



SIERRA
CLUB

FOUNDED 1892

explore,
enjoy,
and protect
the planet

Sierra Club Lake Group

September-October 2020 Newsletter

Next Meeting: "Potter Valley Project" — What's Going On?

At 6PM on Thursday September 24 Lake Group will host the second of our community meetings to be held virtually on the Zoom platform. This time the discussion will focus on PG&E's intention to "decommission" its small hydroelectric facility at Lake Pillsbury, leaving the future of Scott Dam and the lake very much in doubt since there is no incentive to continue operation of this antiquated plant. A group of water agencies and environmental organizations has come up with a decommissioning plan that would open the main stem of the Eel River to endangered salmon and steelhead and maintain water deliveries to Mendocino and Sonoma counties, but also include removal of Scott Dam and disappearance of the lake. What would this mean for local recreational users and cabin owners? What would replace Lake Pillsbury's function as a fire-fighting resource? What would be the impacts to surrounding wildlife such as the resident herd of Tule Elk? What can be done to get the best deal for Lake County? Please join us to explore these questions.

Although the meeting is free as always, unlike our in-person presentations reservations are required to assure one of the limited spaces in the Zoom room. Visit the online calendar on Lake Group's website, www.sierraclub.org/redwood/lake, to sign up: all registrants will receive a link to the event by email a few days before it takes place. To accommodate an overflow crowd the forum will also be live-streamed to our Facebook page, www.facebook.com/sierraclublake

Watershed Books
Lakeport, California

305 North Main Street
707.263.5787



*Highland Springs
Equestrian Center*
707-279-1903

*Horse Boarding in a Sublime Setting in the Wine Country
8900 Wight Way, Kelseyville, CA 95451
Paul Marchand and Juliana Vidich
www.highlandspringsequestrian.weebly.com*

KONOCTI POST

www.konoctipost.blogspot.com

a lake county naturalist's blog

TAKE A RAMBLE. IT'S FREE.

Guenoc Project: on Hold for Now

As reported off and on for the past several years, an immense resort development has been proposed on the Langtry Estate in Guenoc Valley near Middletown. The developers intend to build five hotels, up to 1400 single-family homes, commercial space, and associated infrastructure in multiple phases over many years.

The July edition of this newsletter reported that when the project came before the Board of Supervisors on July 7 the expected approval was delayed because of last minute substantive comments from the Center for Biological Diversity, California Native Plant Society, and Lake Group, comments that needed to be addressed.

The Supervisors did eventually approve the project on July 21—and on then August 27, at the very time the massive LNU Complex wildfire was ravaging much of the project site, CBD brought suit against the developers and the county, claiming that the environmental review was inadequate and that the project posed unacceptable fire risk, among other defects. “The California attorney general has repeatedly raised concerns about the county’s failure to analyze the increased risk of wildfire ignitions from the development and how the project would affect wildfire evacuations in the region,” said CBD’s statement. “Located in a remote area of the state with a long history of wildfires, the project site is accessible only by a single two-lane road.”

More news later!.

Lake Group Executive Committee

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ExCom meetings are held virtually on the Zoom platform at 2:00PM on the third Tuesday of the month.. All members are cordially invited to participate, but requested to contact the Chair first for connection information

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 *vbrandon95457@gmail.com* or call Victoria at 994-1931.

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 *vbrandon95457@gmail.com*—not only does this save some trees, it also benefits the Group financially.

Protecting Walker Ridge

In collaboration with the California Native Plant Society and several other environmental organizations, Lake Group has been participating in the Walker Ridge Alliance, a group striving for the permanent protection of this ecological treasure. Just north of Highway 20 on BLM land straddling the Lake/Colusa county line, with Indian Valley Reservoir to the west and the Berryessa Snow Mountain National Monument bordering on three sides, Walker Ridge is known primarily for its wealth of rare plants, but is also characterized by remarkable faunal biodiversity, unique geology, and views to die for. CNPS has twice petitioned BLM to give the area the special status it deserves by designating it as an Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC)—with no response so far.

Another Dollar General???

Big sigh—there may be yet another proposal to construct a Dollar General store in Lake County. So far three of these outlets—which none other than the Chamber of Commerce once described as an “infestation”—have been built (in Nice, Clearlake Oaks, and Lakeport), two applications were rejected (Kelseyville and the Riviera), at least two (Loch Lomond and Lucerne) withered away in the conceptual stage, and another (Middletown) has apparently died of attrition after years of community opposition. Now it’s Clearlake’s turn. Since no application has yet been received there is nothing concrete to evaluate, but we have to wonder if a facility like this could possibly have positive impacts for a small community that is just beginning to cherish the hope of becoming the recreational magnet it once used to be. Please stay tuned!

Outings

Along with meetings, in-person events, and use of office space, all Sierra Club Outings have been suspended until February 28, 2021 at the earliest, and the suspension may be continued longer, depending on the state of the coronavirus pandemic. In the meantime we encourage members and supporters to get out doors whenever they can do so in a safe, socially distanced way— and look forward to joining you out on the trails in a happier time.

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 Outings Chair Deb Sally at 235-9011 or enviracat1@gmail.com

The COVID-19 crisis has not passed and continues to disproportionately harm Black, Indigenous, and Latinx people and other communities of color. The pandemic has revealed how the communities hardest hit are often the same people that suffer from high levels of pollution and poor access to healthcare. The fight for environmental justice cannot be separated from the fight for racial justice.

Sierra Club Lake Group
PO Box 710
Lakeport CA 95453

Sierra Club Endorsements, November 3, 2020

Federal

| | |
|-------------------------------------|---------------|
| President of the United States | Joe Biden |
| Vice President of the United States | Kamala Harris |

| | |
|---------------------------|----------------|
| Congressional District 03 | John Garamendi |
| Congressional District 05 | Mike Thompson |

Local

| | |
|--------------------------------------|---------------|
| Lake County Supervisor District 5 | Jessica Pyska |
|--------------------------------------|---------------|

Statewide Propositions

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|--|---------|
| Prop 15: funding for schools and communities | SUPPORT |
| Prop 16: restore Affirmative Action | SUPPORT |
| Prop 22: classify app-based drivers as independent contractors | OPPOSE |
| Prop 25: replace cash bail with risk assessments | SUPPORT |