visa Mastercard AMEX

Cardholder Name _____

Card Number _____ Exp. Date _____

Contributions, gifts and dues to Sierra Club are not tax deductible; they support our effective, citizen-based advocacy and lobbying efforts. Your dues include \$7.50 for a subscription to *Sierra* magazine and \$1 for your Chapter newsletters.

Enclose a check and mail to Sierra Club,
P.O. Box 421041, Palm Coast, FL 32142-1041
or visit our website www.sierraclub.org

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Lake Group Report

Lakeport expansion– not so fast

Lake Group recently reviewed a Mitigated Negative Declaration on the City of Lakeport's proposal to annex 197 acres along its southeastern border, and discovered to our dismay that although most of the proposed annexation area consists of a partially-developed commercial and industrial strip, it also includes some 50 acres of prime farmland that is under a Williamson Act contract. Since annexation will inevitably result in development at urban densities and for urban uses, the loss of this farmland to agriculture is virtually guaranteed, and the viability of adjacent prime agricultural land in the unincorporated county will also be weakened. In addition, portions of the area proposed for annexation contain sensitive wetlands and Clear Lake hitch spawning territory on Manning Creek. Lake Group has recommended that these dubious portions of the annexation area be withdrawn, and that future development continue to be governed by the provisions of the county's general plan, which contains many provisions protecting agriculture, rural vistas, and natural habitat. The County administrative office has also detailed a number of additional concerns, including CEQA piecemealing and the project's tendency to promote urban sprawl, and has stated very emphatically that an Environmental Impact Report is needed for an adequate evaluation of cumulative project impacts and consideration of alternatives. The Club strongly supports this position.

On October 12, despite objections raised by the Farm Bureau and local residents along with representatives of the Club and County, the Lakeport Planning Commission

recommended that the City Council certify the environmental review as presented, and prepare a formal application to LAFCO to annex the 197 acres in its entirety. This result was not unexpected, but the news that the city had already agendized this proposal for its very next meeting came as a big surprise. Not only does such precipitous haste minimize opportunities for public input, it's unreasonable to ask the council to decide a matter of importance without adequate time to review the documents and conduct their own independent analysis. The decision was made to continue consideration of the annexation proposal until November 1, and when a memo from county legal staff pointed out that CEQA noticing requirements had been disregarded, action was delayed again, until December 6 at the earliest. In the meantime, additional environmental impacts are coming to light, along with inconsistencies with the city's own general plan. Lake Group intends to follow this issue wherever it leads.

Walker Ridge Update

As previously mentioned, the Bureau of Land Management is currently evaluating a wind power project proposed on Walker Ridge, which straddles the Lake/Colusa county line north of Highway 20. The Sierra Club has been actively engaged in the debate about the project's numerous and significant environmental impacts for well over a year. We now learn that the EIS, which was most recently expected on September 30, has been delayed yet again while the developer revises the project description. Although a firm release date has not yet been announced, it is expected sometime early in 2012.

—VICTORIA BRNDON, LAKE GROUP

Mendocino Group Report

Mendocino Group has signed on to a letter to the Army Corps of Engineers, (ACE) urging that body to deny Caltrans a Sec. 404 permit to destroy wetlands for the purpose of constructing the Willits Bypass until such time that Caltrans has demonstrated that it has avoided significant negative impacts wherever possible, and that it has adequately mitigated for those impacts that are not avoidable. Among other considerations, the decision whether to issue the permit will be based on an evaluation of probable impacts, including cumulative impacts, the relative extent of the public and private need for the structure or work, the practicality of using alternative locations and methods to accomplish the objectives, and the extent and permanence of the beneficial and/or detrimental effects which the proposed structure is likely to have. The several parties signing the letter to ACE contend that it is not possible to understand the impacts of the project in its totality because impacts associated with a phase I only are discussed in the mitigation document. Caltrans in the document acknowledges that a two-lane project, the phase I half freeway, will substantially meet the purpose and need of the project. The several signers contend that a two lane road, be it a bypass around Willits or a truck route, possibly along the existing railroad right of way, would relieve congestion, facilitate the flow of regional traffic, and if designed correctly, improve safety.

This option was not considered. Instead, a "phased" two-lane freeway project that is in reality one half of a four-lane freeway, not likely to be completed in the foreseeable future, is proposed.

—MARY WALSH, MENDOCINO GROUP CHAIR

County Storm Water Strategies 2011

In which the Mendocino County Board of Supervisors unwittingly does something exemplary in January, has its mistake aired in succeeding months, is deeply ashamed, and manages – by September – to rectify matters by shooting itself in the foot.

A. *To start with the exemplary work, done in January:* the adoption of a County storm water ordinance in compliance with the Clean Water Act. This ordinance covered the entire County, every acre of it, and addressed the discharge of pollutants (like sediment) from roads, roadside ditches and storm drains to rivers and streams. Not a bad idea, this ordinance, given the County does have a lot of sediment-impaired rivers and does not have any plans – most especially no grading ordinance – to reduce those sediments and to protect its valuable water resources and fish and such. This ordinance would help.

B. *To continue with the discovery of the mistake and the embarrassment that followed:* the County, aided mightily by the Agriculture and Business Coalition (whose oxen and acres were in danger of being gored), soon found out that the laws of the USofA and of the

State of California, strictly interpreted, require that a storm water ordinance cover only urban areas, not every acre – agricultural lands and everything – like this ordinance did.

County Counsel did ask the Regional Water Board what the County should do about having covered too much territory. The Water Board wrote back to say that continued coverage of the entire County was "strongly recommended" (on account of all those muddy rivers, you understand, and no grading ordinance) and that the ordinance should stand as enacted.

But how mortifying for the County. It had met more than the minimum requirements! It was even ahead of the curve.

C. *To finish with the shooting-in-the-foot part in September:* the County then decided, simply, to rescind its good work and to ignore the fact that it first needed to analyze the environmental effects (pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)) that would follow from scaling back the ordinance to just urban areas. Environmentalists, including Sierra Club, asked the County to comply with CEQA and to first review potential impacts before acting. "Nope", said the County, and promptly shot the good work down, ignoring the law once more, and thus shooting itself in the foot as well.*

*Two environmental groups, Russian Riverkeeper and Coast Action Group, promptly filed a lawsuit, charging the County with violating CEQA, not proceeding in the manner required by law and judicially abusing its discretion.

—LINDA PERKINS,

MENDOCINO CONSERVATION CHAIR

North Group Report

Group Election

The following slate is running for 2-year terms on the North Group Executive Committee, to begin in January: Ned Forsyth, Gregg Gold, Felice Pace, and Nick Vogel. (See the election wrap in this issue for more details and to vote.)

Klamath Dam Forum Well Attended

Over 100 people attended "Klamath River in the Balance: Decoding the Federal Dam Removal Process," an October 17 forum in Eureka co-sponsored by North Group and Redwood Chapter Sierra Club, among others. Four speakers – Andrew Orahoske from the Environmental Protection Information Center, Bob Hunter of Oregon Water Watch, fisheries biologist Patrick Higgins, and Hayley Hutt from the Hoopa Valley Tribe – highlighted portions of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Report issued on September 22 for 60-day comment by the US Department of the Interior and California Department of Fish & Game. The speakers also examined deficiencies of the Klamath Basin Restoration Agreement (KBRA) and the Klamath Hydropower Settlement Agreement (KHSA). The presentations were followed by audience questions. Although there was universal agreement expressed that four dams on the river should be removed, there was dissent about the best way to accomplish that goal. As the Klamath spans three Sierra Club chapters, a formal Redwood Chapter position had yet to be finalized.

Halloween Party

A small, costumed group of NG members attended our first Halloween potluck. There was great food and spirited conversation, capped by a chocolate spider cake made by hostess Sue Leskiw.

North Group on Twitter

ThankstoourSocialMediacordinator Nick Vogel, NG has a Twitter address at Twitter@casieranorth.

Camper Essays

North Group has received essays from the four children, age 10-12, that we sponsored to attend Arcata's Natural Resources day camps. Here are excerpts: "The science camp leaders were really nice and smart and did a good job teaching us about renewable energy. I wouldn't have been able to attend without the scholarship" ... "We pedal-powered a DVD player, made recycled paper, learned how to make biodiesel out of used vegetable oil, built our own wind farms and propellers, and had a talent show" ... "When the leader cut up the fish, brown liquid and stuff came out; we went tidepooling and saw hermit crabs, tiny sea anemones, and barnacles" ... "I found a moss, got buried in the sand, and learned about Google Earth."



—SUE LESKIW, NORTH GROUP SECRETARY-TREASURER

Napa Group Report

Adopt-A-Park

Our Adopt-A-Park program is off to a great start. We've held two work parties, pulling weeds around the native plants at the new Trancas Crossing Park. Napa High's Student Sierra Club will be contributing a Saturday morning effort. If you would like to be part of the Trancas Crossing Adopt-a-Park volunteer group, please contact Nancy Tamarisk at nancy@aya.yale.edu.

Bothe Park: Moving Forward on Local Management

The State has accepted the application of Napa Parks and Open Space District to assume management of Bothe Park in order to prevent its closure. While details remain to be negotiated, the prospects look good for keeping these local treasures open. Napa Sierra Club will be supportive in any way possible of these efforts.

Zinfandel Bridge Fish Passage

Chinook salmon returning to the Napa River this year will find a nice surprise at Zinfandel Bridge, just south of St. Helena. RCD has completed the construction of a fish passage at the bridge, opening up 60 miles of spawning habitat up-river of the bridge. The completion of this project bolsters efforts to preserve and restore the historic Napa River salmon and steelhead runs.

Green Communication

Help us save money and save trees! Send in your e-mail address to receive Napa updates via e-mail: nancy@aya.yale.edu.

—NANCY TAMARISK, NAPA GROUP CHAIR

ExCom Meeting

EXCOM will meet Monday Jan 9, @ Denny's in Cordelia, and also first Monday in Feb, location to be determined. Call Jane for details at 707-319-6398.

A brief Measure E update.

After a tough summer and fall fighting the garbage industry, the Solano Group is now waiting for a hearing date on our Measure E case. Measure E is a citizen's initiative passed in 1984 that limits the amount of garbage that can be hauled into Solano County landfills. The County Board of Supervisors refuses to enforce the will of the voters. Working with our great attorneys at Shute, Mihaly and Weinberg we have been successfully winning our case.

Solano County and Potrero Hills Landfill have appealed our Superior Court victory. All briefs have now been filed and we await a hearing date with the State Court of Appeals.

We are also attentive to see if the garbage industry once again tries for legislation to block enforcement of a voter initiative. For those of you who know Assemblyman Wesley Chesbro please ask him to stand with voters and not the garbage industry if another legislative effort is made.

We are incredibly fortunate to be working with Shute, Mihaly and Weinberger who are doing most of this work pro-bono. Most, but not all. We could sure use help with the growing

Solano Breeze Corner

Covering Benicia, Fairfield, Rio Vista, Suisun,

Vacaville and Vallejo

sierraclubsolanogroup@gmail.com 707-319-6398

debt we owe to our attorneys. If you can help, please make a tax deductible contribution to "The Sierra Club Foundation" noting that it is for the "Solano Group Landfill Litigations". Thank you.

-DUANE KROMM AND JANE BOGNER, SOLANO GROUP

Thank You Volunteers

Volunteer Thanks for September and October Paper Shredding: Nancy McCoy and Jane Bogner. Thank you Kitty Powell and Sara for working at Farmers Market.

VALCORE Recycling and Confidential Paper

Shredding in 2012

Solano Group will be working every 3rd Saturday at 38 Sheridan Street, Vallejo from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. There is a charge of \$10 per twenty pounds (maximum: 100 pounds). We need help tending the money and directing traffic.

Lori's Native Plant Garden

We continually work at Lori's Native Plant Garden located

at 225 Amador. We weed, plant, prune and mulch year-round. If you have an hour, call Jane and she'll work with you.

Solano Group Volunteer Opportunities:

Membership Co-Chair – about 4 hours a month. Mostly computer work.

WEB Page Master – We need someone who knows front page to update the Solano Page ([about 2 hours every other month).

VALCORE Recycling Board Alternate – May need to attend one meeting per year.

EXCOM – Come join us for our monthly meetings which rotate between Vallejo, Fairfield and Vacaville. We are making a positive impact on our county and need a few more people to help carry the load. Call Jane for information. 707 319-6398.

HELP PAY FOR OUR LANDFILL LAWSUIT.

(Our attorney's fees are 3000 cans per hour)

Please bring your CRV – CA Cash Refund containers down to VALCORE (38 Sheridan St. Vallejo, Mon - Sat, 10am to 1 pm and 2 pm to 4:30pm.

OR Cash them in at your local recycle center and send us a check for the refund amount.

-JANE BOGNER AND GREG PETERSON, SOLANO GROUP

Sonoma Group Report

County Airport Expansion

Sonoma County is pressing forward with a multi-million dollar proposal to extend the main runway to 6,000 feet and to lift weight limits at the County Airport. We think the plan will result in very annoying noise impacts, with as many as 21 daily commercial takeoffs and landings, along with noisier air-freight jet flights at night. Effects on quality of life and tourism in Sonoma County could be serious. Time is running out to let your Supervisor or City Council Member know you want full disclosure of the impacts.

We are suggesting a demonstration of commercial jet aircraft traffic that matches the maximum allowed flight frequencies. Actual flights would reveal much more about the noise effects of the project than hard-to-interpret data tables. To date, we have not heard whether the County is willing to risk such a demonstration of airport noise.

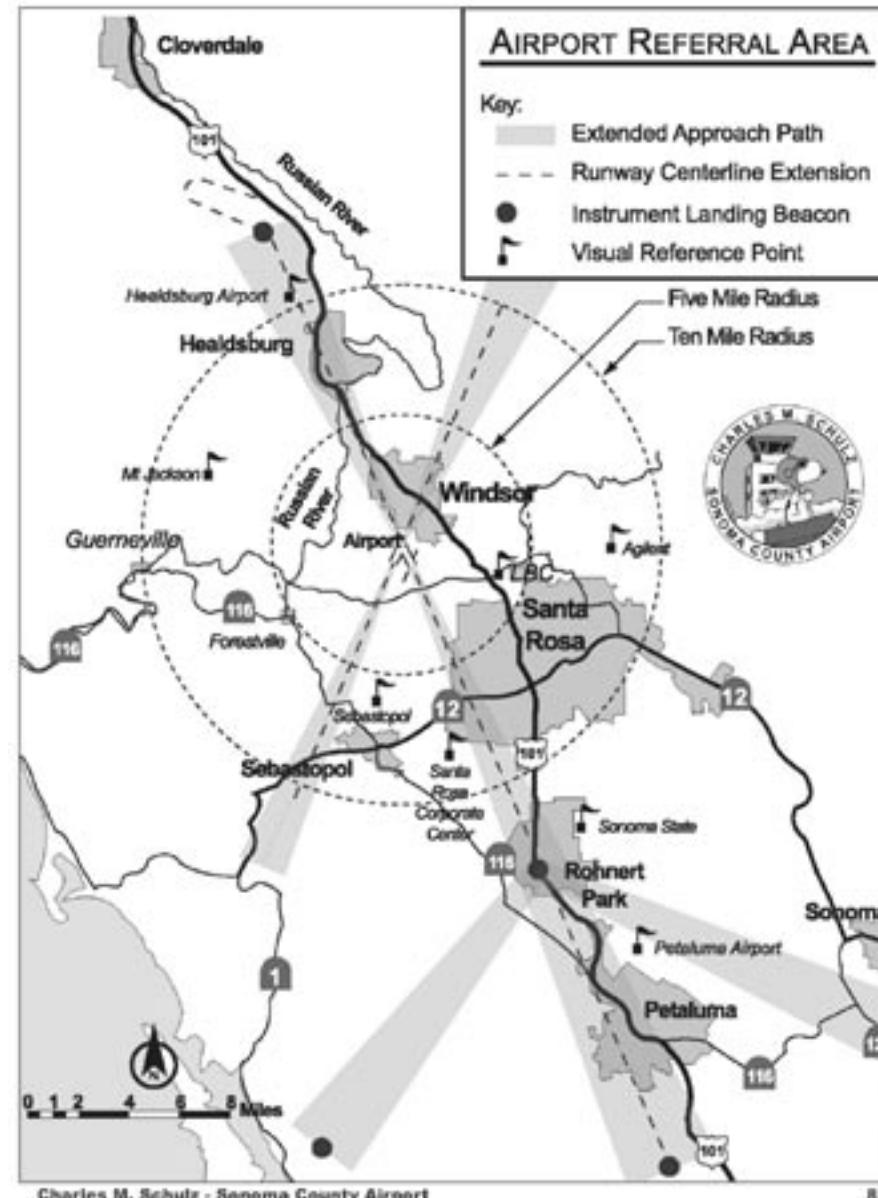
Airliner sounds will be most noticeable in the evenings and at night, but schools and residents under the flight path stretching from West Petaluma, Rohnert Park, and Windsor to Healdsburg will be affected at all hours. Federal law prevents local governments from placing time limits on aircraft operations, and airfreight operators often prefer to operate during night hours.

We are particularly concerned about the proposal to remove the current 95 thousand pound aircraft weight limit from the County General Plan. This change would allow much noisier Boeing 737-type aircraft to use the airport once the runway is strengthened. While airport management thinks it unlikely that there will be enough demand in the near future to attract large jet aircraft, we can expect significant long-range greenhouse gas and noise impacts.

The main objective of the project is to permit airline flights to cities that are beyond the range of the Q-400 turboprop aircraft now used by Horizon Airlines. Turboprop planes are less noisy and produce less air pollution per passenger mile than jet aircraft.

It is said that Frontier Airlines is considering a plan to provide service between Santa Rosa and Denver during the summer of 2012 on a trial basis. The 70-seat aircraft that Frontier would use normally requires a 5,400 foot runway for takeoff, but a restricted passenger load would permit it to safely use the current 5,100 foot main runway at our airport. If the vacation season flights prove popular and the runway is lengthened, regular service could begin in future years.

The draft environmental study for the project also predicts an 11,000 ton per year increase in greenhouse gas emissions and did not specify any mitigations to offset this impact. Officials indicate that conversion to a fleet of electric ground-support vehicles, and installation of photovoltaic panels to reduce use of electricity produced from fossil fuels are under consideration.



This map appears in the Charles M. Schulz Sonoma County Airport Neighborhood Guide to Airport Operations and Activities at <http://www.sonomacountyairport.org/neighborhood-guide>. Reprinted with permission.

**Please see the Election Section,
pages A - D, in this issue to vote
for your local Sierra Club leaders!**



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All Creatures Great and Small



"Every good thing, great and small, needs defense"

- John Muir

Join Sierra Club and help protect all creatures, great and small.

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Join today and receive
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Weekender Bag!



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Membership Categories	Individual	Joint
Special Offer	<input type="checkbox"/> \$15	
Standard	<input type="checkbox"/> \$39	<input type="checkbox"/> \$49
Supporting	<input type="checkbox"/> \$75	<input type="checkbox"/> \$100
Contributing	<input type="checkbox"/> \$150	<input type="checkbox"/> \$175
Life	<input type="checkbox"/> \$1000	<input type="checkbox"/> \$1250
Senior	<input type="checkbox"/> \$25	<input type="checkbox"/> \$35
Student/Limited Income	<input type="checkbox"/> \$25	<input type="checkbox"/> \$35

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or visit our website www.sierraclub.org

F94Q 0300

Sonoma Group Environmental Forum

Panel Discussion of the California State Park Closures

When:

**Thursday January 19th 2012
at 6:30 p.m.to 9:30 p.m.**

Where:

The Santa Rosa Junior College Student Activities Center

Refreshments will be provided and there will be an opportunity to mingle!

**For more information contact
Annabel Ascher,
annabelascher@yahoo.com
707-508-9645**

Save the date!

The 2012 Environmental Awards Dinner

March 3, 2012, 5 - 9 p.m.

Speaker: Paloma Pavel, PhD,
President of Earth House Center,
Executive Director of Breakthrough Communities, and author.

Title: Building Healthy, Just and Sustainable Communities in the face of Climate Change.

MC: Leticia Romero,
Vice-president of North Bay Organizing Project and community organizer with the Committee for Immigrant Rights Sonoma County.

Meetings

Send all Meeting events by the 8th of the month to Carl Inglin: chinglin@sonic.net Sierra Club meetings are open to all members. You are welcome to participate or observe as often as you wish. Meetings are located in Sonoma County unless otherwise noted. Visitors should call the committee chair to verify time and place. The Sonoma County Environmental Center is located at 55A Ridgway Avenue in Santa Rosa (West of Hwy 101, two blocks North of College and 1 1/2 blocks West off of Cleveland Ave, South of Coddington).

Thurs. Dec. 1 - Solano Group ExCom.

Meets in Vallejo. Call Jane for details, (707) 319-6398.

Mon. Dec. 5 - Sonoma Group.

Santa Rosa Environmental Center, 55A Ridgway is the site of two related meetings:

- Sonoma Group Conservation Committee at 5:30 p.m. Info: Steve Birdlebough affirm@friendshouse.org

- Sonoma Group Executive Committee at 6:30 p.m. Info: Steve Birdlebough affirm@friendshouse.org

Sat. Dec. 10 - Chapter ExCom.

Location: Willits. Conservation Committee meets at 10 a.m., ExCom meets 1-5 p.m. Info: jay_halcomb@sonic.net

Tues., December 13 – North Group ExCom.

Discuss local conservation issues 8-9 p.m. or come for business meeting 7 p.m. Adorni Center, Eureka. Info: Gregg (707) 826-3740.

Tues. Dec. 20 – Napa Group ExCom.

7 p.m. Our location varies; it is generally at a member's home. Anyone wishing to attend the meeting should contact the chair, Nancy Tamarisk at nancy@aya.yale.edu

Wed. Dec. 21 - The Sonoma Group Water Committee.

Meets at 7:00 PM in the back room of the Environmental Center, 55A Ridgway, Santa

Rosa. Contact Len Holt: 707-527-7516 or lholt@sonic.net

Thurs. Jan. 5 - Solano Group ExCom.

Meets in Fairfield. Call Jane for details, (707) 319-6398.

Mon. Jan. 2 - Sonoma Group.

Santa Rosa Environmental Center, 55A Ridgway is the site of two related meetings:

- Sonoma Group Conservation Committee at 5:30 p.m. Info: Steve Birdlebough affirm@friendshouse.org

- Sonoma Group Executive Committee at 6:30 p.m. Info: Steve Birdlebough affirm@friendshouse.org

Tues., Jan. 10 – North Group ExCom Meeting.

See listing for December 13.

Wed., Jan. 18 - The Sonoma Group Water Committee.

Meets at 7:00 PM in the back room of the Environmental Center, 55A Ridgway, Santa Rosa. Contact Len Holt: 707-527-7516 or lholt@sonic.net

Wed., Feb. 15, Mar., 21 - The Sonoma Group Water Committee.

Meets at 7:00 PM in the back room of the Environmental Center, 55A Ridgway, Santa Rosa. Contact Len Holt: 707-527-7516 or lholt@sonic.net

Join 250 Local Sierra Clubbers and Reduce Your Carbon Footprint!

To receive a copy of the *Redwood Needles* via email send an email to RedwoodNeedles@gmail.com with your name and address, and "newsletter by email" in the subject line; or to receive notification that the current newsletter is available online and a link to it, please specify "Notification newsletter is online".

Discounted prices available for purchase and pick up of 2012 calendars at the Environmental Center on 55 Ridgway, Santa Rosa. Wilderness(wall): \$12, Engagement(desk): \$13, both prices include sales tax. Call for hours: 544-7651.



Enjoy, explore and protect the planet.

2012 Sierra Club Calendars



Order Form				
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Wilderness Calendar	\$12.95			
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Shipping (\$3.00 per calendar): _____				
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GRAND TOTAL: _____				
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