



Explore, enjoy and protect the planet

Volume 53 Number 5

Newsletter of the Redwood Chapter of the Sierra Club

October/Nov. 2012

# Stornetta Public Lands: a Pacific Coast Jewel

By VICTORIA BRANDON, REDWOOD CHAPTER POLITICAL CHAIR

The Stornetta Public Lands, consisting of 1,132 acres located along Mendocino County's south coast, adjacent to Manchester State Beach and the Point Arena Lighthouse, includes more than two miles of Pacific coastline with natural bridges, tide pools, waterfalls, sinkholes and blowholes, as well as two miles of the Garcia River, the Garcia estuary, a quarter-mile of beach adjacent to Manchester State Park, and a five-acre island called Sea Island Rocks. The area is recognized not only for breathtaking scenic values, but also for outstanding natural resources that encompass riparian corridors, extensive coastal wetlands, wind-sculptured stands of cypress, wildflower-strewn meadows, and shifting sand dunes, a varied ecosystem which taken as a whole provides significant wildlife habitat. Otters and seals gambol in the surf, brown pelicans sail by in characteristic single file, and countless gulls and shorebirds call the area home.

Stornetta was acquired by the federal government in 2004, on terms including a grazing lease that will expire in 2014, and has been managed since then by the Ukiah Field Office of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). Aside from the usual considerations applicable to any coastal area, management responsibilities have been greatly complicated because Stornetta is considered an abalone "hotspot," with intense seasonal use by recreational abalone divers, and thus requires substantial oversight by BLM staff and Department of Fish and Game wardens. Especially before the implementation of the Marine Life Protection Act two years ago, rangers and BLM supervisory staff had to patrol every minus tide weekend—watching for poachers, keeping daredevils from rappelling down the cliffs, and stopping people from breaking down fences and driving all over the ranch. Subsequently a working Gateway partnership with the community of Point Arena and much local citizen involvement has helped a great deal, but the BLM's scarce financial and personnel resources are still overstrained by

the special demands of this special place.

Fortunately help may be on the way. Congressman Mike Thompson, who has represented the area since 1998, has introduced legislation (H.R. 4969) adding this land to the California Coastal National Monument, comprised of more than 20,000 small islands, rocks, exposed reefs and pinnacles along 1,100 miles of coast between Mexico and Oregon. National Monument status carries a higher standard of care for public land than that provided by federal ownership alone, and designation would also automatically add Stornetta to the National Landscape Conservation System, thus making it eligible for additional funding.

By permanently protecting this important segment of the California Coast, and potentially offering the additional resources needed for more effective management, H.R. 4969 provides significant conservation benefits, with no negative consequences.

## November Election: The Choice is Clear

By VICTORIA BRANDON, REDWOOD CHAPTER POLITICAL CHAIR

As the November 6, 2012 election approaches, Sierra Club activists have been engaged in the painstaking task of identifying the best candidates in local races such as county supervisor and city councilor. The results of these grassroots contests often have momentous consequences, with the question coming down to this: do we want to foster the best qualities of the North Coast—abundant open space, towering forests, free-running rivers, charming, friendly small towns with a rural atmosphere—or do we want to become like the rest of California?

We think the choices are clear, and that the election of candidates endorsed by the Sierra Club offers the best hope of making those choices wisely. So please examine the endorsement list on the back page of this newsletter, and give your vote to the individuals named there that appear on your ballot. Please also consider making a personal endorsement, volunteering a few hours of time, or donating money: the future of all our communities hangs in the balance this November, and action by Club members can potentially tip that balance.

Please also check out the Club's position on state and local ballot issues: statewide, defeat of Proposition 32, that would cripple the ability of unions and public interest organizations to influence political decisions, and passage of Proposition 37 requiring labeling of genetically engineered food, are top priorities. Additional information about Proposition 32 is provided elsewhere in this newsletter.

Other local endorsements were in progress as this issue of the Needles went to press. The names of endorsed candidates will be posted to [redwood.sierraclub.org/Committees/Political](http://redwood.sierraclub.org/Committees/Political) as they are approved.



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## Sonoma Group New Members Forum

Tuesday, October 16, 6:30 p.m.

Environmental Center, 55A Ridgway Avenue, Santa Rosa

Members of the Sonoma Group ExCom and the Outdoor Committee, plus general club members, will attend this forum to offer a full picture of the activities that your membership supports, and the many ways that members can stretch your activism or outdoor enjoyment by jumping in and getting involved with their Sierra Club Redwood Chapter and Sonoma Group.

## Sonoma Group Environmental Forum

Tuesday, November 20, 6:30 p.m.

Environmental Center, 55A Ridgway Avenue, Santa Rosa

Subject: Post-Election Analysis:

What Does it Mean for the Environment?

# Redwood Chapter Sierra Club Directory

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## Redwood Chapter

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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# California Highway Patrol Values Red Tape over Children's Safety

Ralph Knight, Supervisor of Transportation for the Napa Valley Unified School District voices a clear idea of his mission: to provide a safe ride to school for every student in the district who rides the bus. Since the 1990's he's also directed a

shift away from fossil fuels, by incorporating hybrid, natural gas, electric, and biofuel vehicles into the fleet. NVUSD no longer runs any pure diesel buses. Aside from improving air quality and reducing carbon footprint, Knight has saved the district thousands of dollars via improved mileage, lower fuel and maintenance costs, and acquisition of grant money for the purchase of new vehicles through the Bay Area Air Quality Management District.

Yet Knight is now wondering whether, in the department's efforts to be cost-effective and environmentally responsible, safety might be compromised. His nightmare scenario is a serious bus accident in which first responders, thinking that they are dealing with a typical diesel bus, take potentially fatal measures at the crash scene. Fire fighters could, for example, cut into a 300 volt electrical line on a hybrid bus. Or sparks from tools could ignite an explosion from leaking natural gas cylinders.

Knight believes there is a simple solution to this dilemma, one which could potentially save lives. A host of fire marshalls and police chiefs have supported his solution with official comment letters.

But the Commissioner of the California Highway Patrol is blocking this easy fix.

The simple solution is to paint the normally black "rails" (stripes) on the new buses bright green, under the premise that even in the rush and confusion of a major accident, first responders would immediately be keyed in to the fact that this bus is different. Assessing the situation, the responders would reach for the proper tools to safely evacuate the vehicle and secure the accident scene.

In California, the Highway Patrol regulates school bus design, even down to the allowed colors of paint. The rules state that the buses must be yellow, with black stripes. Exemptions to the bus regulations can be granted, but the CHP Commissioner denied the district's application for an exemption, citing "national standards". But the national standards are voluntary. Two other states, Colorado and Nevada, are already allowing green stripes for their non-traditionally fueled buses, and a third, Kentucky, is considering the move. CHP has also demanded that the district down-size the large lettering on the sides of the buses identifying their alternative

fuel sources—while allowing multiple large multi-colored company logos.

Knight will not be deterred. While asking the Highway Patrol to reconsider, district officials are also approaching state legislators to craft a bill to allow the green stripes. This bulldozer-to-kill-an-ant approach, while no doubt effective, will take several years to implement.

CHP's obstinacy in the face of a safety threat to school children and first responders seems to be one of those unfortunate examples of governmental red tape blocking local innovation.

—NANCY TAMARISK, NAPA GROUP CHAIR

## Reverence for Redwoods

Sun filtered through trees  
Ancient Warriors standing tall  
"Wolf Tree" born with Christ

Bark twelve inches thick  
Shields from lightning storm and fire  
Lives through nature's wrath

Redwood trees endure  
Free from human's grasping hands  
Guardians of earth

Spirits live through time  
Silent harbingers of peace  
Hope for humankind

—NIKKI KING

\*"Wolf Tree" is the name of an ancient redwood tree that lives in the Mendocino Forest



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### Create an Environmental Legacy.



Bequests have played a key role in Sierra Club's environmental successes over the years.

Planning now may make your gift more meaningful and reduce taxes on your estate. We have many gift options available. We can even help you plan a gift for your local Chapter.

For more info and confidential assistance, contact:  
Sierra Club  
Gift Planning Program  
85 Second Street, Second Floor  
San Francisco, CA 94105  
gift.planning@sierraclub.org • (800) 932-4270



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.

Clair Tappaan Lodge is the perfect summer base camp for anyone who enjoys the wide variety of activities offered by the Tahoe area. Explore wildflower gardens and expansive views while hiking the nearby Pacific Crest Trail. Short hikes to secluded mountain lakes begin at the Lodge and are perfect for introducing the family to the mountains. Donner Lake offers great kayaking, swimming, and fishing while Donner Summit has long been a destination for rock climbers and mountain bikers.

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](http://www.ctl.sierraclub.org) or call (800) 679-6775.



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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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<b>Special Offer</b>	<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

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](http://www.sierraclub.org) #94Q 0300 1

# Statements of 2012 Sierra Club Endorsed Candidates

## Sonoma County Board of Supervisors: District 1



### Susan Gorin

My vision of Sonoma County is a pristine and protected environment AND a vibrant local economy with green jobs at a living wage.

I'm honored to be the only candidate for First District Supervisor who has the endorsement of both the Sierra Club and Sonoma County Conservation Action. As your Supervisor, I'll bring decades of experienced leadership to protect our environment, revitalize our economy and demand pension reform.

I'll fight for protection of our agricultural lands, mountaintops and open spaces and open and accessible parks.

I support CSA's and farmer's markets, community gardens, appropriate use of open space land for farming, and hubs for distribution and sale of locally grown products. I strongly support the state ballot measure to label GMO food.

I will address the numerous serious water issues in the county, including saltwater intrusion, ground water depletion, illegal water diversions and agricultural run-off. I will continue to support water conservation efforts, careful expansion of recycled water reuse, implementation of the Sonoma Valley Groundwater Management Plan and strict enforcement of water policies.

I love Sonoma County - my home for 30 years where I raised my family, owned a small business and earned degrees in Political Science and Economics.

Environmental leaders Bill Kortum and Ted Eliot endorse me because of my 40 years of defending our environment. Join Congresswoman Lynn Woolsey, Senator Noreen Evans, Sonoma Councilmember Steve Barbose, Sonoma County Democratic Party and labor in building a sustainable economy that protects our environment and quality of life. [www.SusanGorin.com](http://www.SusanGorin.com).

## Santa Rosa City Council

### Caroline Bañuelos



I am honored to have the endorsement of the Sierra Club. For the last 10 years I have worked as a volunteer for the City of Santa Rosa on various boards and commissions; for the last four as a

Planning Commissioner. In this capacity, I have strived to ensure that proper environmental review is done on projects that come before the City of Santa Rosa. I will continue to do the same as your Council Member. My career has spanned everything from government service, small businesses, and work in the vital, nonprofit sector. This extensive experience, coupled with my commitment to protecting the environment, prepares me for the challenges Santa Rosa faces now and in the future.

Rebuilding our local economy; protecting our magnificent environment; promoting inclusion of the public in the political process; and addressing the balance between the need to control our City's budget while providing essential public services are my greatest priorities. Being accessible, listening to your concerns and doing what is best for all involved will be my approach. As your Council member, I will fight for a better quality of life for all the residents of Santa Rosa.

I respectfully ask for your vote.

[www.carolinebanuelos.com](http://www.carolinebanuelos.com)

### Erin Carlstrom



Santa Rosa is an amazing and beautiful place to live and work. This is in large part because of the efforts of past and current leaders who have protected our open spaces and natural resources. Everything from urban growth boundaries and community

separators, to the Prince Memorial Greenway and Howarth Park, make Santa Rosa a beautifully unique and environmentally conscious community.

As a councilwoman, I will honor this legacy by pursuing good environmental policies. I will work to create good job opportunities by supporting local businesses, reduce crime by improving our gang prevention and youth programming, and ensure adequate funding to our parks, pools and community services.

As a former city Planning Commissioner, I believe we must re-emphasize our commitment to our natural resources by enforcing CEQA and our bicycle and pedestrian plans, invigorating and supporting the planning for SMART and protecting our clean water.

I am gratified to have the support of the Sierra Club, Sonoma County Conservation Action, Senator Noreen Evans, Assembly members Wesley Chesbro and Michael Allen, Councilwomen Susan Gorin and Marsha Vas Dupre, and many other environmental leaders in our community.

I would be honored to have your support and vote.

[www.ErinCarlstrom.com](http://www.ErinCarlstrom.com)

### Julie Combs



Our City can do better. As co-founder of the Southeast Greenway Campaign, I know our quality of life and economy require effective stewardship of our

environment. While our residents have voted to support the environment, their concerns are ignored. I'll continue to work to protect our city's natural resources.

As a Community Advisory Board member, I have listened. I've pushed for greater neighborhood inclusion by our City Council. Despite sales tax increases, parks, streetlights and roads are still neglected. To give all neighborhoods a voice, I also helped lead the effort to place District Elections on our ballot.

As a wife and mother, I want a fair, balanced budget that brings public safety pay and pensions to levels we can afford – without sacrificing our safety or our parks.

As a small business owner, I know the challenges businesses face, but I also support CEQA and green jobs that pay a living wage.

With degrees in engineering and psychology, and having worked as an urban plans reviewer, I know how to get things done. That's why Councilmembers Susan Gorin and Gary Wysocky, Sonoma County's Democratic Party, and Sonoma County Conservation Action have also endorsed me.

I'm honored to receive Sierra Club's endorsement. I ask for your vote.

[www.CombsForCouncil.com](http://www.CombsForCouncil.com)

# 2012 Sierra Club Endorsed Measures

## Vote No on Proposition 32, the Billionaires' Bill of Rights

Once again, big corporations and multimillionaire right wing extremists are attempting to corrupt the electoral process by promoting a ballot measure that goes beyond mere deceptiveness to verge on the fraudulent.

Officially designated the "Stop Special Interest Money Now Act" and widely touted as the "Paycheck Protection Act," Prop 32 masquerades as campaign finance reform. The measure bans direct contributions to California candidates by both corporations and labor unions, and prohibits both corporations and unions from using payroll deductions to collect "political funds" even from employees or members who approve in advance. This apparently even-handed restriction is actually grossly discriminatory, since as the measure's authors know full well, unions get almost all of their funds through payroll deductions, and businesses almost none.

Prop 32 also contains enormous loopholes designed for the benefit of large corporations and the wealthy. Many common organizational structures such as LLCs, partnerships and real estate trusts are exempt. If you're a venture capitalist, land developer or law firm— exempt. Corporate executives— exempt. And as provided in the infamous "Citizens United" decision, corporations and billionaires can still give unlimited political contributions to anonymous, unaccountable "Super PACs."

This already sounds pretty bad, but it gets worse. Prop 32 also defines public employee unions as "government contractors," and would forbid them from attempting to influence any government agency with which they have dealings. That restriction would also cover political action committees established by any membership organization, or "any agency or employee representation committee or plan," seeking stronger civil rights or environmental protections, such as the Sierra Club. It's no wonder the measure is actively opposed, not only by organized labor, but also by the country's leading good-government groups, such as Common Cause and the League of Women Voters.

In the words of Los Angeles Times columnist Michael Hiltzik, "In this state, we've come to expect ballot initiatives sponsored by business interests to be, essentially, frauds. But it's hard to conceive how one could be more fraudulent than Proposition 32. If there was any doubt left that the initiative process has been totally corrupted by big business and the wealthy, this should put it to rest for all time."

If Proposition 32 passes it would effectively end organized labor's ability to influence the political process in California, and cripple the Sierra Club's ability to protect the environment. We urge our members to vote No on Proposition 32.

—VICTORIA BRANDON, REDWOOD CHAPTER  
POLITICAL CHAIR

## Vote Yes on Prop. 37 Mandatory Labeling for Genetically Engineered Foods

Sierra Club California endorses Proposition 37, the California Right to Know Genetically Engineered Food Act, because it mandates the labeling of genetically modified organisms (GMOs). Polls show that more than 90 percent of California voters want to know if their food was produced by genetic engineering – a process that has nothing to do with traditional breeding and hybridization and which breaches species barriers to produce potatoes altered with bacteria genes, corn altered to produce pesticide, "super" pigs altered with human growth genes, tomatoes altered with fish genes, fish altered with cattle growth genes, etc.

The initiative gives Californians the right to choose what we put in our bodies and feed to our children. Fifty countries, including China, Japan and the European Union, require the labeling of genetically engineered food. The United States continues to allow GMOs to be sold unlabeled, with no requirement that companies prove their safety before putting them on the market— essentially the largest ongoing science experiment in history, conducted without the consent of the experimental subjects and no way to track possible health effects. Concerns are growing about the dramatic increase in pesticide use, impacts on soil fertility and the creation of super-weeds as a result of GMO cultivation. Cross-contamination by genetically engineered pollen is a direct threat to organic farming.

The lobbying power of the biotech industry has killed every federal GMO labeling law introduced in Congress since 1999 and every GMO labeling bill attempted in Sacramento and fourteen other states. The California ballot initiative process gives voters a way to go around entrenched economic interests that have paralyzed our legislature and implement the will of the people. This is an opportunity to lead the way for the nation on this critical environmental and human health issue.

## Yes on Measure U Protecting Agriculture and Open Space in Angwin

The Napa Sierra Club has endorsed Measure U, a ballot measure that would protect agricultural and open space land in the rural mountain community of Angwin.

The latest General Plan update shrunk what are referred to as "urban bubbles", areas where development was anticipated by the county decades ago. Crudely drawn with little regard for actual parcel lines, these areas no longer reflected where development was either anticipated or wanted today, particularly in the remote, rural reaches of the county.

Because there was at the time an active residential and commercial development proposal by Pacific Union College for some of the land within the Angwin urban bubble, consideration to eliminate some land was postponed for several parcels. The proposal was very controversial because of the

intention to dramatically increase the population in this remote area, inconsistent with policies intended to discourage sprawl in the unincorporated county.

With the development proposal withdrawn, Measure U now proposes to complete the task by eliminating open space and agricultural land from the Angwin urban bubble, while also designating some land as Public Institutional to ensure that PUC can fully utilize the land for its educational mission.

Eliminating this land from the urban bubble will protect agricultural watershed and open space land in this rural community, consistent with county policies, while still allowing land zoned for affordable housing in the Angwin area to be developed as such.

We encourage voters to say yes to Measure U.

—CAROL A. KUNZE, NAPA GROUP

## Obama for President

"The Sierra Club and our 1.4 million members and supporters share the same vision for America as the President for a prosperous and innovative economy that protects the air we breathe, the water we drink, and the health of our families. Together, we can build upon the historic successes of the last four years, including landmark fuel efficiency standards and the first-ever protections against toxic mercury pollution, to build a clean energy economy that creates thousands of new jobs and works for every American."

—MICHAEL BRUNE, SIERRA CLUB EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

### President Obama's Major Achievements on Environmental Issues:

- New fuel efficiency standards are the most significant action taken by any president in history to move our country off our dependence on oil and mitigate climate disruption (a 10% reduction in greenhouse gases) and will create more than half a million American jobs manufacturing market-leading fuel efficient vehicles. Sales of fuel efficient vehicles are skyrocketing, adding jobs in Michigan and Ohio, cutting pollution, cutting our use of fossil fuels— and helping to rebuild the US manufacturing sector.

- The Recovery Act (aka Stimulus) is the single largest investment in clean and renewable energy in our nation's history. With green investments

of close to \$100 Billion the Recovery Act created good jobs for Americans, reduced dependence on dirtier energy sources, and promoted wind and solar power, high energy performance, low carbon cars and buildings, mass transit, and a modernized water and transportation infrastructure.

- Wind and solar installations have doubled since the President took office - one in five homes in Iowa are now powered by wind energy. Solar installations have increased by a factor of five. And the US again leads the world in clean energy investment.

- Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009 was the most important lands protection legislation in decades, safeguarding millions of acres of new wilderness, protecting hundreds of miles of rivers, and expanding trails.

- Ft. Monroe & Ft. Ord have designated National Monuments. 1 million acres around Grand Canyon are protected from Uranium mining.

- EPA released new protections for toxic mercury from power plants.

- Established new safeguards under the Clean Air Act to protect Americans from dangerous carbon pollution. These first-ever carbon pollution standards for new power plants mean that business as usual for the nation's biggest sources of carbon pollution, dirty coal-burning utilities, is over. Cleaning up dangerous carbon pollution from new power plants and modernizing the way we power our nation will help secure Americans' health and future, and prevent against life-threatening air pollutants like dirty soot, toxic mercury and smog.

# Outings

## Sat. Oct. 6 - Mendo Group-Montgomery Woods State Park Nature Walk.

Naturalist Kate Marianchild will lead a walk among the virgin redwoods, discussing the biology and ecology of Coast Redwoods—what allows them to grow so tall, what limits their growth, the astonishing ecosystems in their canopies, the role of mycorrhizal fungi and the fungus lobaria, and the adaptations of some of the understory plants. She will tell the story of Steve Sillet's daring first climb into the canopy of a 300-foot tree. Warning: participants may be asked to hug a tree. Bring water, snacks, lunch, binoculars, layered clothing. Return to Ukiah about 3 p.m. Heavy rain cancels. Class E-3-A Carpools: Meet at Mendo Mill parking lot, Ukiah at 9:30 am. RSVP leader Yvonne Kramer (707) 463-0342 or kramer@saber.net

## Sun. Oct. 7 - Lake Group Turk's Head on Mt. St. Helena Hike.

Moderate hike on Mt. St. Helena to the ridge that separates the Napa and Russian River watersheds and a beautiful rock formation called the Turk's Head. Great views of Alexander Valley. Stop at the site of the town of Silverado.

Class M-4-A Carpools: Meet 8:30 Perry's Deli Middletown or the west parking lot of RLS State Park 9:00 By reservation only. Leader Pete McGee 942-1372 or montesol@hughes.net

## Sat. Oct. 13 - A walk at Mare Island Shoreline Heritage Preserve in Vallejo.

Our walk takes along a historic road to the highest point on Mare Island with spectacular views towards the Carquinez Strait, San Pablo and San Francisco Bays. We may see fledgling ospreys and other raptors/wildlife along the way. There are also various historical features to be seen including the oldest Navy cemetery on the west coast, bomb bunkers and the partially restored gardens of a caretaker's home. This walk is a fairly easy 3.0 mile r/t walk on a gradually inclined paved road. Class E-4-A. 9:30-11:00.

Take U.S. 101, I-80 or Hwy 29 to Highway 37 and take the 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 S. 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 the road. Leader Brian Collett 530 220-3121.

## Sat-Sun., Oct. 13-14 - Explore and Serve in the Carrizo Plains.

Pronghorn antelope will not jump fences to escape predators but rather attempt to crawl under. This trip is one of a continuing series to either remove or modify several sections of fence to facilitate this mobility. Saturday will be a work day. We will camp and have a potluck dinner that evening in one of the campgrounds. Sunday, at the choice of the group, will be either a hike in the Caliente Range or else a tour of popular viewing areas in the Plains. Leader: Craig Deutsche, craig.deutsche@gmail.com, 310-477-6670. CNRCC Desert Committee.

## Sat-Sun., Oct. 13-14 - Hot Springs And Cool Nights-Fall In The Black Rock.

We'll probably meet up in Reno, NV Friday evening and head on up to the Black Rock Desert about 100 miles north. Depending on area conditions, we'll most likely camp at Black Rock Hot Springs, the namesake of the area and a historic site on the Lassen-Applegate branch of the Emigrant Trail. We'll probably visit two other area springs. Soaking under the stars! New moon will mean great stars in this remote area. No RV's or trailers, dogs on leash, LNT. Leader is very familiar with the area. Sign up 9/28-10/10. David Book, 775/843-6443.

## Sat-Mon. Oct. 13-15 - Fall Backpack Trip in Yosemite.

Our late season intermediate-advanced backpack trip will take us to the beautiful Ten Lakes region of Yosemite National Park. Located

high above Tuolumne Meadows, the Ten Lakes region (elevation 9,000 feet) features grand views and jewel-like lakes. Day one will be a challenging 6-mile hike with 2,000 foot elevation gain to establish our base camp beside the second largest lake the region. Day two will feature a 10-mile day hike around the base of 11,000 foot Tuolumne Peak. Day three we'll break camp early for a 9:00 a.m. departure back to the cars. Trip limit is 10 so reserve your spot early. Previous backpacking experience required. Inclement weather forecast will cancel trip. Rated M/S 22 C. By reservation only. Leader Paul Bozzo paulbozzo@gmail.com / 707-696-0508.

## Sun. Oct. 14 - Lake Group Oat Hill Mine Trail Hike.

Hike up and back. Need sturdy shoes, lunch, lots of water, prior long distance hiking. Class S-10-B Meet: 8 am Oat Hill Mine Trail corner of Hwy 29 & Silverado Trail, Calistoga By reservation only. Leader Carol Magill, c.magill@mchsi.com 707-928-5423, 707-295-0862 (cell).

## Sun. Oct 14 - North Group, Skunk Cabbage Trail, Redwood National Park Hike.

Enjoy an old growth spruce forest along this trail before lunch on Gold Bluffs Beach. Bring water, lunch and sturdy shoes. No dogs. Class M-9-A. Carpool: Meet 10 am McKinleyville Safeway parking lot or 10:45 am Skunk Cabbage trailhead (west of Hwy. 101 two miles north of Orick). Leader Bill 707-839-5971. Rain cancels.

## Sat. Oct. 20 - Sierra Singles Potluck in Cotati.

Join us at Stephen's home in Cotati for our Oct. potluck. Social hour 5, dinner 6 pm. Bring a dish

and beverage to share and \$1 for the club fund. No place setting is needed if you wash the ones provided. From 101 in Santa Rosa, head south to exit 116 in Cotati. Turn left to go under the freeway, then right (south) on Old Redwood Hwy to the Cotati hub. Turn left on E. Cotati, then right at stop sign on LaSalle. Proceed past 1st stop sign to 2nd cul-de-sac., 8500 LaSalle Ave. is on the left. Info. Karen before 8:30 pm. 664-1448.

## Sun. Oct. 21 - Lake Group Table Rock on Mt. St. Helena Hike.

This is a moderate hike to Table Rock from Robert Louis Stevenson Park. Enjoy spectacular views to the north and, from Table Rock, of the Napa Valley wine country. Class M-5-A. Carpools: Meet 8:30 a.m. Perry's Deli Middletown or the east parking lot of RLS Park 9:00 a.m. By reservation only. Leader Pete McGee at 942-1372 or montesol@hughes.net

## Sun. Oct. 28 - Sonoma Group. Gunsight Rock Hike, via Johnson Ridge Trail Hike.

Hike to one of the best views of the Sonoma Valley. Bring good hiking shoes, lunch, water, layered clothing for the weather. Class: M-7-B Carpools: Meet 9:30 am CVS parking lot, 4th and Farmers Lane, between CVS and the Shell station, or trailhead 10 am upper parking lot Pythian Road. Leader Carl Inglin 707-538-8271 or chinglin@sonic.net. Rain cancels.

## Sat-Sun. Oct. 27-28 - Ghost Town Extravaganza.

Spend the weekend before Halloween with the ghosts of California's colorful past in this eerie desert landscape near Death Valley. Camp at the historic ghost town of Ballarat (flush toilets). On Sat, do a challenging hike to ghost town Lookout City with historian Hal Fowler who will regale us with tales of this wild west town. Later we'll return to camp for Happy Hour and a potluck feast, followed by a midnight visit to Ballarat's graveyard. On Sun, a quick visit to the infamous Riley townsite before heading home. Group size strictly limited. Send \$8 per person (Lygeia Gerard), 2 large SASE, H&W phones,

## 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 carpooling 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, (carolvrs@sonic.net) by the 8th of the month. All leaders must coordinate their outings with their Group Outings Chair.

## 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 Tiffany MacNeil Jackie Farley

### Moderate-pace with more frequent stops:

Bill Arenander Pete McGee Tim Bartice Bill Knight Susan Whiteside  
Carol Vellutini Yvonne Kramer Martin Farber Brian Collett  
Jean Crossley Melinda Groom Tom McFarling Nanette DeDonato

### Slower-pace: Allison Bronkall

## Interested in Becoming an Outings Leader?

Contact your Group Outings Chair (see page 2) or Carol Vellutini at 546-6308 or carolvrs@sonic.net for information.

email, rideshare info to Ldr: Lygeia Gerard, P.O. Box 721039, Pinon Hills, CA 92372; 760-868-2179. CNRCC Desert Committee.

## **Fri-Sun. Nov. 2-4 - Death Valley Service Trip.**

Work with Death Valley National Park Wilderness Coordinator Charlie Callagan on restoration activities in the Park. Projects are to be determined, but will probably include fence removal. Camping will be at Mesquite Springs campground, north of Stovepipe Wells. Arrive Friday afternoon and work for part of the afternoon, work will continue on Saturday, with a potluck Saturday night. Sunday may be a work day or perhaps recreational. Leader: Kate Allen, kj.allen96@gmail.com, 661-944-4056. CNRCC Desert Committee.

## **Sun. Nov. 3 - Mendo Group Angelo Coast Range Reserve Hike.**

The reserve is located on the South Fork of the Eel River. The reserve protects four undisturbed watersheds and boasts the state's largest virgin Douglas-fir forest. Bring water, lunch, and layered clothing. Class M-8-A. Carpools: Meet 9 am Dennys in Fort Bragg. By reservation only. Leader Lorrie 964-3011. Rain cancels.

## **Sat. Nov. 3 - Sonoma Group Napa/Bothe Coyote Peak Loop Hike.**

Enjoy hiking among redwoods along Ritchey Creek, then climb out of the canyon for beautiful open views. Descend back into ferns and a variety of plant communities, stopping for lunch at a serene secluded spot along the creek. Bring water, lunch and good hiking shoes. Class M-4-A. A few pairs of hiking poles to lend by reservation. Carpools: Meet 9 am Calistoga Rd./Hwy 12 Safeway southwest end of parking lot or 10 am Ritchey Canyon/Redwood trailhead Napa Bothe State Park 3801 St. Helena Hwy No. Calistoga. \$8 fee per car at park entrance. By reservation only. Leader Tiffany MacNeil (707) 696-3387 asmtif@sonic.net.

## **Sun. Nov. 4 - Lake Group Mt. Konocti from Gate.**

Hike from the gate on Konocti Rd. Bring binoculars, lunch and water and enjoy the spectacular views over Big Valley and Clear Lake. Meet 8:30 am at the gate. Reservation required. Class M-6-B. Leader Steve Devoto sdevoto@mchsi.com.

## **Sun. Nov. 4 - North Group, Hidden Beach Section Coastal Trail, Redwood National Park Hike.**

Hike the Coastal Trail from False Klamath Coves south to the Klamath Overlook Area, and return by the same route. The trail features spruce-alder woodlands clinging to rugged bluffs, intermittent views to rocks and coastline below, a pocket beach, and a chorus of nearby but unseen sealions. Bring

lunch, water, layered clothing, and hiking footwear. No dogs. Class M-8-A. Carpools: Meet 9:00 am PST Arcata Safeway parking lot or 10:30 am PST Lagoon Creek parking area (west of Hwy. 101 one mile north of Trees of Mystery). Leader Melinda 707-668-4275 or mgroomster@gmail.com Rain cancels.

## **Sat. Nov. 10 - A walk at Mare Island Shoreline Heritage Preserve in Vallejo.**

Our walk takes along a historic road to the highest point on Mare Island with spectacular views towards the Carquinez Strait, San Pablo and San Francisco Bays. We may see raptors and other wildlife along the way. There are also various historical features to be seen including the oldest Navy cemetery on the west coast, bomb bunkers and the partially restored gardens of a caretaker's home. This walk is a fairly easy 3.0 mile r/t walk on a gradually inclined paved road. Class E-4-A. 9:30-11:00.

Take U.S. 101, I-80 or Hwy 29 to Highway 37 and take the 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 S. 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 the road. Leader Brian Collett 530 220-3121

## **Sat. Nov. 17 - Sierra Singles Dinner and Movie Night, Petaluma.**

Meet John at Mary's Pizza Shack restaurant at 5 pm for a meal followed by a movie at the Boulevard 14 Cinemas. Please note that this event is open to anyone, not just Sierra Club members. From Hwy 101 take exit 474 for E Washington St toward Central Petaluma, turn West (right from Santa Rosa) Mary's is on the right at 359 E. Washington St. Call John to RSVP by 11/14 before 9 pm 217-7422.

## **Sun. Nov. 18 - Lake Group Glen Eden Trail.**

Hike beyond Goat Rock campground and back. Need sturdy shoes, lots of water, lunch, prior long distance hiking. Class S-8-10-B. Meet: 8 am Glen Eden Trailhead, 8 miles out Scotts Valley Road from Hwy 29. Reservation required. Leader Carol Magill, c.magill@mchsi.com 707-928-5423, 707-295-0862 (cell).

## **Sat. Dec. 1 - Sonoma Group Mid-Holiday Reconnect Hike Sonoma Valley Regional Park.**

In this time of year often spent indoors and in stores, take time to reconnect with nature and yourself. We will hike the Canyon and Ridge trails, skirting Lake Suttonfield, to make a scenic loop. Listen for Acorn Woodpeckers,

## Outings Chair Report

The Sonoma Group has a new leader. Tiffany MacNeil has been hiking in Sonoma and Napa Counties for 13 years as a hike leader, trail builder and volunteer. She loves to share her enthusiasm for the enduring lessons and healing power of nature, as well as the history of Northern California and how different peoples have shaped the land. She spent her childhood in upstate New York, mostly barefoot and climbing trees, and returned to the woods after a corporate career in NYC and LA. Her next adventure will be to hike the Chilkoot Trail in the Yukon Territory of Alaska. Welcome Tiffany.

I have been attending Brian's walks on Mare Island in Solano County. Each time I come away with so much historical information. The views are fantastic. There are so many volunteers clearing trails, taking out invasive plants, greeting visitors, doing BBQs, raising money and helping with the transition from military to preserve. Local honey and pollen are sold. I tasted fennel popcorn. Seeing the raptors nesting is a treat. Going into bomb shelters is a reminder of our past. So many buildings are in transition. Thank you Brian for continuing to drive from Sacramento to do the walks.

There are five Sierra Club huts in the Sierra. Each needs maintenance and volunteers to do the work. The Redwood Chapter maintains Benson Hut. I was concerned about the hanta virus since the Yosemite outbreak. When I was in charge of Benson I would sweep & clean with dust flying around. There would be rodent urine



**Mare Island Heritage Preserve Hike: Leader-in-training Tiffany MacNeil (Sonoma) and leader Brian Collett (Solano)**

& droppings in some areas. Looking back maybe I should have worn a mask but I have never had problems. I always brought bleach and did use it when needed. Dick Simpson is our hut master. I asked him to give an opinion. He stated "So the bottom line is that there are risks in visiting the huts, but with proper attention to those risks we should be able to continue to enjoy the huts as a pleasant and rewarding experience. Clean carefully and avoid inhaling dust, pay attention to possible symptoms and beware of the traditional dangers -avalanche and hypothermia—which continue to be our most serious threats." I agree and all the former high Sierra leaders I knew were vigorous healthy hikers and loved our wonderful hut system. If you haven't been to the Sierra lately make a point to go this fall. Stay at our wonderful Claire Tappaan Lodge and go day hiking or backpack the huts. Sitting on top of granite outcroppings, watching a sunset is truly a wonderful experience.

We always welcome new leaders. We also need Outings Chairs for several groups.

See you on the trail.

—CAROL VELLUTINI, REDWOOD CHAPTER OUTINGS CHAIR

breathe the fresh air, and enjoy the stunning views of oak woodlands and open meadows. Partial dirt trails and paved paths. Bring water and rain gear if needed, as hike will go rain or shine. Class E-3-A. Carpools: Meet 9:15 am Hwy 12/Calistoga Rd. Safeway Calistoga Rd. southwest end of lot or 10 am Sonoma Valley Regional Park Hwy 12. \$7 fee per car at park entrance. Leader Tiffany MacNeil (707) 696-3387 asmtif@sonic.net.

## **Sat-Sun. Dec 1-2 - Explore and Serve in the Carrizo Plains.**

Pronghorn antelope will not jump fences to escape predators but rather attempt to crawl under. For nearly eight years work has continued to remove fences and/or modify them to facilitate mobility of the pronghorn. The project has been very successful, and this will be one of the very last of these work weekends. Saturday will be a work day. We will camp and have a pot-luck dinner that evening in one of the campgrounds. Sunday, at the choice of the group, will be either a hike in the Caliente Range or else a tour of popular viewing areas in the Plains. Leader: Craig Deutsche, craig.deutsche@gmail.com, 310-477-6670. CNRCC Desert Committee.

## Sacramento Lobby Day

The Sierra Club sponsored a Citizen Lobby Day for members at the capitol on August 20 & 21. Volunteers from all chapters in California were trained one day and met the next with legislators and staff to promote environmental legislation supported by the Club, to oppose possible changes to California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), and discuss issues around increased clear cutting on private lands. The bills dealt with toxic waste and extended support for solar energy as well as the State Park Stewardship Act (AB 1589). SB 843 by Senator Wolk (D-Davis) allows households and businesses to buy up to 100% renewable power from a shared facility in the utility district and receive a credit on their utility bill. AB1990 by Senator Fong (D-Cupertino) expands the existing Feed-in Tariff program to disadvantaged communities bringing green jobs into those communities. SB 1222 by Senator Leno (D-San Francisco) sets a \$500 permit fee cap for residential rooftop energy systems. SB 568 (Lowenthal) bans Styrofoam in restaurants after Jan. 1, 2016. SB 298 (Brownley) bans single use plastic bags by grocery stores after 2014. I represented the Redwood Chapter & was supported by two members from Alviso and the Foothill Chapter, both veterans of last year's Lobby Day. We met with staff from the following representatives: Sen. Noreen Evans (D-Santa Rosa), Assembly Member Michael Allen (D-Santa Rosa), Assembly Member Mariko Yamada (D-Davis) and Assembly Member Wesley Chesbro (D-Eureka). We found support for all the bills and had receptive talks on the other issues. I highly recommend attending Lobby Day next year to gain a deeper appreciation for the environmental work the Club does on the state level and to gain some experience as a volunteer lobbyist.

—YVONNE KRAMER, UKIAH, MENDO GROUP HIKE LEADER

# Now is the Time....

Are you concerned about protecting open spaces and agricultural land, worried about depleting ground water and leveling mountain tops and wanting to preserve clean rushing rivers and majestic forests? All of us can join together to keep Northern California the beautiful place it is. It takes just a little of your time, working with a group of like minded people.

We are looking for some new faces to be members of our Executive Committees and to lend a hand in accomplishing our goals. Every Sierra Club Group has openings. If you think you might be interested in helping in some way, please call your local Sierra Club office and find out your Group's needs. They need you!

## 2012 Redwood Chapter and Group Elections Schedule

### Sept. 10, 2012

Appointment of Chapter Nominating and Election Committees.

### September 17, 2012

Appointment of Nominating Committee by Groups.

### October 15, 2012

Receipt of candidates' applications (statement of intent to run), with contact information, by Nominating Committees for consideration.

### October 31, 2012

Nominating Committee inform all potential candidates (those nominated and not) of their status and submit lists of nominated candidates, with contact information, to respective ExComs and to Election Committee.

### November 1, 2012

Nominated candidates submit ballot statements to Election Committee.

### November 1, 2012

Receipt of ballot issue petitions by Election Committee.

### November 5, 2012 (no later than)

Petition candidates send ballot statements to Election Committee.  
Election committee sends statements for December Needles.

### December 2012

Ballots distributed in December edition of Redwood Needles.

### December 30, 2012

Ballots due in chapter office in Santa Rosa.

### January 3, 2013

Count ballots.

### January 5, 2013

Election Committee announces results to candidates and to Group and Chapter chairs. Election results sent to editor of Needles.

## A Redwood Area Master's Program for Practical Idealists

In my role as a professor at Humboldt State University (HSU), I frequently have discussions with idealistic young (and not so young) students regarding how they can make a positive difference in the world. At HSU (part of the Cal State System), these kinds of students are not unusual, in fact they tend to be the norm. This is why the Peace Corps rates Humboldt among its "Top Colleges and Universities", while the Princeton Review has named Humboldt one of the most environmentally responsible colleges in the U.S.A. and Canada. These are the students who, for example, voted to raise their own fees to install solar panels on classrooms, increase recycling on campus, and provide all students with unlimited bus passes to reduce greenhouse gasses. These students give me hope for the future of the environmental movement, our country, and our planet.

Thus, it is common for me to meet with students who want to do more to help make the world a better place. Sure, I recommend joining the Sierra Club, and talk up the wonderful things that the club does. Often though, these students want their careers to reflect their idealism; they want a grounded practical (and paying) approach to changing the world. I am proud to say that HSU offers a number of outstanding opportunities to achieve these goals. One such opportunity is a program that focuses on the intersection between the environment and community. This is the aptly named Environment and Community (E & C) Master's program, and I am deeply involved with it.

The E & C program is unique with its focus on the social sciences. For example, E & C students don't just look at issues of consumption, but also how consumption affects equity on a local, and international level. Because of its broad and strong interdisciplinary nature, no other program like this exists within the Cal State system. Why interdisciplinary? Because today's challenges are interdisciplinary. In the program, students learn how such topics as race, class, gender, and place affect environmental justice. Professors come from such fields as Wildland Resource Science, Energy and Resources Engineering, Ecology, Economics, Political Science, Sociology, Psychology, and other fields. Once enrolled, students almost immediately become engaged in applied research resulting in a Master's degree that is directly related to the field of employment in which they hope to engage.

Regarding employment, this diverse and applied degree has resulted in students finding jobs in such fields as natural resource management, sustainable food and agriculture, sustainability, transportation and land use planning, water conservation, affordable housing, teaching, research, and other areas. The program is demanding, the work is hard, but the benefits for the students and the planet are tangible. I find it a perfect complement to my volunteer work with the Sierra Club. You can learn more by Googling "Environment and Community Humboldt".

—GREGG J. GOLD, PH.D., NORTH GROUP CHAIR, AND  
REDWOOD CHAPTER GLOBAL WARMING CHAIR



## *Redwood Needles* December Deadline: Due Nov. 4th

Submit Articles/Reports/Ad Copy via e-mail to:

**odavison@comcast.net**

Send Outings to Carol Vellutini via e-mail: carolvsr@sonic.net

Send Meetings to Carl Inglin via e-mail: chinglin@sonic.net



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# 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 9 am 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

## Milo Baker Chapter

### California Native Plant Society

#### 41st Annual Plant Sale

October 13, 2012

Saturday 9 am-1pm

Santa Rosa Veteran's Memorial Hall

[www.cnpsmb.org](http://www.cnpsmb.org)

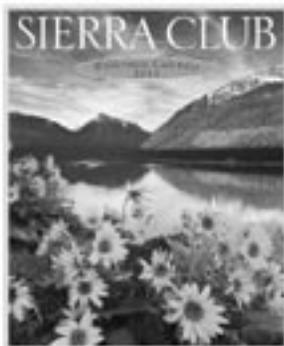
The Milo Baker Chapter is entirely self-supporting. Our main source of revenue is the plant sale, which is held on the second Saturday in October each year. Expert gardeners are on hand to answer questions. Books, note cards, plant posters and t-shirts are also for sale.

**Discounted prices available for purchase and pick up of 2013 calendars at the Environmental Center on 55 Ridgeway, Santa Rosa. Wilderness (wall): \$12, Engagement (desk): \$13, both prices include sales tax. Call for hours: 544-7651.**



Enjoy, explore and protect the planet

## 2013 Sierra Club Calendars



Wilderness Wall Calendar



Engagement Calendar

Item	Cost	Qty	Total	Ship To:
Engagement	\$13.95			_____
Wilderness	\$12.95			Name _____
Subtotal:				Address _____
Shipping (\$1.00 per calendar):				City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Sales tax included				Phone (____) _____
GRAND TOTAL:				Email _____

Please make check payable to "Sierra Club" and mail to the return address shown on your invoice.

# Meetings

Send all Meeting events by the 8th of the month to Carl Inglin: [chinglin@sonic.net](mailto: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 Ridgeway 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).

### Mon. Oct. 1 - Sonoma Group.

Santa Rosa Environmental Center, 55A Ridgeway is the site of three related meetings:

- The Climate & Energy Committee meets at 4:30, Info: contact Shirley, [shirlgirl707@yahoo.com](mailto:shirlgirl707@yahoo.com), 206-1138.

- Sonoma Group Conservation Committee at 5:30 p.m. Info: Dan Kerbein, [dkerbein@sonic.net](mailto:dkerbein@sonic.net)

- Sonoma Group Executive Committee at 6:30 p.m. Info: Info: Dan Kerbein, [dkerbein@sonic.net](mailto:dkerbein@sonic.net)

### Thurs. Oct. 4 - Solano Group 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.

### Tues., Oct. 9 - North Group Executive Committee Meeting.

All are invited to the Adorni Center conference room, Eureka waterfront, on, to attend the ExCom meeting starting at 6:45 p.m. This monthly business meeting will end

with a discussion of conservation issues, lasting until 8:45 p.m. For more information, contact Gregg Gold at 707-826-3740.

### Tues. Oct. 16 - 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](mailto:nancy@aya.yale.edu)

### Wed. Oct. 17 - The Sonoma Group Water Committee.

7:00 PM in the back room of the Environmental Center, 55A Ridgeway, Santa Rosa. Contact Len Holt: 707-527-7516 or [lholt@sonic.net](mailto:lholt@sonic.net).

### Thurs. Nov. 1 - Solano Group 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.

### Mon. Nov. 5 - Sonoma Group.

Santa Rosa Environmental Center, 55A Ridgeway is the site of three related meetings:

- The Climate & Energy Committee meets at 4:30, Info: contact Shirley, [shirlgirl707@yahoo.com](mailto:shirlgirl707@yahoo.com), 206-1138.

- Sonoma Group Conservation Committee at 5:30 p.m. Info: Info: Dan Kerbein, [dkerbein@sonic.net](mailto:dkerbein@sonic.net)

- Sonoma Group Executive Committee at 6:30 p.m. Info: Info: Dan Kerbein, [dkerbein@sonic.net](mailto:dkerbein@sonic.net)

### Sat., Nov. 4 - Redwood Chapter ExCom.

Location: Willits at the Environmental Center. Conservation Committee meets at 10 a.m., ExCom meets 1-3 p.m. Info: Victoria, [vbrandon@lifelive.info](mailto:vbrandon@lifelive.info)

### Tues. Nov. 13 - North Group ExCom.

Monthly North Group Sierra Club Executive Committee meeting. See Aug. 14 for details.

### Wed. Nov. 21 - The Sonoma Group Water Committee.

7:00 PM in the back room of the Environmental Center, 55A Ridgeway, Santa Rosa. Contact Len Holt: 707-527-7516 or [lholt@sonic.net](mailto:lholt@sonic.net)

Sonoma Group Water Committee - No meeting in December

## Sierra Club Volunteer/Activist Opportunities

**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](mailto: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](mailto:bill.knight.email@gmail.com).

**Open Seat on ExCom.** The Sonoma Group ExCom has an opening to fill! Folks who like fun and who are interested in being Sierra Club policy wonks should contact Dan Kerbein at [dkerbein@sonic.net](mailto:dkerbein@sonic.net) or come to an Executive Committee meeting on the first Mondays of the month, 6:30, at 55A Ridgeway Ave, Santa Rosa.

**Help the Sonoma Group Water Committee!** Come to our meetings at 7:00 PM at the Environmental Center held 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. Help protect the quality of our water for people, wildlife, fish and other aquatic life, promote water conservation and intelligent reuse. We are currently discussing Water Fluoridation, the water related problems for the Gration Rancheria Casino, Russian River Estuary, Wastewater Nutrient Offsets, and The Santa Rosa Plain Groundwater Plan. Come to our meetings with your suggestions and to help in this enterprise. To confirm meeting dates or if you are not able to attend our meetings, you may e-mail Len Holt at [lholt@sonic.net](mailto:lholt@sonic.net)

**The Climate & Energy Committee is getting Amped up!** Join our discussion on the 1st Monday/Month at 4:30-5:30 p.m. at the Environmental Center in Santa Rosa, get Charged about community renewable energy programs. Contact Shirley Johnson-Foell Climate & Energy Committee Forum-Chair. Email: [shirlgirl707@yahoo.com](mailto:shirlgirl707@yahoo.com), home 206-1138, or call the office 544-7651.

## Lake Group Report

### Watch out for Walmart

Rumors have been circulating for at least the past year that Walmart is contemplating the construction of a Lakeport branch, either to supplement or to replace its existing outlet in Clearlake. Given the small size of the local market and the inevitability of taking business away from the Ukiah branch, this prospect seemed like little more than a bargaining chip in the megamart's effort to persuade the Clearlake City Council to approve a proposed expansion of the existing store, which has been stalled for nearly two years now.

But lately the Lakeport proposal has resurfaced with a specific address, and a formal application to the City of Lakeport is expected soon. The consequences to the downtown business district, to the character of the community, and to the prospects of long term prosperity built on thriving local enterprises are all too predictable.

Of course this application will require review under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), with abundant opportunities for public involvement, but in the meantime Lake County residents are invited to register their disapproval by signing an online petition — to access it, follow the link from the Lake Group website, [www.redwood.sierraclub.org/lake](http://www.redwood.sierraclub.org/lake). Petitions are also available at Watershed Books, 305 N Main St in Lakeport.

### General Meeting: what's really going on with Clear Lake

As this issue of the Redwood Needles was going to press, Lake Group was looking forward to our first general membership meeting of the fall season, to be held at the Lower Lake Methodist Church on September 19. Dr. Harry Lyons, Professor of Biology and Ecology at Yuba College, was planning a talk about "Recent and Future Reports on Clear Lake." University of California investigators are unraveling details of Clear Lake's biology and geology: Cecile Mioni and Raphael Kudela (UC Santa Cruz) have prepared a report on harmful cyanobacteria and their toxins. Cindy Looy and Roger Byrne (UC Berkeley) have collected sediment cores to determine the ecosystem's biotic response to past climate change. From the view point of a community college professor who carefully reads and lectures on university research, how will recent and future findings fit with what we already know about Clear Lake? This is a rare opportunity to get accurate, comprehensible, up to date information from a master of communications, and to learn what is really going on with the lake.

### You're Welcome!

Two very good causes recently acknowledged Lake Group financial contributions: at Anderson Marsh's recent 30th anniversary celebration I had the honor of accepting a certificate of appreciation from AMIA Secretary Gae Henry on behalf of the Club, which contributed \$500 towards keeping the Park open (photo on the Group website). And more recently GE Free Lake County, which is the local committee working for the passage of Proposition 37 (requiring labeling of foods containing genetically engineered ingredients) submitted a letter of thanks to local papers acknowledging Lake Group's donation. The Group is very glad to say "you're welcome," and— perhaps more tangibly— to encourage our members to add their own monetary support to that of the Club.

—VICTORIA BRANDON, LAKE GROUP

**WOMEN'S TRIPS** - Yosemite, Pt. Reyes, Sequoia! Visit [sierrasisters.net](http://sierrasisters.net) or call Janet at (707)874-2126



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## Sonoma Group Report

Readers of Redwood Needles in Sonoma County can take an active part in protecting our forests and local habitat. The Sierra Club Sonoma Group has 2 openings on our Executive Committee for people who want to take their environmental interest to a pro-active level. ExCom members are the Sierra Club's voice for local transit and conservation. We also vote to endorse candidates for public office in Sonoma County.

The deadline to get your application in to us is Oct. 15. As the Needles goes to press, we are still in the process of recruiting our Nominating Committee and naming a committee chair. Meanwhile please call our office at Dan Kerbein, Sonoma Group Chair, at 707-535-0326.

Since July, we endorsed the following candidates and initiatives: Deb Fudge for Windsor Town Council; Gary Wysocky, Julie Combs, Caroline Banuelos, and Erin Carlstrom for Santa Rosa City Council. We voted to oppose Measure "U" in Cotati (which prohibits roundabouts) and support the Healdsburg measure re-authorizing that city's Urban Growth Boundary, with no changes.

Endorsements of city council candidates in the cities of Cotati, Petaluma, Sebastopol, and Sonoma are elsewhere in this issue, as they are still being processed at the deadline for submission of this report.

Our Water Committee Chair, Len Holt, has attended public sessions of the Sonoma County Board of Supervisors pertaining to the Carneros Ranch project EIR, and made

comments to the Supervisors and county staff regarding state CEQA laws and procedures pertaining to the process. Some months ago the Sonoma Group and community groups in Marin demanded an EIR for the project, which would involve dredging, barge traffic and alteration of an area vulnerable to sea level rise. The county did vote to require the EIR, and in July approved a consultant to prepare it.

ExCom member Steve Birdleough has participated with representatives of the Bay Chapter and Loma Prieta Chapter to develop recommendations to the Metropolitan Transit Commission and Association of Bay Area Governments, on a 30-year plan for regional development and transit guidelines. The plan will designate desired transit and highway routes, as well as planning concerns such as housing densities and preferred locations for various types of development. One element of the plan is the SMART train that will serve cities between Larkspur and Cloverdale.

We hosted our first Environmental Forum of the year at the Environmental Center on August 16, devoted to new member orientation. It was well attended by new members, and by members of the ExCom and some of our committees. We plan a post-election Environmental Forum in November, to roll out environmental action strategies based on the results of ballot initiatives, and positions of newly elected government officials. Another new member forum is planned for December.

—DAN KERBEIN, SONOMA GROUP CHAIR

## Napa Group Report

### Housing and Napa Environmentalism

Transportation produces more greenhouse gases than any other activity in Napa County. With tens of thousands of people commuting into— and out of— Napa for work, and limited public transit options, providing adequate numbers of homes, and situating them in "walkable" neighborhoods is key to fighting climate change. We expect housing to be a dominant theme in Napa's environmental discussions over the coming years.

### Yes on Napa's Measure U in November

Sierra Club supports Measure U on Napa County's November Ballot. The measure would rezone land near Angwin as agricultural and institutional parcels. See Carol Kunze's article in this paper to learn why we think these rural lands should be protected from large-scale housing development.

### Outings Committee Charting New Paths

Since our Outings Committee Chair has recently moved to Sonoma, the Committee is seizing the opportunity to reorganize and brainstorm creative trip ideas. Traditional outings have included snow trips, paddles and hikes, and joint trips with the Napa Land Trust. What offerings should continue, and what could be added? A warm invitation is extended to join the committee, or to suggest your ideas for outings. Help create the future of the Napa Outings, by contacting Isabelle St. Guily at [izstguily@gmail.com](mailto:izstguily@gmail.com)

### Napa Pipe Hearing Date Set

After intense public opposition, the Napa Pipe

development team withdrew their initial project proposal. As expected, they are back with a modified plan. This proposal would put 700 – 900 housing units in Napa Pipe, and would add a Costco store. The first planning commission hearing is set for Wednesday, October 3rd.

Details have not yet been released, and the Sierra Club does not have a position on the new plan. Water supply remains a big question mark. The plan will require City of Napa water, and the city as thus far not been inclined to deliver water to the project. The housing development proposal remains west of the railroad tracks, and will require installation and maintenance of gates to protect from access road flooding at high tide. Earthquake safety, traffic and governance are other troubling issues.

### Adopt-a-Park

Join our work parties to cultivate the native plants at Trancas Crossing Park in Napa. We usually work for just a couple of hours, weeding and mulching. Contact Nancy Tamarisk at [nancy@aya.yale.edu](mailto:nancy@aya.yale.edu).

### Green School Buses and Safety

Hats off to Ralph Knight, and his team at the Napa Valley Unified School District's Transportation Department for developing a fleet of greener school buses. However, they have been frustrated by the Highway Patrol in their attempts to mark the buses with green stripes, to alert first responders during major accidents. See my article in this issue of the Needles for the whole scoop.

—NANCY TAMARISK, NAPA GROUP CHAIR

## The Leaves are Turning, but You can still Go Green this Fall!

Reduce your carbon footprint!

To receive future copies of the *Redwood Needles* via email send a message to: [RedwoodNeedles@gmail.com](mailto: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".

## Our Volunteers:

Thanks to Nancy McCoy, Matt and Brian Hoffman, and Adam Mangosing for staffing the July 21 paper shredding at Valcore.

Thanks to Adam Mangosing for helping at the August 2 Benicia Farmers Market, where we gave out information on [www.checkyournumber.org](http://www.checkyournumber.org). Thanks to Jady Montgomery for helping on August 30 for this event. You may be changing your oil too often, so check out this site to see the recommended mileage for your vehicle. Some cars can wait 7500 miles to change oil.

## 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. (Oct 20, Nov 17, and Dec 15). There is a charge of \$10 per twenty pounds of paper shredded. (maximum: 100 pounds). We need help tending the money and directing traffic. Once a year is all we ask and you only need work an hour or so.

Composting classes @ VALCORE will be Saturdays Oct 6, Nov 3 @ 10am to noon.

Benicia Composting Class is scheduled on Thursday Sept 27 at 5 pm at the Avant Garden on First Street just north of

## Solano Breeze Corner

Covering Benicia, Fairfield, Rio Vista, Suisun,  
Vacaville and Vallejo

[sierraclubsolanogroup@gmail.com](mailto:sierraclubsolanogroup@gmail.com) 707-319-6398

the farmers market. All classes free and discounted bins offered to residents.

**Don't forget Coastal Cleanup** – various locations around Solano County on Saturday Sept 15 from 9am to noon, check out [www.earth911.com](http://www.earth911.com) or [www.recycle.solanocounty.com](http://www.recycle.solanocounty.com) for details.

Call Jane ASAP if you're available at (707) 319-6398

**We continually work at Lori's Native Plant Garden** located at 225 Amador St, Vallejo. We weed, plant, prune and mulch year-round. If you have an hour, call Jane and she'll work with you to get you started. (707) 319-6398. We need Sierra Club supervisors to help other groups tend the garden on October 27, 9am to noon.

**The Jepson CA Native Plant Society** will have a fall plant Sale on Saturday, October 20 from 9 am to 3 p.m. at First and K Street in the park. They will also be celebrating Arbor Day. For sale info please call Sue at (707)747-5815.

## 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** – You may need to attend one meeting per year.

**EXCOM** – Come join us for our monthly meetings which rotate between Vallejo, Fairfield and Vacaville. We meet on the first Thursday of the month and are making a positive impact on our county and need a few more members 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.

CONTRIBUTORS: DUANE KROMM, JANE BOGNER

EDITOR: GREG PETERSON

## North Group Report

This summer the North Group continued to support the development of future Sierra Club activists. Contributions to the Lucille Vinyard/Susie Van Kirk Environmental Education Fund – now in its 18th year – provided a camping experience for four deserving children within our membership area. Two 4th-grade girls – one from Crescent City and one from Redcrest – were sent to a 5-day “Towering Trees & Tidepools” overnight camp near Orick operated by the Oregon Museum of Science & Industry (OMSI), while two 6th graders – a boy from Crescent City and a girl from Redcrest – attended OMSI's 6-day Redwood Field Study session at Wolf Creek Education Center, Redwoods State and National Parks.

Here are excerpts from essays the young people wrote about their experiences: “We went tidepooling, dissected a squid, hiked to a big redwood, tested the pH of water, played games, sat around the campfire, sang, danced, and told jokes” ... “I kissed a banana slug and it made my lips go numb” ... “The counselors and instructors seemed to have as much fun as the campers. Maybe I'll be an instructor when I get older”... “My time spent at camp was totally awesome; the time to go home came way too soon! The camp was beautiful, the food was great, and the counselors were really nice and a lot of fun.”

The North Group plans to continue and hopes to expand our support for activities in which young people learn about and bond with the natural world. Research has discovered that most of today's environmental activists had direct experiences in their youth bonding them with wild nature. You can support our work too by contributing to the North Group's Vinyard-VanKirk Education Fund.

## Get involved with the North Group

There are many ways that members can become more active with the North Group or stay up to date on Group happenings.

Here are just a few:

Membership Co-chair Sue Leskiw oversees an e-mail distribution group of people who included e-mail addresses on their Club renewal. If you would like to join this list serve to receive information on events of interest to North Group members (we promise to use it only occasionally and not share it with anyone), send a message to [sueleskiw@suddenlink.net](mailto:sueleskiw@suddenlink.net).

The North Group Executive Committee is looking for new members. ExCom members carry on the work of the Group including work on conservation issues, developing outings, writing for our ECONEWS page and the Redwood Needles, tabling at community events, etc. Currently we are looking for a volunteer to coordinate our work on Climate Change issues as part of Sierra Club's Resilient Habitats Campaign. If you want to consider joining the ExCom or volunteering in one of our ongoing projects come to an ExCom meeting at Eureka's Adorni Center on the second Tuesday of each month beginning at 6:45 PM.

North Group members are constantly working on one or another conservation issue. One issue we are working on currently is the Agricultural Lands Discharge Program being developed by the North Coast Water Quality Board. The Clean Water Act is well over 30 years old so it is high time regulation came to the agricultural industry. To learn more about this work contact North Group Water Chair Felice Pace who is listed in the chapter directory.

You can view the current issue of North Group News as well as listings of upcoming outings and meetings on the Chapter website at [www.redwood.sierraclub.org/north](http://www.redwood.sierraclub.org/north).

–FELICE PACE, NORTH GROUP

## Giant Sequoias– Safe at Last?

The U.S. Forest Service has released a long-awaited new management plan for Giant Sequoia National Monument in California's Sierra Nevada. President Clinton created the monument to protect groves of giant sequoia located outside of national parks.

But unlike most national monuments, which are managed by the National Park Service, Giant Sequoia is overseen by the Forest Service, which proposed to cut 7.5 million board feet of timber a year in the monument.

After years of grassroots pressure, including more than 350,000 comments submitted by Sierra Club members and supporters, the Forest Service has finally released a management plan that doesn't default to cutting down trees.

Is it perfect? No. There's still the possibility that

some exemptions and loopholes could allow too much logging in the wrong places in the name of fire prevention. We look forward to working with our members, volunteers, scientists, and the Forest Service to address those concerns.

But under this plan for the Giant Sequoia National Monument, it's at least possible that the U.S. Forest Service will finally treat the surviving giant sequoias like the irreplaceable treasures they are– using the same tools for ecological restoration that have worked so well in the neighboring national parks. We will remain vigilant to assure that this possibility becomes a reality and that these mighty forests are finally restored to health.

–MICHAEL BRUNE,  
SIERRA CLUB EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

## Mendocino Group Report

For the first time ever the Coastal Commission is meeting in Mendocino County. The Mendocino Group, along with the Coast Botanical Gardens, the Noyo Headlands Unified Design Group, and the Mendocino Land Trust is hosting a reception for the Commission on Wed. Sept 12 at the Botanical Gardens.

The Marr house at Salmon Creek decision, which has been appealed to the Coastal Commission by the Mendocino Group on the grounds that it is too large for a highly scenic area, has been postponed and will not be heard before the Commission at this venue.

Mendocino Group will address the Commission on the issue of the proposed CalTrans road widening at Seaside Beach. The work is outsized for the highly scenic area and is a million dollar project that is likely to be undermined by storm and water action.

Mendocino Group has written a letter to State Parks in support of the Ten Mile Dune Project and sent the same to the local newspaper, our various concerns regarding the use of pesticides and the possibility of using the funds for a more pressing issue having been satisfied.

The Farm Bureau has intervened on behalf of the Sierra Club, Mendocino Group, et al. in the lawsuit against CalTrans and the Willits Bypass. DeSilva /Flatiron from Colorado, the low bidder, has been awarded the contract for the work on the Willits Bypass by CalTrans despite the lawsuit. A motion was filed in Federal Court seeking a preliminary injunction to halt imminent construction of the Willits Bypass.

–MARY WALSH, MENDOCINO GROUP CHAIR





# Sierra Club Endorsements

## National Candidates:

- Barack Obama**  
President of the United States
- Jared Huffman**  
Congress, District 2
- John Garamendi**  
Congress, District 3
- Mike Thompson**  
Congress, District 5

## California Legislature:

- Lois Wolk**  
Senate, District 3
- Wes Chesbro**  
Assembly, District 2
- Mariko Yamada**  
Assembly, District 4
- Michael Allen**  
Assembly, District 10
- Jim Frazier**  
Assembly, District 11
- Susan Bonilla**  
Assembly, District 14

## California Propositions:

- Yes on Prop. 31**  
Mandatory Labeling for Genetically Engineered Foods
- Yes on Prop. 37**  
Mandatory Labeling for Genetically Engineered Foods
- Yes on Prop. 39**  
Clean Energy and Energy Efficiency Funding
- No on Prop. 31**  
Two-year state budget cycle
- NO on Prop. 32**  
Billionaires Bill of Rights

**See pages 4 and 5 for  
Candidate and Measure  
Statements**

## Local Candidates and Measures:

### Sonoma County:

- Susan Gorin**  
Supervisor, District 1
- Gary Wysocky**  
Santa Rosa City Council
- Julie Combs**  
Santa Rosa City Council
- Caroline Bañuelos**  
Santa Rosa City Council
- Erin Carlstrom**  
Santa Rosa City Council
- John Del Osso**  
Cotati City Council
- Susan Harvey**  
Cotati City Council
- Wendy Skillman**  
Cotati City Council
- Laurie Gallian**  
Sonoma City Council
- Jason Davies**  
Petaluma City Council
- Alicia Kae Herries**  
Petaluma City Council
- Tiffany Renee**  
Petaluma City Council
- John Eder**  
Sebastopol City Council
- Robert Jacob**  
Sebastopol City Council
- Yes on Measure W**  
Extend Healdsburg Urban Growth Boundaries to 2030
- Yes on Measure E**  
1/2 Cent Sales Tax for Clear Lake
- NO on Measure U**  
Cotati: Prohibits Roundabouts

### Lake County:

Nonprofit  
PRST STD  
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PAID  
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Petaluma, CA



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**Redwood Needles**  
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Redwood Chapter  
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