

# Redwood Needles



Fall 2020

Sierra Club Redwood Chapter

Volume 62, No. 4

“Fight for the things that you care about. But do it  
in a way that will lead others to join you.”

— Ruth Bader Ginsburg,  
R.I.P.

Election 2020 Issue

# On the Path

a note from  
Chapter Director Jeff Morris

While still reeling from this year's unprecedented West Coast fires, we are dealing with an expanded reckoning of generations of choices from the past.

Some will argue that our response to these fires needs to be a swift unexamined reliance on "clearing forests." Others, frequently lacking knowledge of how on-the-ground forestry works, lay exclusive blame at the foot of climate change without getting into detail of what that means or what responses would be beneficial.

These abstract arguments are well timed for election season. Neither argument really results in concrete action, and both spawn potential political solutions that end up hurting the forests and entrenching political battles more deeply.

I foresee a push to ramp up illegitimate logging practices wrapped in the cloak of fire protection, much like the illegitimate invasion of Iraq and introduction of the Patriot Act and other limitations on personal liberty were wrapped in the flag of 9/11.

If these actions take place they will be layered on other questionable policies and projects that may have been well intentioned but have resulted in dire consequences for communities and nature, in both rural and urban communities.

Native American tribes, who have felt the brunt of bad forest practices early and often, ironically also possess some of the most valid knowledge of landscape level fire integration that has only recently started getting attention for its efficacy.

Although this year's fires impacted the entire West Coast (and thanks to wind currents, most of the rest of the Northern Hemisphere), once again the poor and disenfranchised are hit the hardest. The beat goes on. As is true with a myriad of other environmental issues, the linkages between decisions around fire, the environment and disadvantaged populations is emergent and real.

While California's influence on the national election is almost guaranteed, the choices we make between now and Nov. 3 will certainly still have significant impacts on our state and particularly our local elections.

For environmentalists, bringing renewed clarity and urgency to our message will be as important after the election as it is before. We should be clear about how 100+ years of fire suppression and decades of plantation-style forestry have put us in this seemingly unrelenting fire danger. We need to centralize the message that fire- and land-management policies and practices must retain and restore existing forests while protecting communities. And all should be seen through the lens of the accelerating climate disruption.

Fire has always been part of California's forest and grassland ecosystems, and will continue to be. The choices we make toward guiding some of where fire occurs and how it occurs should be the centerpiece of policy and community discussion through the next decade, as we simultaneously work to define equitable solutions to combat climate change at a larger scale.

This issue of Redwood Needles is full of information about the election, about forests and fires, and I invite you to get more involved in this important work by volunteering or joining us on Dec. 8 for a virtual forum about the ways land use practices can reduce or increase wildfire hazards.

Be safe and well,



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# VOTE

## for the Planet & for the Future

**By Victoria Brandon**  
*Chair, Redwood Chapter*

**It's now fall, and our long national nightmare keeps evolving. Covid-19 continues to devastate our communities in ways unparalleled anywhere else in the world, while the Trump administration responds by lying, broadcasting crackpot theories and pandering to his base rather than providing the leadership we so desperately need.**

Meanwhile, the economic tsunami whirls on unchecked, with the worst burdens falling on poor communities of color, as they always do, and the violence directed against those same communities becoming so egregious that complacency or ignorance has become no longer possible.

Throughout California, wildfires rage on, with an astounding record of more than 2 million acres blackened so far this year, thousands of residents evacuated and air quality again worse than Beijing's.

Elsewhere, hurricanes and floods wreak havoc, and climate disruption makes even worse catastrophes likely in the future. To paraphrase Carl Sagan, it's hard to get good things done if you can't drink the water or breathe the air.

And yet, through all this chaos, we have what has been termed the most important election of our lifetime on Nov. 3.

We have the civic and moral duty to vote out an administration in Washington that has not only brought out the worst of our society, but has also desecrated environmental protections including for air, water, land, endangered species and clean energy that affects the whole country, including our Redwood Chapter region, and ripples out to affect the whole world.

It's not enough to make sure you vote. We live in California, and our Electoral College votes are safe. We have relatively good representation at local and national levels of government from our districts within Redwood Chapter. We know you, Sierra Club members and supporters, care about what is happening in the world. We know you will partake in your civic duty to cast your ballot. But what is it we are voting for? Or against?

Let's take a quick and partial glance at the record: In less than four years, the Trump administration with the allowance of the Republican Party in Congress has rolled back offshore drilling safety measures and sage grouse protections, approved the Keystone pipeline (fortunately the courts did not agree!), dismantled national monuments, stepped up the

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## Redwood Chapter Executive Committee

The executive committee is the governing body of the chapter, 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. The chapter ExCom meets every-other month in either Santa Rosa or Willits. The meetings are being held over Zoom during the Covid-19 pandemic.

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# Bringing equity, diversity to chapter leadership

In the last issue of Redwood Needles, Chapter Director Jeff Morris wrote about the equity work that the Redwood Chapter is embarking upon. In the face of our society's continuing systemic racism, as recently demonstrated in Kenosha, Wisc., it is our responsibility to tackle these issues head on in our own communities.

For the past several weeks, a group of volunteer leaders and staff from the Redwood and San Francisco Bay Chapters have been discussing how to begin this daunting but essential project. We've had intense conversations about how we think this work could go, what some of the issues appear to be, and who we want to be at the end of this process. Of course, this work will be a forever project as we continue to grow and learn more about how we can better resist racism at every level.

Since there is currently no in-house Sierra Club team dedicated to this work for Chapters, we've been looking for an outside facilitator. There is great demand for such training and facilitation in the wake of George Floyd's murder and continuing protests, and so the process is slower than we would wish—but we're pushing forward, nonetheless.

We look forward to including the broader volunteer leadership in an ongoing discussion of options, hearing more about what feels most pressing, and learning and growing together. Please join us on this exciting journey.

— Jacob Klein

Save the date!  
December 4, 2020

Sonoma County Conservation Council &  
Sierra Club Sonoma Group will present the  
2020 Ernestine Smith  
Environmentalist of the Year Award  
& Holiday Networking (virtual) Gathering.

Details forthcoming.

## View from the Coast

# On a ridge above the Pacific, a skirmish with climate change

By Tom Roth

*Chair, Chapter Conservation Committee*

I awoke to flashing light and low rumbles early on the morning of Aug. 15. For a few moments I thought I was just imagining the trees flickering. But when I walked outside to my hilltop driveway, it quickly became clear that far south, down the coast, elemental forces were tearing at the night sky and striking the parched land below.

Through the trees I could see the rim of the ocean flash white-silver, but it seemed so far away, the thunder only an angry murmur. So I watched the show, wished the best for those souls beneath it, and went back to bed. A couple of hours later, lightning and thunder were upon us, and I ventured out to powerful gusts, a few rain drops, and this most weird summer storm.

According to Cal Fire, more than 14,000 lightning bolts landed across the state that early morning and the following day, setting hundreds of fires, some which smoldered and then ignited a day later. The storm was the result of two combative weather systems—the remains of a tropical storm from the south and a high-pressure ridge from the east—colliding in the heavens and exploding across the sky with little rain reaching the ground.

California has experienced four such storms since the late 1980s, but none of such magnitude, and none with such perfect conditions for conflagration: a drought made worse by a rainy season cut short in February and a records-setting heatwave in mid-August creating a vast dehydrated landscape.

It so happened that one of those thousands of lightning bolts struck below the ridge straddling Meyers Grade Road, whose southern drop to Highway 1 features a view of the mouth of the Russian River and Bodega Head and Point Reyes jutting out to sea.

On the morning of the 17th, flames and smoke suddenly appeared on the downhill ocean side of the road



Smoke rises from the Meyers fire as seen from the south near Duncan's Landing.

Photo: Richard Charter.

across from the home of Kay and John Barnes, Sierra Club members and longtime community stalwarts.

What followed was several days of harrowing, heroic firefighting. Volunteers from the Timber Cove FPD were the first to respond, later joined by the Fort Ross VFD, Cazadero VFD, and seven other volunteer crews, as well as several city fire departments from as far away as Cloverdale, and a unit from Oregon. Cal Fire managed the operation and provided helicopters to drop buckets of water and an air tanker releasing fire retardant.

"We really weren't too nervous with all of this support, and fire engines parked in our driveway," said Kay Barnes. But as the fire spread in all directions by erratic winds, the Barnes ultimately evacuated.

Four miles away, my family loaded our vehicles with essentials and family keepsakes, and headed out after an evacuation warning became an evacuation order. As we drove out, we could see the Meyers smoke lit bright orange by the sunset, and then from Fort Ross

Road to the northeast, flaming ridgetops from the Walbridge fire. A fiery vise seemed a distinct possibility.

While the Meyers fire spread south and even dipped down to the ocean south of Fort Ross, fire fighters battled fierce flames to hold the line at the ridge. They were aided by local dozer operators, who roared past advancing flames and quickly cut a firebreak parallel to Meyers Grade Road and Little Fort Ross Road.

If the fire line had not held, the fire would have lit thick forests tangled with dead tan oaks and raced toward dozens of scattered homesteads and the town of Cazadero.

I was allowed to return home the following Saturday evening, and as I reached the top of Fort Ross Road I was greeted by a heartening sight: several members of the Fort Ross Road VFD spread out on an embankment, talking and laughing and surveying the smoky distance. This small crew with their antique fire trucks had fought heat and exhaustion and had

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Each election season, our political committee conducts extensive candidate interviews and reviews ballot initiatives so it may offer its informed endorsements. The following are candidate statements submitted by endorsed candidates. A full list of endorsements is posted on page 15.

**Evert Fernandez**  
Sebastopol City Council

I feel fortunate to have lived in Sonoma County all my life. I wholeheartedly believe that this is “the chosen spot of all this earth” as Luther Burbank said. Protecting this paradise and the quality of its resources is of utmost importance to me. Sustainability is a core value that I live by on a daily basis. Throughout my 10 years of service on the Sebastopol



Planning Commission, I have always considered the environmental impact of projects on the community such as conservation of natural resources and the use of efficient building materials, when casting my vote.

I am running for Sebastopol City Council to bring diversity with a long commitment to our small-town quality of life, and to benefit my hometown. My core values of social justice, service, and integrity provide the compass that will guide me as a Council member. My priorities for the City are: addressing COVID-19 and economic recovery, finding solutions to our housing crisis, incorporating climate change reducing measures into city decisions and operations, balancing the budget, and enhancing our parks and our environment.

I’m proud to have earned the endorsement of the Sierra Club. I would be honored if you placed your vote for me to serve as your Sebastopol City Council Representative.

For more information please visit: [www.VoteEvertFernandez.com](http://www.VoteEvertFernandez.com)

**Brian Barnacle**  
Petaluma City Council

I am a native Petaluman who loves our City for its river, farms, historic downtown, and diverse community of hard-working people. I’m the clean energy candidate in this race. I’ve been working in clean energy for the past decade and have a degree in City Planning from Cal Poly. In my personal life, I am a loving husband, climate activist, and renter.

Today the cost of living in Petaluma is too high. Our traffic and budget issues are more dire than ever, development is happening all around us, and our infrastructure is not keeping up. The fairgrounds are at risk, and the threat of wildfires and COVID-19 is affecting us all.

I am running for Petaluma City Council to help enact a vision that is both forward-thinking and feasible. I want to make Petaluma a safe, healthy, and resilient community that cherishes its diversity and history. I will be



an inclusive leader that protects our natural resources, upholds responsible development practices, and always puts the interests of Petaluma first. I will work hard to provide solutions that help all residents prosper, live safely, and access high-quality jobs, shelter, and public services. I humbly ask for your vote on Nov. 3.

**Michael Winkler**  
Arcata City Council

I am honored to receive Sierra Club’s endorsement for my re-election to Arcata City Council. As a Life Member, I share Sierra Club’s commitment to creating a just and sustainable world.

For 12 years as a councilmember, I have worked for Arcata to acquire forest land and open space, expand trails, use electricity exclusively from renewable sources and eliminate fossil fuels in City buildings and vehicles.

I played a key role in RCEA taking control of Humboldt County’s electricity supply from PG&E and rapidly moving toward 100% local, renewable electricity, through conservation, efficiency, solar and

## Our political participation is crucial to changing the course in Washington

*Continued from Page 3*

pace of logging on public lands, appointed a series of incompetent, environmentally-hostile individuals to high office, disbanded the EPA air pollution review panel, weakened fuel economy rules and emissions standards, approved offshore oil wells in the arctic, and sapped the Clean Water Act, Clean Air Act and Endangered Species Act. Right now—in the middle of a pandemic— Trump is threatening millions of Americans with loss of their health coverage as part of his war on Obamacare, and attempting to gut the U.S. Postal Service right before an election when mail-in ballots will be more decisive than ever before!

Fortunately help is on the way, and the Sierra Club is working hard to make sure it arrives before it’s too late.

To avert climate catastrophe, the Sierra Club has launched the largest political mobilization in the organization’s history, to meet a crisis unlike any

we have faced before. The 2018 Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change report concluded that if we continue on our current path and temperatures rise 4°C or more, droughts, famine, fires, floods, refugee crises, and political instability is certain to follow. We have just 10 years left to radically shift our energy production, business models, land management, and policies in order to avoid that scenario.

In response, we have recruited thousands of volunteers, from every chapter, to participate in a massive Get-Out-The-Vote campaign, which started last February and will continue to gain momentum right up to Nov. 3. They are sending texts, writing letters, and making phone calls to a key group of known climate-conscious voters in four battleground states (Florida, Pennsylvania, Michigan and Arizona), all aimed at getting them to the polls (literally and figuratively). As of Sept. 1 we had sent 13 million

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offshore wind.

I am committed to public transit, recycling and zero waste and have served on the Humboldt Transit and Humboldt Waste Management boards.

As an energy engineer, I have worked on more than 200 large solar, all-electric affordable housing projects throughout California, Humboldt County and Arcata.

My long-term goals for Arcata are:

- Phase out fossil fuels in buildings and vehicles throughout Arcata over the next 15 years
- Rehabilitate and preserve the Arcata Marsh Waste Treatment System
- Implement sea-level rise adaptation plan
- Complete the Arcata-Eureka and Annie and Mary rail trails

I would be honored to serve you four more years. [www.winklerforarcata.com](http://www.winklerforarcata.com)

**Duane de Witt**

*Santa Rosa City Council*

Duane De Witt is a real Good “Green” Guy who will be trying his best to make sure Santa Rosa truly follows the path of

conservation and environmental approaches to the resiliency and sustainability the elected officials so often talk about. This is no mere “promise” to get elected.

For decades I have been the best I can try to insert true environmental protection concerns into the public policy decision making processes for both Santa Rosa and Sonoma County. The efforts will now be even more focused on how to influence the Santa Rosa City Council to provide the leadership to truly address local issues of climate adaptation.

Droughts, earthquakes, fires and floods are in our future. We as a city need to be prepared to lead the way on all of these environmental concerns in our county and region. Trees can help us in the city to moderate the urban heat island effect while also helping with CO2 sequestration. But Santa Rosa allows the destruction of more trees than are planted. We need to green up our once acclaimed Tree City while also getting people to use more bikes than cars. Help me to do this with your vote.

**Caroline Banuelos**

*Santa Rosa Junior College Board*

Having the endorsement of the Sierra Club means so much to me. I wholeheartedly admire the work of the Sierra Club and the commitment to protect the earth’s natural resources.



Here in California, there is no question that we are experiencing the effects of climate change. Fires, extreme heat and bad air quality, remind us that we must change our direction immediately.

I am running for the Santa Rosa Junior College (SRJC) Board, area 3, 4, 5, because I believe in our Junior College as a pathway to upward mobility for thousands of our residents. We must ensure it remains financially viable, welcoming of diversity and is led with the highest of integrity.

My roots in our community run deep. I attended SRJC

before I graduated from Sonoma State. As a former Santa Rosa Planning Commissioner, I care very much for how we grow and plan the future of Sonoma County. I believe strongly that SRJC as well as Sonoma State University have roles to play in protecting our environment, teaching our students to be stewards of the environment and taking action to save our planet as a community.

For more information about my campaign please visit: [www.carolinebanuelos.com](http://www.carolinebanuelos.com).

**Mariana Martinez**  
*Santa Rosa Junior College Board*



For nearly 20 years I’ve been committed to educational equity; ensuring that all students have access to a high quality and rigorous education. I earned my doctoral degree in Education Policy, Organization and Leadership and currently serve as Director for the College Assistance Migrant Program

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texts, made almost 1.5 million calls, and hand-written more than 350,000 letters. As originally conceived, this program was going to climax with two weeks of intense in-person canvassing, but of course those plans had to be abandoned—making the more distanced outreach all the more intense for that reason. We’ll need all the help we can get in the last weeks before the election—to sign up, visit <https://www.sierraclubindependentaction.org/#takeaction>

As part of our 2020 election activities, the Sierra Club has also set up an “Election Center,” where voters can check their own registration status and polling place, find a list of federal endorsements all over the country and also generate customized “slate cards” by entering their zip codes to obtain a listing of all Sierra Club-endorsed candidates and ballot measure positions that will appear on their own ballots.

Check it out at [www.sierraclubindependentaction.org/endorsements](http://www.sierraclubindependentaction.org/endorsements)

Our political activists have been busy locally too, sending out questionnaires and conducting interviews in all six of Redwood Chapter’s groups and finalizing endorsements in most of our nine counties. Please check out the list at [www.sierraclub.org/redwood/endorsements](http://www.sierraclub.org/redwood/endorsements)

And please, please, please be sure to VOTE! Of course voting is always important but especially so this year, with a president who is apparently intent on undermining the legitimacy of the electoral process. Back before the 1960 election, presidential paterfamilias Joe Kennedy is said to have said “I don’t mind buying the election but damned if I’ll pay for a landslide!” This year, we need a landslide.

In the meantime, our local conservation work continues here in Redwood Chapter, and we’re winning. Here are just a few of the things we’ve been up to lately:

- We’re ramping up our longstanding commitment to protect and restore San Francisco Bay, starting with

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at Mendocino College. From teaching third graders to read at a grade-level to managing and developing programs that help students apply to colleges and graduate schools and assisting doctoral students to earn their degree, I have extensive experience.

Our current environment coupled with Sonoma County's economic reality means higher education is no longer a luxury but a necessity to help residents provide for themselves and their families. SRJC plays a critical role in meeting this need. I have the knowledge, skills and experience to ensure accountability, access and success!

Student success requires support – academic, financial, and emotional. That's why I support increasing counselors and tenure track faculty. Financial support is more than just financial aid, it's also about food and housing security. I'll continue to work towards bringing affordable student housing back to Santa Rosa Junior College and expanding financial supports.

I humbly ask for your re-election vote so I may continue working towards creating a stronger SRJC, a stronger

community! [www.marianafor-trustee.com](http://www.marianafor-trustee.com)

**Diana Rich**  
*Sebastopol  
City Council*



I love Sebastopol. I moved here with my husband and two sons in 1999, leaving an active legal practice, looking for a forever-home for our young family. We found it in Sebastopol.

I've raised a family here, contributed to the community, and worked on a broad range of projects, most often in leadership roles. From 2010 to 2017 I was the Director of the Sebastopol Community Cultural Center.

Over the past 20 years, I've developed collaborative working relationships with a wide variety of people and interests. The results of my efforts are all around town, in programs and projects for youth & seniors, the environment & business, art & education, health & homelessness, emergency preparedness, and more.

I offer Sebastopol the proven leadership needed in these tough times. I have absolute confidence that as a community we can move through these challenging times, and do what it takes to make a better future for all in Sebastopol.

I look forward to the opportunity to use my skills in this new role, serving the residents of this wonderful town as a member of the Sebastopol City Council.

Please vote for me on Nov. 3!  
[www.ElectDianaRich.com](http://www.ElectDianaRich.com)

**Laura Sparks**  
*Cotati City  
Council*



A vote for me is a vote for a courageous, outspoken voice. Our city council has done a good job running Cotati for many years, steadily and gradually improving the city. But this year has been the worst year I can remember, and steady improvements aren't enough right now.

I can bring a fresh perspective and new energy to tackling the acute issues that threaten to overwhelm us. On the council, I

will speak out and do the work to throw a lifeline to struggling local businesses, bring a much-needed sense of urgency to ending racial profiling, collaborate to build affordable housing, and find ways to immediately begin supporting residents through the pandemic. I will boldly embrace ideas to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and push for a local green new deal.

My generation and younger people have inherited a world that is messed up in so many ways. As a community college teacher, I see how much my students are struggling to get their lives started in Sonoma County. Rather than growing cynical, I want to be part of the solution. I am ready to serve and hope you will give me a chance to do so!

**Jackie Elward**  
*Rohnert Park City Council*

My name is Jackie Elward. I was born and raised in the Democratic Republic of Congo. My husband and I are raising three amazing bilingual children (French and English). Like many of you, I wear many hats: I am a mother, work full time while attending two different

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making the reconstruction of State Route 37 an opportunity to enhance surrounding wetlands and wildlife habitat, encourage transit, and manage traffic to avoid increased greenhouse gas emissions.

- We're expanding Sonoma Group's Climate Protectors program throughout the region. The objective is to give our members and supporters the tools needed to make a difference in the battle against climate disruption: visit [www.climateprotectors.net](http://www.climateprotectors.net) to find out all about it.

- Working with partners like the California Native Plant Society and Defenders of Wildlife, we're exploring ways to extend permanent protection to fragile critical habitat on BLM-owned Walker Ridge, just north of Highway 20 on the Lake/Colusa County border

- With strong Chapter support, Congressman Jared Huffman's landmark "Mountains and Rivers" legislation designating 260,000 acres of Wilderness and 379 miles of federal Wild and Scenic Rivers passed the House and, along with several other public lands

bills, has been attached to the must-pass National Defense Authorization Act.

- We're fighting for parks in Solano, oak trees in Napa, and the California coast everywhere.

Looking ahead, we're getting ready to rejoice at the dramatic changes that will follow when Joe Biden occupies the Oval Office, with California's own Kamala Harris at his side.

On day one —actually, within an hour of assuming office — he has promised to reverse more than a thousand of the environmental outrages that the current president has perpetrated. What can be done by the stroke of a pen can be undone the same way. Nominations of qualified, dedicated public servants to key positions in the new administration will soon follow, and with a supportive Congress we can even hope to achieve new initiatives to strengthen environmental protections, and maybe even a Green New Deal. And that's a lot to look forward to.

The idea of another four years of Donald Trump is too dismal even to contemplate, so let's all do everything we can to make sure it doesn't happen.



schools in order to obtain my degrees in Sociology and Criminal Justice and also find time to volunteer in our beloved community.

As someone that has taught my children about the value of representation receiving the Sierra Club's endorsement is special. We need leaders that will be able to teach our children and community about the importance of protecting our environment. We need our BIPOC population to have people in the leadership that they can relate to. If elected, I want to be that bridge between environmental issues and our community. Besides my passion for the environment, I am also committed to affordable housing, public safety, labor issues, equity, inclusion, and so much more.

You can visit my website at [www.jackieelward.com](http://www.jackieelward.com). I can also be found on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram.



**Ben Ford**  
*Cotati City Council*

Like the rest of California—and the planet—Cotati is experiencing extreme weather, manifesting this fall as dangerous fires and smoke. The implications for local government are clear: we must restore and protect our natural spaces, while ensuring continued access for residents. Environmental degradation affects us all, though inequitably, and I believe that the experience of nature, and wilderness, is a birthright and a benefit for all people.

During eight years on Cotati's Planning Commission, I promoted smart growth and better bike/pedestrian infrastructure. I'm a long-time volunteer with organizations such as Daily Acts, Cotati Creek Critters, and Transition Cotati. An enthusiastic bicyclist, I've ridden many miles around Sonoma County, and have served as Cotati's representative to the Sonoma County Bicycle-Pedestrian Advisory Committee. I organized Cotati's Bike-to-Work Day station for several years.

As a Cotati City Council member, I will promote programs to get people out of their cars, in touch with nature, and connected to neighbors.

I offer the Cotati City Council my experience in local affairs and a commitment to sustainable living. Contact me with your ideas or questions—and please vote for me on Nov. 3rd! [benfordcotati.com](http://benfordcotati.com)



**Lizzie Wallack**  
*Petaluma City Council*

Thank you very much for the endorsement of the Sierra Club.

Your faith in my capacity to further the goals of the Sierra Club is greatly appreciated.

The climatic conditions of the last few days, the sweltering heat, the orange sky/red sun, and the lung-harming smoke, have shown us that our current land-use and transportation paradigms have failed.

I'm eager to begin the work of repairing our world for those who will follow us.



## Redwood Chapter Endorsements

### NATIONAL

President of the United States:

**Joe Biden**

Vice President of the United States: **Kamala Harris**

### FEDERAL

Congressional District 02:

**Jared Huffman**

Congressional District 03:

**John Garamendi**

Congressional District 05:

**Mike Thompson**

### CA PROPOSITIONS

**Prop. 15: Support.** Funding for schools and communities.

**Prop 16: Support.** Reauthorize affirmative action.

**Prop 22: Oppose.** Allow app-based drivers to be classified as independent contractors.

**Prop 25: Support.** Replace cash bail with risk assessments.

### LOCAL RACES

#### **Lake County**

Board of Supervisors, District 5:

**Jessica Pyska**

#### **Mendocino County**

Board of Supervisors, District 1:

**Glenn McGourty**

Board of Supervisors, District 2:

**Maureen Mulheren**

#### **Humboldt County**

Arcata City Council, Michael

**Winkler**

#### **Solano County**

Benicia City Council: **Tom**

**Campbell** and **Terry Scott**

Benicia Mayor: **Steve Young**

Fairfield City Council, District 4:

**Kam Holzendorf**

Rio Vista Mayor: **Ronald Kott**

Suisun City Council: **Anthony Adams** and **Alma Hernandez**

Vacaville City Council, District 1:

**Wendy Breckon**

Vacaville City Council, District 3:

**Michael Silva**

Vacaville City Council, District 5:

**Jason Roberts**

Vacaville City Council, District 6:

**Jeannette Wylie**

Vallejo City Council, District 3:

**Mathyas Louis Habte Michael**

Vallejo Mayor: **Robert McConnell**

#### **Sonoma County**

Cloverdale City Council: **Melanie**

**Bagby** and **Jenny Candelaria-Orr**

Cotati City Council: **Ben Ford,**

**Susan Harvey** and **Laura Sparks**

Healdsburg City Council: **Ariel**

**Kelley** and **Skylaer Palacios**

Petaluma City Council: **Brian**

**Barnacle** and **Lizzie Wallack**

Rohnert Park City Council: **Jackie**

**Elward**

Santa Rosa City Council, District 1:

**Duane De Witt**

Santa Rosa City Council, District 5:

**Chris Rogers**

Santa Rosa City Council, District 7:

**Natalie Rogers**

Sebastopol City Council, **Evaristo**

**“Evert” Fernandez** and **Diana Rich**

Sonoma City Council: **Jack Ding**

Windsor Town Council, District 3:

**Debora Fudge**

Santa Rosa Junior College Board of

Trustees: **Caroline Bañuelos** and

**Mariana Martinez**

### LOCAL BALLOT MEASURES

**Sonoma County Measure P:**

**Support.** Increase Law

Enforcement Accountability.

**City of Sonoma Measure W:**

**Support.** Renew Urban Growth

Boundaries.

## CLIMATE CORNER

# The climate tipping point depends on our votes

**By Randy MacDonald**  
*Chair, Chapter Climate  
& Energy Committee*

Last Nov. 4, Donald Trump gave formal notice of his intent to withdraw the United States from the Paris Climate Accord. Under that agreement's rules, Trump's notice triggered a year-long countdown before the United States could actually leave the Accord.

That countdown will end on the day after the 2020 General Election, when Trump will then have the authority to remove the U.S. from the historic 2012 agreement among all countries to limit global warming as an international effort.

The Accord is not a perfect agreement. Nations will need to do much more on climate than they committed to in Paris, but unless the world's countries take effective, concerted action on climate, our planet will become increasingly unlivable in the decades ahead. And, without U.S. involvement, other nations will be less likely to be able to restore climate stability.

This is just one reason why the stakes in this Climate Election could not be higher as our planet pushes up against multiple climatic tipping points. Nothing less than the future of life on earth will be on this November's ballot. So, the question is, what are you and I going to do about it?

Casting your own vote is necessary but not sufficient. We must extend our influence beyond our own ballot to convince as many people as possible to vote for a livable future. For those with the means, making donations to effective political organizations pursuing strong climate

agendas is important. And all of us, regardless of our financial status, can get active in worthy campaigns for candidates who support real climate action. From local government races to the U.S. presidency, campaigns are looking

In this epochal election, with so much on the line, those of us who care about the health of our planet have a responsibility to make sure that we show up at the polls and ensure that our like-minded brothers and sisters do the same.

**In this epochal election, with so much on the line, those of us who care about the health of our planet have a responsibility to make sure that we show up at the polls and ensure that our like-minded brothers and sisters do the same.**

for volunteers right now. Just call the headquarters of your favorite candidate's campaign. They'll be glad for the help.

The Sierra Club itself is mounting the largest political mobilization in the Club's history through the Sierra Club Independent Action "Plan To Win" campaign.

Thousands of volunteers have already signed up to send text messages, write letters and make calls to voters in Arizona, Florida, Michigan and Pennsylvania -- four must-win battleground states that the Plan To Win campaign is strategically focusing upon this election cycle.

**To learn more and get involved, visit [sierraclubindependentaction.org](http://sierraclubindependentaction.org)**

The appalling truth is that environmentally-concerned citizens tend to vote less often than many other groups of voters, according to the Environmental Voter Project (visit [www.environmentalvoter.org/news/why-dont-environmentalists-vote](http://www.environmentalvoter.org/news/why-dont-environmentalists-vote)).

This is the climate election of our lifetime. Let's make sure we do all that we can so we will have no regrets on the day after the election when Donald Trump will most likely withdraw the United States from the Paris Climate Accord.

If we are successful, that will only be a temporary action which the next administration will reverse.

Thank you for getting involved in the political process to make a difference for our climate this election season!

**To get involved in Redwood Chapter's Climate & Energy Committee, or to become a local Climate Protector, visit [climateprotectors.net](http://climateprotectors.net)**

# Yes on Measure W: Renew Sonoma's Urban Growth Boundary to curb sprawl and protect open space

By Teri Shore  
*Sonoma Group*

The Sierra Club is urging voters in the City of Sonoma to vote "yes" on Measure W to renew the existing Urban Growth Boundary (UGB) for another 20 years.

The UGB is a line beyond which its city border cannot extend and development cannot occur without majority voter approval by its citizens, except in particular and well-defined cases, including for 100 percent affordable housing. All nine cities in Sonoma County have voter-approved UGBs, most of them already renewed.

The renewal of the UGB aligns with the Sierra Club's long-standing urban growth management policy guidelines that state: All cities and unincorporated urban centers must establish permanent UGBs that will define the area of ultimate urbanization and protect the county's or region's open space lands. Development shall be directed toward areas within UGBs, in order to avoid adverse impacts upon productive agriculture, wildlife habitat, critical watershed lands, historical and archeological resources, open space lands, and scenic values.

Renewing the City of Sonoma's UGB will:

- Protect open space and farmland
- Prevent sprawl
- Promote city-centered growth where public services already exist
- Encourage a diverse, climate-wise and healthy community
- Support affordable housing
- Keep the voice of voters central in deciding the city's future



Open space protection from the Sonoma Urban Growth Boundary has stopped development of rural lands that keeps down sprawl and enhances the area's resources.

The City Council of Sonoma voted 4-1 to place Measure W before the voters to renew the UGB to protect open space and farmlands from development, while adding strong new provisions to allow 100 percent affordable housing exemptions if needed.

Mayor Logan Harvey voted no against provisions requiring infill sites be considered before allowing new housing outside the UGB with a 4/5th vote of the City Council. The Sierra Club endorsed Harvey when he was a candidate in 2018 and had stated support for the Sonoma UGB renewal.

The original UGB was placed on the ballot through the initiative process, approved by 64 percent of voters in 1999 and went into effect in 2000 for 20 years, expiring at the end of 2020.

Measure W contains the strongest land use mandate for affordable housing in city history, requiring that 100 percent of any land added to the UGB must be used for affordable housing, and that 51 percent of that land must be used to provide housing for low-

and very low-income residents. A 4/5th vote of the City Council is required for such an exemption.

If the voter protections for the City of Sonoma's UGB are not renewed in 2020, its boundary can be modified by the vote of a simple majority on the City Council at any time. This would put the future of Sonoma on the ballot in every City Council election, every two years. It puts enormous development pressure on the City Council members and staff without the power of the voter-approved UGB backing them up. The voters can revise the UGB before the 20 years is up if needed with a vote of the people.

If you'd like to support the Yes on W campaign to renew the Sonoma UGB by endorsing, getting a lawn sign, volunteering or making a donation, contact Yes on W: Citizens to Renew the City of Sonoma's Urban Growth Boundary, 755 Broadway, Sonoma, CA 95476, FPPC #1419285

More info: [RenewSonomaUGB@gmail.com](mailto:RenewSonomaUGB@gmail.com) or online at <https://sonomaugb.com/>



# The resiliency of California's forests

By **Jeanne Wetzel Chinn**  
*Chair, Redwood Chapter  
Forest Committee*

Historically, California's forests have been part of natural ecosystems in a constant state of ebb and flow through natural cyclical disturbances. For example, redwoods once grew throughout the northern hemisphere. As earth's climate gradually cooled, distribution of these giants shrank to a limited range along the Northern California/Southern Oregon coasts where climate remains temperate and humid; conditions remain suitable. These giants became known as our coastal redwoods. Their larger relatives, giant sequoia, continue to grow in isolated groves in the Sierras. Both redwood species and their ecosystems are accustomed to fire as a factor in establishing succession associated with these cyclical disturbances.

Under natural conditions, individual species/ecosystems have evolved to exist in a somewhat stable equilibrium. This equilibrium, resulting from ongoing interactions between conditions in the physical world with genetic flexibility of each individual organism, increases the probability of habitat survival over a long period of

time. Species/ecosystems with higher likelihoods of persistence, especially under changing conditions, can be

**California's forests are amazingly flexible and, given time and mindful management, they can be restored to more resilient conditions.**

described as being more resilient.

When Europeans came to North America, Native Americans had been interacting with the California landscape for millennia. The effects of those interactions were of low intensity and natural communities were able to adapt (as far as we know) to their actions. The results were ecosystems in balance with human populations on the landscape.

European arrival brought rapid extraction of resources that fueled economic growth, albeit for a blink in time. Along with recent historic reduced control burns, the effects on

species/ecosystems increased well beyond natural variation conditions within pre-European management.

Resulting conditions challenge the adaptability of individual species/ecosystems as a whole. Will they evolve fast enough to survive?

California's forests are amazingly flexible and, given time and mindful management, they can be restored to more resilient conditions. However, there's a limit to how fast organisms can evolve with conditions out of balance from mismanagement, plus adapting to a warming climate. It depends on their genetic makeup and our next actions.

Can we envision a forest management future striving to mitigate the effects of mismanagement and climate change?

Biodiversity provides a depth of resilience. Forest management should look to historic ecosystem conditions to develop resiliency conditions that have passed the test of time, while considering other stressful changing environmental conditions.

We need to set a course of increasing resiliency through adaptive management that provides for biodiversity, wildlife habitat, clean water, carbon sequestration, economical products, and spiritual inspiration.

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## Climate Change fuels fires on North Coast as a clear, present danger

*Continued from Page 5*

triumphed.

I was proud of them, their fire-fighting allies, and the community that backed them with meals and encouragement.

But this was just a skirmish in a long battle with forces growing ever more powerful each year.

"Every year it gets hotter and hotter, and for more days at a time," says Kay, who moved to the ridge more than 40 years ago.

Her statement is backed up by NOAA studies, which report that California's average temperature has increased about 2 degrees since the beginning of the 20th Century, with

most of the temperature rise occurring since the '70s.

While factors such as land use, aging energy infrastructure, and forest mismanagement contribute to wildfire growth, climate change appears to be the main driver. These heat events coupled by drought have been accompanied by ever more horrifying wildfires.

On Cal Fire's pre-2020 list of top 20 wildfires, seven of the top ten have occurred since 2015. This year may shatter all wildfire records with more than 3 million acres burned in August and September and at least two months of anxious smoke watching ahead—if the rains arrive in November. Those August heat records?

Already broken by the September heatwave.

Kay and John Barnes came to this place 43 years ago to escape the grey-ness of urban life, enjoy the sun and the sea, grow a garden, raise a family, build a community. They were lucky this time, their home was spared. My family has had to evacuate three times in the last four years, but count us lucky, too. Not so our friends whose house burned down two nights after their wedding. Not so thousands of others in this scorched state.

Our now annual infernos should teach us a lesson: climate change is no longer a blurry future, but an inescapable present danger we must deal with now.

# Sierra Club Group & Chapter Elections

Ballots must be received by Dec. 31, 2020

It's that time of year again. Sierra Club's elections for members of the chapter and local group executive committees are here.

In the following pages you will find candidate statements for many of those seeking open seats. In addition to our paper ballot located on the back page of this newsletter, we are offering an online voting system through the Sierra Club website.

Voting began Oct. 1 and all votes must be in by Dec. 31.

*To vote online, please visit*  
[sc.org/RedwoodChapterExComElections](https://sc.org/RedwoodChapterExComElections)

## MENDOCINO

**Randy MacDonald:** It's been an honor to serve on the Sierra Club Mendocino Group Executive Committee for the past couple of years, and I'm asking for your vote so I may continue working to promote our Sierra Club values in Mendocino County. In addition to voting for me, I hope you will consider getting involved with our Group so that we can have all the more impact on the local issues we all care about, such as protecting our environment, working for solutions to climate change, and ensuring good government processes that respect the will of the people. Thanks in advance for your vote!

**Robin Leler:** No statement submitted.

## SOLANO

**Greg Peterson:** I've been a member of Sierra Club since the '70s. I believe that the local focus is vital for communities to have a say in environmental policy, and Sierra Club does the best job of any national environmental organization. I believe the Trump administration is the biggest danger to national environmental policy in my lifetime.

I am a former editor of the Solano Breeze section of Redwood Needles, and I enjoy camping and hiking with my son.

**Joe Feller:** My name is Joe Feller and I am running for re-election to the Executive Committee for Solano County Group. I have been a member for 8 years and am currently serving as chair of the Group.

The failure of Measure L in Fairfield that will allow their Urban Growth Boundary to sunset without a vote by the citizenry shows what we will be working on in the future.

The Orderly Growth Initiative will sunset in 2028. I will be working on educating the citizens of Solano County on the advantages of the Initiative in preparation of a new vote in the not to distant future.

Thank you for the honor of serving the

membership of the Sierra Club in Solano County and let's work together to maintain our hard won environmental gains.

**Amy Hartman:** No statement submitted

## NAPA

**Samantha Smith:** My name is Samantha Smith, and I'm running for a position on the Napa Group's Executive Committee. I am a long-time resident of Napa and have been an environmental advocate my whole life. I am an avid hiker, camper and outdoor enthusiast and am excited to join the local Sierra Club to volunteer my digital marketing skills.

**Roland A. Dumas, Ph.D:** I am trained as a research scientist in the neurosciences, and ran a management consulting firm for many years, focusing on statistical methods and behavioral science. During my professional career, I financially supported organizations focused on sustainability and others focused on social equity. Recently retired, I've put energy into actively participating in organizations and initiatives in these areas, and look to find roles where I might make a contribution.

I live on the Napa River, and enjoy the rich wildlife that I witness right outside my window. At the same time, I see the river flush out the much vaunted terroir of Napa Valley, harming the habitats for water residents and destroying the rich soils native to the hillsides. The development practices of Napa insufficiently consider the aggregate and cumulative impact of deforestation and hillside vineyard development. I am very concerned at the planning blind spots that make what sustainability there is vulnerable to the uncertainties driven by climate change. I'm concerned at the disparate impact unsustainable practices have on minority communities.

These are the issues that are top of mind for me and would influence my participation in a leadership role with the Sierra Club.

**Patricia Damery** is a retired psychoanalyst member of the C. G. Jung Institute of San Francisco living near Napa where she and her husband have farmed a Biodynamic organic ranch for years. Growing up in rural Illinois, she lived through the demise of the family farm, learning firsthand the health dangers of the use of agricultural chemicals.

Her current focus is on the health and preservation of the forest and oak woodlands of the ranch and neighboring area, which includes one of the few remaining oak savannas in Napa County. She is particularly interested in indigenous practices, which have maintained these lands for millennia.

She was an invited participant in the 2016 United Nations Harmony with Nature project and has published numerous articles, four books, as well as a forthcoming manuscript, *Fruits of Eden: Field Notes*. A board member of the activist group Napa Vision 2050, she also serves as co-editor of its newsletter, *Eyes on Napa*. She also serves as board member of Napa Sierra Club.

**Chris Sauer:** No statement submitted.

## SONOMA

**Shirley Johnson:** I'm asking for re-election to the Sonoma Group ExCom, as the climate and energy co-chair. I have a long history with Sierra Club, tirelessly working on issues. Around 2006, I first visited the environmental center on Mendocino Avenue, while finishing my undergrad at Sonoma State. In 2009, I was invited to attend Sonoma Group Climate and Energy workshop at the environmental center, at its current location on Ridgway.

Since then, I've been involved in most things climate with Sierra Club. I am proud to represent Sierra Club at climate marches, conferences and a contributing member of our Climate Protectors Network.

The planet is being stressed beyond its capacity on all fronts. Climate covers a wide breadth and depth of social and environmental issues, it can be mind-boggling. Luckily we have many devoted members in Sierra Club to take on the challenge. I would like to continue my work with the Sonoma Group Excom, and also attend the Redwood Chapter meetings as a delegate.

**Richard Sachen:** Our accomplishments over the years are a source of pride, including seeing Sonoma Clean Power approved, the support of electric vehicles, SMART rail, and the ongoing efforts to extend the terms of the community separator and urban growth boundary laws. The challenges that face us this year and over the next few years will be great and I want to ensure that the club meets them head on.

Each of us joins the Sierra Club for different, personal reasons, but we all share a desire to protect and preserve our environment. Whether our focus is on reducing pollution, saving the trees, preventing fracking, or preserving our rivers and streams, we all share a love for the planet.

I have been honored to work on the Sonoma Executive Committee these last four years and I'll use that experience to guide me as we tackle climate change, the transition to renewable energy, and continue to protect the wild natural resources that

*Continued on Page 14*

# How to be ZERO WASTE during the pandemic

FOCUS ON THESE 4 AREAS



## 1.) REDUCING & ELIMINATING

- Reduce food waste. Donate food or volunteer with a food recovery nonprofit.
- Reduce junk mail by opting out.
- Refuse single-use utensils.
- Refuse grocery bags. Place items in your shopping cart and transfer them into your car.

## 2.) REUSING

- Reuse bags. Pack them yourself, or place directly in shopping cart.
- Reuse masks/gloves. Have multiples to launder after each use.
- Reduce use of paper towels. Make rags from old towels, clothes or sheets.



## 3.) DISPOSING

- Sort correctly. Refer to Sonoma County Zero Waste Guide or sorting guides and resources from Recology.
- Compost at home. See UC Master Gardeners or Zero Waste Sonoma for resources.
- Report litter. Use SoCo Report It.



## 4.) PURCHASING

Buy and use essential items that are:

- In larger sizes and minimally packaged
- Reusable, recyclable, or compostable
- Made of the highest percentage of recycled content
- Made locally



## READ MORE

See this full document, more information, and all the links on Zero Waste Sonoma's website at: <https://zerowastesonoma.gov/uploads/documents/ZW-tips-for-Pandemic.pdf>

Continued from Page 13

make California one of the most beautiful places in the world.

## LAKE

**JoAnn Saccato:** I have been a Sierra Club member for numerous years and in admiration of our local chapter's involvement with vital issues in our community. Additionally, in the last few years I've taken up multi-day solo backpacking and have done portions of the John Muir Trail in and around Yosemite where I not only learned more about the history of John Muir and the Sierra Club, but am able to witness the incomprehensible beauty and importance of wilderness. As climate crisis and environmental collapse worsens, I feel it imperative to take more action than my personal day-to-day living choices to help protect these invaluable resources and our planet. I've chosen to focus on bringing whatever skills and talents I can to our local Sierra Club Lake Group to help further the cause and hope to serve the next term doing so. Thank you, in advance, for your consideration.

**Cheri Kessner:** I am excited and looking forward to the opportunity to work and contribute to the Sierra Club. I am so proud of the work our Sierra Club Lake Group has achieved and am dedicated to continuing to support those efforts.

**Ed Robey:** No statement submitted.

## NORTH

**Richard Stewart:** Resident of Eureka, retired carpenter. Activities: Attend Sierra Club North Group meetings. Active hiker, surfer, and sailor. Attend Humboldt Harbor and Humboldt County meetings. Have sailed Mexico and the South Pacific. Ran Western States 100 and won the Crater Lake Marathon twice. Designed and built an off-grid cabin and a tree house on Mt. Etna. Obsessively follow politics. Member of Surfriders, Humboldt Botanical Garden, and have been a member of

North Swell Surfing Association since 1965.

I hope to join the Sierra Club's North Group as the Co-Political Chair, as well as the Wilderness and Wildlands Chair, and as an Excom member. I look forward to being mentored by the expertise of this group. I plan to increase our group's knowledge of political candidates and wilderness issues. I wish to follow political agendas both locally and nationally.

I have attended beach clean-ups, women's marches, Sunrise workshops, stakeholder meetings, Jared Huffman events, and Trinidad Coastal Land Trust educational outings. I enjoy researching political agendas, nature, biodiversity, and other environmental topics.

I believe that the environment is the most important issue of our time. I look forward to contributing to the Sierra Club's North Group.

**Richard Kreis:** The urgency of climate destabilization continues to grow more alarming, despite being eclipsed in the public perception by more immediate issues, like pandemics and politics. Evidence of global warming abounds, but has taken a back seat to headlines. The Sierra Club needs to effectively convince citizens that responding to climate change remains vital to their wellbeing.

As climate and energy chair of the North Group, I pledge to remain steadfast in my advocacy for climate remediation, and to discover new ways to keep the issue in the public eye. I solicit your vote that I may continue in my efforts in behalf of the Sierra Club and the planet

## CHAPTER

**Elizabeth W. Johnson:** Thank you for considering voting for me for a vacancy on the Executive Committee for the Sierra Club's Redwood Chapter. Our Chapter is large and takes in much of the rural northwest of California. Here, our members face numerous challenges in a variety of circumstances.

The Chapter's work is important for protecting the beautiful natural world we are so fortunate to live in. Just as important, however, is speaking for the underrepresented rural residents and urban dwellers who



Please mark your choices for Redwood Chapter and your local group executive committee on the ballot below and mail to: Redwood Chapter Sierra Club, PO Box 466, Santa Rosa, CA 95402

Or save paper and postage by casting your ballot electronically at: <http://sc.org/RedwoodChapterExComElections>.

### SONOMA

Vote for two (4 open seats)

- Shirley Johnson
- Richard Sachen

### MENDOCINO

Vote for two (3 open seats)

- Randal MacDonald
- Robin Leler

### NORTH

Vote for two (3 open seats)

- Richard Kreis
- Rich Stewart

### LAKE

Vote for three (3 open seats)

- Ed Robey
- Cheri Kessner
- JoAnn Saccato

### NAPA

Vote for four (4 open seats)

- Samantha Smith
- Patricia Damery
- Roland A. Dumas, Ph.D
- Chris Sauer

### SOLANO

Vote for three (4 open seats)

- Greg Peterson
- Joe Feller
- Amy Hartman

### REDWOOD CHAPTER

Vote for three (3 open seats)

- Rue Furch
- Tom Roth
- Elizabeth Johnson

*Continued from Page 14*

experience environmental injustice. The consequences of environmental damage have for too long fallen more heavily on these constituents and our chapter must reckon with this in moving forward. Climate change, species and habitat loss, and degradation of the healthy soil, water and forests are all issues that confront us daily with real immediacy, in our region just as elsewhere. Our leadership and actions must be thoughtful and deliberate, but also appropriately firm as we advocate and try to adapt to a changing society and environment.

I am 69 years of age, a graduate of Stanford University and University of the Pacific McGeorge Law School, and a lifelong nature lover. I am a mother to three children, grandmother to four, and pack leader to three dogs and a cat. My home is in Trinity County, where I moved in 2002 after practicing water and power law in Sacramento for many years. In Weaverville, where I live now, I practiced general civil law and then worked as a superior court judge for 11 more years. Now, semi-retired, I work exclusively on appeals. I have been assisting the Redwood Chapter recently as legal chair for the ExCom, and am pleased to be considered for membership on the committee itself.

**Rue Furch:** The future is literally at stake. My children and grandchildren live in this very special place, and it is my goal to preserve it for all generations. In the

1990's, I helped establish the Stakeholders Consensus on Reuse to promote clean water. I also co-founded Citizens for Responsible Water Use, and the Russian River Watershed Council. I have supported local agriculture through Farmlands Group, helped craft Santa Rosa and Sebastopol's Urban Growth Boundary initiatives, plus the countywide Community Separators. I serve on the Policy Committee for the Community Alliance for Family Farms, and on the Santa Rosa Groundwater Sustainability Advisory Committee. I am also on the Board of the Latino Democratic Club serve on the Committee for Immigrants' Rights. As a county planning commissioner for 18 years, and President of the California County Planning Commissioners Association (CCPCA) I produced a statewide conference on land use and water. I was also instrumental in prioritizing water resources in the Sonoma County's General Plan which addresses water quality, quantity and sustainability. I've been honored to be named the California Assembly Woman of the Year, the Upstream Swimmer by Sonoma County Conservation Action, Environmentalist of the Year by the Sonoma County Conservation Council, County Planning Commissioner of the Year by the CCPCA, and received the Lifetime Achievement Award from Russian Riverkeeper. I hope you will support my continuing work with the Sierra Club, and that you'll be involved: VOTE—and bring others along.

**Tom Roth:** Climate change is no longer on the horizon but in the backyard of this

coastal hills resident whose family members had to flee wildfires three times since 2017. The escalating calamity of climate change underlies my decision to run again as an at-large member of the ExCom.

I bring years of experience gained as a senior staffer for two Members of Congress and a state legislator. Working for former Rep. Lynn Woolsey, I had major roles in expanding two National Marine Sanctuaries and cleaning up two military bases to create wildlife preserves. I shepherded former state Senator Noreen Evans' legislation that ensured the sustainability of California's crab fishery and fought beside her to prevent park closures.

This last term, I chaired a revitalized Conservation Committee, lobbied in D.C. for successful public lands legislation, led the development of the Chapter's wildfire suppression position, and collaborated on capacity building efforts. As our Council of Club Leaders delegate, I steered a resolution that elevated forest protection to a major national Sierra Club climate campaign. Currently, I serve on multi-chapter committees dealing with S.F. Bay sea level rise and racial justice and equity training.

My primary goals are to address climate issues, including wildfires, guard against coastal degradation, promote environmental justice, and to strengthen and diversify the Chapter.

To vote online, please visit <http://sc.org/RedwoodChapterExComElections>

# Redwood Needles

**Sierra Club**

**Redwood Chapter**

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## SAVE THE DATE

**Redwood Chapter Community virtual forum  
on Wildfire Risk in the WUI  
Tuesday, Dec. 8  
5 p.m.**

We are hosting research ecologist Dr. Alexandra Syphard of the Conservation Biology Institute, who will give a compelling presentation on the ways that residential development in the Wildlands Urban Interface increases both wildfire risk and the devastation wildfire can cause.

For details and connection information visit our website and watch for an email alert.

[www.sierraclub.org/redwood](http://www.sierraclub.org/redwood)

Sonoma • Napa • Solano • Lake • Mendocino • Humboldt  
Del Norte • Trinity • Western Siskiyou