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the planet

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# Sierra Club Lake Group

## September-October 2018 Newsletter

### Next Meeting: “Introduction to Drawdown: A Plan to REVERSE Global Warming”

The next Lake Group general meeting will take place at **6:30PM on Thursday October 11**, in **Room #7120 at Mendocino College**, 2565 Parallel Dr on the outskirts of Lakeport. We will post some signs to guide you to the classroom.

The program will feature a workshop led by climate activist and Lake Group Chair Denise Rushing, who has provided this description:

Increasing and violent natural disasters are among the very real and tragic consequences of global warming. If you are concerned about the future for our children, grandchildren and the community of life on Earth, please join us to learn:

- how global warming CAN be reversed with solutions that exist TODAY. (The data is in, the solutions are awesome, and implementing them might even be inspiring and fun)
- an antidote for transforming shock and despair into hope and even joy!
- how to create a tsunami of positive possibility
- what one person can do about global warming

It is time do do this.... together.

### Middletown Dollar General: the Beat Goes On

After months of anticipation fueled by conflicting rumors the shoe has finally dropped: Cross Development has filed an application for a Use Permit to construct a Dollar General outlet in Middletown.

Although the project has been downsized from 9100 to 7225 square feet (thus allowing simplified Minor Use Permit rules to apply) the current design remains glaringly inconsistent with the small town western-themed character

of the existing business district, and the project as a whole is just as inconsistent with the provisions of the Middletown Area Plan as it has been all along.

These inconsistencies led the Planning Commission to reject the previous application (twice) and a similar outcome seems probable this time around; whatever the Commission decides, an appeal to the Board of Supervisors seems inevitable. (con't)

(MDG, con't) In the meantime, the timing of the renewed application seems unusual to say the least. Ordinarily the review under the California Environmental Quality Act does not begin until an application has been received (before that there isn't anything to review) but in this case an Initial Study was dated April 7 and amended June 13 even though the application wasn't submitted until August and the elevations later still. How can the IS possibly be valid, and what are the provisions for public participation under this anachronous arrangement?

Concerned citizens of Middletown aren't waiting to find out: working with the Middletown Area Merchants Association and Middletown Arts Center they have started a new organization called Middletown Neighbors to focus concerns and make sure they are addressed. On September 18 they were joined by activists from the Rivas who successfully defeated a Dollar General proposal in that community last year: the room was buzzing with positive energy and good ideas, some of them brand new. The next "Neighbors" meeting will be held at Calpine on October 9 from 6:30-8PM

## Blue Ribbon Update

Last year many Lake County residents were delighted to hear about the formation of a special Blue Ribbon Committee dedicated to improving Clear Lake water quality, with \$2 million in initial funding from the state. Ever since we've been expecting to hear more—who the members would be, when meetings would be held, what opportunities for public engagement? The first hint of action was about a stakeholder meeting to be held in Lakeport on August 14, a meeting later canceled due to the fires and not yet been rescheduled. The initial meeting of the committee itself was then announced for September 11th, a date that the organizers (all from UC Davis) apparently did not realize conflicted with Supervisorial commitments. Another date has not yet been set but in the course of investigating the situation we did learn that retired ecology professor Dr. Harry Lyons has obtained the "environmental" seat and each local tribe will have a place at the table.

### Lake Group Executive Committee

Denise Rushing (Chair): 560-1166,

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Carolyn Ruttan (Redwood Chapter Delegate), 295-0333, [carolyn.ruttan@clerc.co](mailto:carolyn.ruttan@clerc.co).

### Other contacts:

Steve Devoto (Outings): 279-8308,

[sdevoto@mchsi.com](mailto:sdevoto@mchsi.com)

*ExCom meetings are held at 6:30PM on the fourth Wednesday of the month, at locations that vary. All members are cordially invited to attend, but requested to contact the Chair first to confirm time and location*

## Rent This Space

The Lake Group now accepting (in other words, selling) advertisements in this newsletter: a two-inch (business card size) ad like this costs \$25 per issue, or—Great Bargain—\$100 for a year (six issues) To submit an ad send an email to [vbrandon@lakelive.info](mailto:vbrandon@lakelive.info) or call Victoria at 994-1931.

**Watershed Books**  
Lakeport, California

305 North Main Street

707.263.5787

# Sierra Club Endorsements, November 6, 2018

## Federal

Congressional District 03  
Congressional District 05

John Garamendi  
Mike Thompson

## Statewide Offices

Governor  
Attorney General  
Secretary of State  
State Controller  
Insurance Commissioner  
Sup. of Public Instruction

Gavin Newsom  
Xavier Becerra  
Alex Padilla  
Betty Yee  
Ricardo Lara  
Tony Thurmond

## State Legislature

Senate District 02

Mike McGuire

## Statewide Propositions

Prop 1: affordable housing bond	SUPPORT
Prop 3: flawed water bond	OPPOSE
Prop 6: gas tax repeal	OPPOSE
Prop 10: rent control expansion	SUPPORT
Prop 12: humane treatment of farm animals	SUPPORT

At press time endorsements for Clearlake City Council were under consideration but had not yet been finalized. As soon as final approvals are received all local endorsements will be posted to the Lake Group Facebook page, so please check it out.

## Outings

At press time, no listing of Lake Group hikes was available. Any that are scheduled later will be posted to the Group website at [sierraclub.org/redwood/lake/outings](http://sierraclub.org/redwood/lake/outings). Hikes throughout Redwood Chapter are listed at [sierraclub.org/redwood/outings](http://sierraclub.org/redwood/outings).

**Help Wanted:** Outing Leaders. No experience needed, just a love for brisk exercise in the out-of-doors. There are many good reasons to become an Outing leader, including an opportunity for autocracy: as leader *you* get to choose where to go, and when. Interested? Get in touch with Outing Chair Steve Devoto at 279-8308 or [sdevoto@mchsi.com](mailto:sdevoto@mchsi.com).

## KONOCTI POST

[www.konoctipost.blogspot.com](http://www.konoctipost.blogspot.com)

**a lake county naturalist's blog**

TAKE A RAMBLE. IT'S FREE.

## Let's Go Digital

Lake Group members are invited to help fight deforestation by receiving this bimonthly newsletter electronically rather than on paper. To get it as an email attachment in pdf format instead, send a request to join the "Lake Group Paper Free" list to [vbrandon@lakelive.info](mailto:vbrandon@lakelive.info)—not only does this save some trees, it also benefits the Group financially.



Sierra Club Lake Group  
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## 2019 Sierra Club Calendars

They're here, and gorgeous as always, full of spectacular nature photographs reminding us of the wonders we have to explore, enjoy, and protect. Lake Group has both the wall and appointment versions available at the discounted price of \$12—calendar sales provide a very substantial part of the Group's extremely limited discretionary funding, and your purchases support most of our conservation activities throughout the year.

To be sure of getting as many as you want (they make great gifts) reserve in advance by contacting Cheri at [cherisierraclub@gmail.com](mailto:cherisierraclub@gmail.com) or 263-5787. Calendars will also be available at the October 11 Drawdown workshop, November general meeting in Lower Lake (details later), our holiday party in December, and at Watershed Books, 305 N. Main in Lakeport.