

# Redwood Needles

Explore, enjoy and protect the planet

Volume 60 Number 2

Newsletter of the Redwood Chapter of the Sierra Club

April/May 2019

## The Power of Us: Sierra Club vs. Coal

BY JOE FELLER, SOLANO GROUP CHAIR

The Sierra Club speaks with one voice! There is no better slogan highlighting recent events in the long running battle against the Orcem cement factory and VMT deep water port in Vallejo. Beginning with an open letter to the City Council by Victoria Brandon, Chair of the Redwood Chapter, to a powerful letter to the editor by State Director Kathryn Phillips, the Club responded to misinformation from the Orcem/VMT proponents.

Local Sierra Club members are continuing the fight against this toxic facility located in a residential neighborhood. Club members and allies, Fresh Air Vallejo and LaDonna Williams have attended BAAQMD (Bay Area Air Quality Management District) meetings and BCDC (Bay Conservation and Development Corporation) events. They are being aided by efforts from the National Clean Air Team which has provided resources and information that will be submitted to the City Council on the documented dangers of “green cement” production.

Additionally, the Club’s Beyond Coal campaign has provided immeasurable support to the efforts opposing this port. Providing legal resources to the local members and our allies has highlighted the

possible use of this proposed port for international shipping of coal.

Finally, the Bay Chapter has taken a giant step in banning coal shipments from the Bay Area. Aided by the Redwood Chapter and the Mother Lode Chapter (representing Stockton), the Bay Chapter took the lead in hiring a full time organizer for the coal issue (see profile on this page).

In the face of this opposition, the applicants for this project are showing frayed relations internally and with the City of Vallejo. While the cement folks have submitted their Final Environmental Impact Report, the VMT applicants have not. There are also outstanding fees that haven’t been provided to the City. A final Environmental Justice Assessment has not been authorized due to the lack of fees that the applicant agreed to remit. So there is no estimate if or when the applicants will complete their submissions. An update to the City Council will be provided on March 12th.

Again, the Sierra Club speaks with one voice. No recent effort in the Redwood Chapter has better shown the depth of the Club’s commitment to local efforts and the breadth of that effort and the resources that the Club can bring to bear on unsustainable development. The Solano Group wishes to express their gratitude for these efforts by the many folks who are actively assisting in this fight.



Peter Brooks, just horsing around before a hearing at Vallejo City Hall. Peter is a Sierra Club member and president of Fresh Air Vallejo.

## Sierra Club Welcomes New Staff Member Terilyn Chen

Our newest staff organizer, Terilyn Chen, will work across three Northern California Sierra Club chapters — the SF Bay Chapter, the Redwood Chapter, and the Mother Lode Chapter. What do these three chapters all have in common? Among other things, we’re all fighting to shut down existing coal-export terminals or prevent new ones. Terilyn will help to coordinate this work in partnership with our allies to prevent the Bay-Delta region from becoming the West Coast’s largest coal exporter.

Terilyn graduated cum laude from Harvard University with a bachelor’s degree in Environmental Science and Public Policy. She was co-chair of the Harvard Environmental Action Committee and Cultural Criticism Editor for Harvard’s feminist publication, *Manifesta*. Before coming to the Sierra Club, Terilyn served as Policy and Research Fellow at Asian Pacific Environmental Network (APEN), where she worked on a forthcoming whitepaper on community resilience to climate hazards. Check out this Q&A with Terilyn to learn more about her:



justice in all its forms. And I don’t want to just fend off “the bad” — I’m serious about contributing to replacing the systems we have now with something new that is healing and dynamic.

If you could have the aid of one superpower to help in your work here at the Sierra Club, what would it be?

Being able to clearly pinpoint the root of a problem or conflict, whether big or small, would probably be super helpful. I’m working on it :) !

If you want to volunteer to stop coal dust from polluting our air, water, and climate, reach out to Terilyn at [terilyn.chen@sierraclub.org](mailto:terilyn.chen@sierraclub.org).

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## Please join us for a Spring Social for the Sonoma County Environmental Community & Friends

Sunday, May 19, 2019, from 3:00-6:00 pm  
at the historic Nolan Ranch in Forestville

- See the Nolan Ranch house as it is today, with a beautiful passive solar home made with salvaged materials and custom crafted wood, glass, stone & art
- Enjoy great local musicians, wine, beer and lovely country vistas
- Meet Morgan horses and dwarf Nigerian goats - kid friendly!
- Potluck finger foods - please bring something to share

**FREE! Hosted by the Sonoma County Conservation Council**

Please RSVP by May 18 to Wendy K to receive directions..

[wlk@sonic.net](mailto:wlk@sonic.net) or (707) 544-4582

For more Redwood Chapter information: <http://www.sierraclub.org/redwood>





# Brenda Adelman Awarded 2018 Water Quality Stewardship Award

On February 20th, Brenda Adelman was honored by the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board. Matt St. John presented Brenda the prestigious award for her volunteer work since the 80's. Brenda tracked water quality, regulatory and enforcement issues, and appeared before the Board at the majority of their meetings for most of the last 40 years. Brenda has also effectively increased awareness of the environmental impacts of endocrine disruptors. Brenda is chair of the Russian River Watershed Protection Committee.

Brenda and I worked years ago on toxic issues in Sonoma County. We were both in the Sonoma Group of the Sierra Club. We were alarmed at the amount of hazardous waste being dumped in Sonoma County. A Hazardous Waste Committee was established for the Sonoma Group.

After pressure stemming from other environmental disasters, the Board of Supervisors created the position of Environmental Enforcer. In 1989, Mark Holtzman, a lawyer, was hired to work under the Environmental and Consumer Law Division. Brenda had stepped down from the committee before me to work on water quality issues. Later I stepped down to commit to the outings program.

I am extremely proud of Brenda. She earned and deserved this award. We consider ourselves sisters as we followed similar paths and lifestyles.

The board meeting is archived at:  
<http://cal-span.org/static/meetings-RWQCB-NC.php>

—CAROL VELLUTINI, SONOMA GROUP



Phil (left) and Alan Adelman join in honoring their mother, Brenda Adelman, for her longtime local environmental work. Photo by Norma Jellison.

## Good News on Climate Change Efforts from Around the Country

### Sierra Club Applauds New Mexico's 100 Percent Carbon-Free Energy Target

The New Mexico legislature passed the Energy Transition Act (SB 489), a bill that will make electricity generation 100 percent carbon-free by 2045 from the state's investor-owned utilities. The bill, first introduced in February, passed the state Senate in March. The House of Representatives passed the bill 43-22.

Pending Gov. Michelle Lujan Grisham's signature on this legislation, New Mexico will join California and Hawaii as the third state in the U.S. to commit to 100 percent carbon-free electricity. Several other states, including Illinois, Washington, Minnesota, Florida, New York, Maine, and Massachusetts, are also considering bills that would move toward a 100 percent clean, renewable energy future.

Labor and community groups like San Juan Citizens Alliance, AFSCME, Building Trades, and Somos Un Pueblo Unido joined the Sierra Club and other environmental groups in supporting this bill. This legislation will:

- Require all electricity supplied by investor-owned utilities in NM to be 100 percent carbon-free by 2045, and all rural cooperative utilities by 2050

- Increase the state's Renewable Portfolio Standard to require that 80 percent of New Mexico's electricity is generated from renewable energy by 2040

- Help protect public health and reduce New Mexicans' energy bills by transitioning away from expensive coal-powered electricity

- Provide \$40 million in economic support for the Four Corners region, including severance and job-training opportunities for coal plant and mine workers

- Direct up to 450 megawatts of replacement power to be built in San Juan County, an investment of hundreds of millions of dollars that will replace the lost property-tax base for the community after San Juan Generating Station closes

- Require increasing percentages of registered state and federal apprenticeships for all new energy in New Mexico

Six New Mexico communities served by the Kit Carson Electric Co-op already have 100 percent renewable goals. New Mexico now joins two states, Washington D.C., and 110 cities and towns across the U.S. in aiming for 100 percent clean energy.

In response, Camilla Feibelman, director of the Sierra Club Rio Grande Chapter, issued the following statement: "Passage of the Energy Transition Act gives great hope to New Mexico and everyone who wants a livable future on our planet. The world's top scientists tell us we have only 12 years to take transformative action to prevent the worst consequences of climate disruption. The Energy Transition Act is an innovative and powerful answer to that clarion call. This is a significant win for New Mexico ratepayers, our environment, workers, and communities in the Four Corners region who will have new opportunities to participate in our growing clean energy economy."

Jodie Van Horn, director of the Sierra Club's Ready for 100 Campaign, issued the following: "New Mexico is setting the pace in our transition to a 100 percent clean energy future. As the first state to pass ambitious clean energy legislation in 2019, New Mexico has set the bar for other states to meet. This legislation shows how climate and economic growth go hand-in-hand—and while reducing emissions is critical, so too is job creation and a just transition

for workers. New Mexicans are ready to replace expensive, dangerous fossil fuels with a better energy economy—one that provides clean air and family-sustaining jobs, and makes major gains for communities. Congratulations to the Land of Enchantment for this big step."

### Students Lead the Way

High five to the students at Elon University who are working against the Mountain Valley fracked gas pipeline in North Carolina. Student Miki Salamon helped organize hundreds of students and petitions, and recently Alamance County Commissioners unanimously approved a resolution against the pipeline that would be built near the Haw River if it is approved.

### Communities, Forest Service Denies Trump Administration from Leasing Ruby Mountains for Oil and Gas Development

The US Forest Service issued their final Environmental Assessment on Nevada's Ruby Mountains—denying the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) request to offer parcels for leasing in the landscape. The decision comes after an outpour of public opposition and restricts BLM from offering the sale of parcels in the Ruby Mountains for oil and gas development.

In response, Christian Gerlach of the Sierra Club's Our Wild America campaign released the following statement:

"This decision marks a monumental win for our environment, Indigenous Nations and communities who reap the countless benefits of the Ruby Mountains. The Rubies are one

of the most iconic and beloved landscapes in Nevada—popular for recreation, critical for wildlife, and vital to nearby communities for their economic and environmental value. Today, we celebrate a significant step forward in stopping the encroachment of dirty fuels on this landscape for now and forever.

"This win is a direct result of the advocacy by the Te-Moak Tribe of the Western Shoshone, particularly the South Fork and Elko Bands, who worked tirelessly to defend their ancestral homelands. We applaud and thank the thousands of people who raised their voices to help save the Rubies from dirty fuels. We will continue working together to ensure this place remains protected permanently."

### Double Victory for the Jersey Shore

EXCERPTED FROM AN ARTICLE BY  
PAULA SWIATKOWSKI

Picture the iconic image of a lighthouse, its reason for being to evoke a feeling of safekeeping, a beacon in times of potential danger. Now imagine that lighthouse is actually the smokestack of a coal-fired power plant.

This bit of cognitive dissonance exists on the New Jersey shore, having been added in 1987 to the B.L. England Generating Station situated on Great Egg Harbor and adjacent to the Great Egg Harbor Wild and Scenic River. Originally built as a diesel and coal generator in 1961, the plant has experienced several incarnations over the years. The Sierra Club has been actively fighting it since 1998 and is now celebrating its permanent closure this May, the owners having

"Climate Change Efforts"  
continued on page 5

### Redwood Needles

**June 2019 Deadline: Due May 8th**

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

**Shoshana Hebshi:**

**shoshana.hebshi@SIERRACLUB.ORG**

Send Outings to Louis Vas: [lvas75@sonic.net](mailto:lvas75@sonic.net) and  
Meetings to Carl Inglin: [chinglin@sonic.net](mailto:chinglin@sonic.net)

## Silver Lake & Carson Pass

Come relax and enjoy the beauty. Fish, hike, or wander along the many lakeside and mountain trails abundant with wildflowers. After a hike, refresh in the cool water, lounge on our beach, or glide on the pristine Silver Lake waters, very peaceful and quiet. Then join us for a gourmet meal at our restaurant or spend the evening in your comfortable lakeside room or cottage, ending your day star-gazing from your deck or meeting others at the crackling campfire. We now offer some pet friendly cabins.

**Kit Carson Lodge**

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

or call:

**(209) 258-8500**

OPERATES UNDER USFS PERMIT



# Outings

**Sat. April 20 - Solano Group. Benicia Historic Walk.**

Join a local historian on a walk through downtown Benicia. The 2 mile loop walk begins at the very end of 1st street on the fishing pier. We will head through downtown and along the way pass local landmarks, learn more about the former industries that were located here and hear about Jack London's time spent in

Benicia. Will also learn about the regional recreational trails which are located along Carquinez Straits. Free parking available close to where we start. Bring sturdy shoes, water, a hat, sunscreen and a snack. No pets. Rain cancels. Meet at the end of 1st street on the fishing pier close to the public restrooms. Walk starts at 10AM ends at Noon. Class: 1-A. Preregister by APRIL 12. RSVP to Doug

Tracey dbtracey@gmail.com/925-366-9612 or register online. Register early as participation limited.

**Mon. May 6 - North Group. Humboldt Redwoods SP Grasshopper Peak Hike.**

Join us for this springtime adventure, 13.5 miles round-trip. Let's hike this 3,379-foot mountain before the days get too hot. We will revel in spring wildflowers, lush old-growth redwoods and, weather permitting, vistas near and far of the Mattole and Eel river country, the Lassics, and the Avenue of the Giants. We can see the succession of recovery since the 2003 Canoe Fire burned a portion of Grasshopper's southern flank. Bring lots of water and lunch, and dress for the weather. No dogs. Class M-13.5-B. Carpools 8 AM Herrick/Hikshari Park'n'Ride. Leader Ned, nedforsyth48@gmail.com, (707)825-3652. Heavy rain cancels.

**Sat. June 15 - Solano Group. Family-Friendly Mare Island Hike.**

Enjoy a moderate 3.0 mi r/t walk past a historic cemetery and some abandoned bunkers, up to the top of Mare Island. We'll take in great views of the Carquinez Strait, San Pablo Bay, Mt. Tam and Mt. Diablo. Vallejo never looked so good. Bring sturdy shoes, water, a hat, sunscreen, and a snack. \$5 suggested donation for the Mare Island Shoreline Heritage Preserve's conservation efforts. Friendly, well-behaved dogs on leash are welcome. All ages. Total trip time is estimated to be 2 hours. Rain cancels. Class M-3-A. Meet: 10:00am at Trailhead at Mare Island Shoreline Heritage Preserve Parking at the end of Railroad Ave. Vallejo. Take Azure Dr. south through the roundabout. Left on 14th, right on Railroad Ave. Follow Railroad Ave. through the South Gate to the Park kiosk and park in the lot on the right.

Leader Phil Kohlmetz philcoagogo@sbcglobal.net 707-704-0350

## 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 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: Louis Vas, Outings Chair, (lvas75@sonic.net) by the 8th of the month. All leaders must coordinate their outings with their Group Outings Chair.

CST 2087766-40. Registration as a seller of travel does not constitute approval by the State of California.



Looking north toward Goat Rock along the Sonoma Coast. Photo by Mary Davison.

## 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.

Varies, see hike description for details: Jim Gannon Phil Kohlmetz Doug Tracey

Moderate-pace with few stops: Lorrie Lagasse Julie Kreis Paul Farley

Moderate-pace with more frequent stops: Carol Vellutini Yvonne Kramer

Brian Collett Pete McGee Jonah Freedman Steve Devoto Ned Forsyth

Slower-pace: Allison Bronkall Carl Inglin

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**2019 SCHEDULE!!**

# Island Hopping in Channel Islands National Park

**April 7-9, May 5-7, June 9-11,  
July 14-16, August 18-20,  
September 22-24, October 20-22**

Join us for a 3-day, 3-island, live-aboard tour of the enchanting Channel Islands. Hike wild, windswept trails bordered with blazing wildflowers. Kayak rugged coastlines. Marvel at pristine waters teeming with frolicking seals and sea lions. Train your binoculars on unusual sea and land birds—and an occasional whale. Watch for the endangered island fox. Look for reminders of the Chumash people who lived on these islands for thousands of years. Or, just relax at sea. This cruise departs from Santa Barbara. The cost, \$730, includes an assigned bunk and all meals, snacks, and beverages. Kayaking will be overseen by our concessionaire; all hikes will be on trails, class 1 terrain. This trip is a fundraiser to support the Sierra Club political program in California. To reserve space send a \$200 check, written to California Sierra Club PAC to Joan Jones Holtz, 11826 The Wye St., El Monte, CA 91732. For more information contact leaders: **Joan Jones Holtz: [jholtzhl@aol.com](mailto:jholtzhl@aol.com); 626-443-0706**  
**Wayne Vollaire: [avollaire1@gmail.com](mailto:avollaire1@gmail.com); 909-327-6825**



**Island Hopping in the Channel Islands. Join us for an adventure! Details at left.**

## Non-Sierra Club Outings & Events

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.

- 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](mailto:ParksVolunteer@sonoma-county.org)
- Garden Volunteer Days: First Friday of the Month, 9am – noon.** Laguna Environmental Center, 900 Sanford Road, Santa Rosa. Enjoy our native plant garden! Volunteers are essential in beautifying our site. Share your expertise or learn new skills by getting involved today! [http://lagunafoundation.org/volunteer\\_garden.html](http://lagunafoundation.org/volunteer_garden.html)
- Laguna Stewardship Days: Once a month on a Saturday from 9am - noon.**  
Details of the site location announced 2 weeks in advance of the workday (various sites along the Laguna) Help care for the Laguna and restore critical wildlife habitat! Joining the Laguna Stewards is a fun and meaningful way to volunteer while enjoying the outdoors. [http://lagunafoundation.org/volunteer\\_lagunastewards.html](http://lagunafoundation.org/volunteer_lagunastewards.html)

## “Climate Change Efforts” continued from page 3

nixed plans to repower its coal units with fracked gas. The victory is even sweeter because the plant closure renders dead on arrival a gas pipeline, proposed in 2013, that would have cut through the New Jersey Pinelands National Reserve (PNR), designated as the first national reserve in 1978 and a UNESCO Biosphere Preserve in 1988. At around 1.1 million acres, it occupies 22 percent of the land area in the most densely populated U.S. state. (It's also home to the famed Jersey Devil!)

Jeff Tittel is director of the Sierra Club's New Jersey Chapter and has been involved in the 20-plus year effort to retire the plant and, more recently, to deny the pipeline. “There was a symbiotic relationship between them; they needed each other, so closing England kills the pipeline,” he says. “The power plant is in the reserve, and the law stipulates that any pipeline located there would have to primarily serve the needs of the reserve's residents.”

The road to this outcome was long and winding. In 2006, following installation of a boiler that pushed the plant's toxic emissions above allowable levels, the state's Department of Environmental Protection issued a Clean Air Act violation. As a result the plant was supposed to close by 2007, but three extensions were granted by the administration of Governor Chris Christie. The intent was to buy time for the plant to be repowered for fracked gas, rather than rebuild it at stricter environmental standards. This dodge allowed for the PNR pipeline proposal by South Jersey Gas in 2013. Also intended was extension of the plant's operation from 60 to 365 days a year.

“That opened up the next phase of the battle,” says Tittel. The notion of a pipeline through the PNR drew other advocacy groups, including the Pinelands Preservation Alliance and Environment New Jersey, as well as thousands of citizens into a pitched battle to prevent it. Approval power over the pipeline is held by the New Jersey Pinelands Commission, but court battles and shifting political winds tossed the outcome back and forth at a dizzying pace from 2013–2017.

One constant during this period was most New Jerseyans' unwavering opposition to the pipeline. “Lots of people came out fighting,” says

Tittel. “This is about tenacity and perseverance. Every time a roadblock came up, we kept fighting through it. The difference people made was huge—emails, meetings, petitions, protests, kayak events, Pinelands walks. The other side used every trick possible to hurt citizens' chances to act, but the public and the environment ultimately won.”

Tittel is optimistic that the plant has a future as a support facility for wind power. The current governor, Phil Murphy, has pledged to obtain 3.5 megawatts of power from offshore wind by 2030 as part of his clean energy plan, with turbines situated just 15 miles off the coast. “The irony is that 20 years ago the Sierra Club was fighting over a New Source Review for coal at the plant, and at the end of all the twists and turns this could become an offshore wind facility,” he says. “It's one of the best symbols for what we want to accomplish across the country.”

*These articles originally appeared in Sierra Club's Hitched.*

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
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Check enclosed. Please make payable to Sierra Club.  
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Contributing	<input type="checkbox"/> \$150	<input type="checkbox"/> \$175
Life	<input type="checkbox"/> \$1000	<input type="checkbox"/> \$1250
Senior	<input type="checkbox"/> \$24	<input type="checkbox"/> \$32
Students/Limited Income	<input type="checkbox"/> \$24	<input type="checkbox"/> \$32

Gift donors, gifts and dues to Sierra Club are not tax deductible. This support our efforts, strengthen advocacy and lobbying efforts. Your dues include \$7 for a subscription to Sierra magazine and \$1 for your Chapter membership.

Enclose a check and mail to Sierra Club, P.O. Box 52966, Boulder, CO 80522-2966 or visit our website [www.sierraclub.org](http://www.sierraclub.org)

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**SIERRA CLUB**  
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*If you wish your bequest to be used locally, be sure to specify “Sierra Club Redwood Chapter” or the name of your local Group in your bequest.*

Explore, enjoy and protect the planet

### Create a Lasting Legacy

By creating a charitable bequest to benefit Sierra Club or your favorite Sierra Club Chapter, you remain in control of your assets during your lifetime and help protect the environment in years to come.

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





# Lake Group Report

## Springtime Events

As this edition of the *Redwood Needles* was going to press, Lake Group was looking forward to a number of upcoming events, starting with our first community meeting of 2019. This gathering was scheduled for March 21 at the Mendocino College Lakeport campus, to feature a presentation by Lake County archeologist Dr. John Parker, who planned to display a 1878 painting believed to be the earliest depiction of a Pomo ceremony in Lake County, and to talk how it came to be made and why it showed up in the Baron de Rothschild collection, of all unlikely places.

We're also making plans for tabling at least two Earth Day events, at Woodland College's Clearlake campus on April 16, and at the CalPine Visitor Center in Middletown on April 27. As in the past two years, we'll be giving away small conifer seedlings to assist in wildfire recovery or to use in home landscaping projects. These infant trees (provided by the Lake County Resource Conservation District) may look young and tender now, but in just a few years will be capable of providing significant wildlife habitat while sequestering substantial amounts of carbon.

## Walker Ridge wind project—back from the ashes?

Nearly ten years ago the Sierra Club participated in the early stages of environmental review regarding a large-scale wind energy project on BLM land on the eastern border of Lake County. Although the Club strongly

supports renewable energy production in general, it also recognizes that "such projects may have significant impacts on land and related wildlife, air and water quality, and other resources." In this case possible impacts to biological resources including birds, bats, and butterflies seemed likely to be severe, rare endemic plants could be at risk, and the probability of contamination of water resources from the heavy grading needed to widen the access road seemed high. Other concerns were identified as well, including the comparatively small amount of energy that could be expected at this location, which is adjacent to the Berryessa Snow Mountain National Monument.

Lake Group expected to participate in the review of the Environmental Impact Report and Environmental Impact Statement, when after several years of waiting we learned that the application had been withdrawn. It turned out that the intertie station site (where the project connects with the transmission lines) was on a parcel that the BLM had acquired with Land and Water Conservation Fund money under terms that restricted any kind of construction. Even if an appropriate alternative site could be found, the portion of the EIS that related to the intertie construction would have to be done over again.

At this point—2013—the project seemed to be dead, but it has recently shown signs of revitalization: the BLM Ukiah Field Office has hired a project manager, and developers are monitoring wind speed and trying to negotiate contracts with electricity providers, with—so far—negligible public participation. Lake Group intends to follow this very closely, and to make sure that the complex issues surrounding this proposal are appropriately addressed.

—VICTORIA BRANDON,  
LAKE GROUP  
CONSERVATION CHAIR



# Solano Breeze Corner

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

sierraclubsolanogroup@gmail.com

707-319-6398

## Solano County Earth Day Clean Ups and Events

### Benicia

4/20: 8am-noon, Ninth Street Beach

Contact: Carrie Chase cchase@ci.benicia.ca.us  
www.ci.benicia.ca.us

4/27: 9am-noon BTF Tree Planting and Trash Cleanup Rose Drive near Kearney  
Info@beniciatrees.org www.beniciatrees.org

### Dixon

4/20: 9-11am Pond B on Doyle Lane

Contact: Pernell Colter pcolter@ci.dixon.ca.us

### Fairfield

4/20: 9-11am Lower Ledgewood Creek (parking lot behind Home Depot)

Contact: Kevin Cullen kcullen@fssd.com

4/27: 9am-1pm Fairfield Earth Day 2019 & Kids Day of Fishing Derby

Lots of fun activities and booths for the family, www.fairfield.ca.gov/recycling  
The Robert Orlando Memorial Fishing Derby is first come, first served - sign-ups at 7:00 am. Derby starts at 8:30 am - 12 noon. Awards at 1:00. For more information on the Robert Orlando's Memorial Kids Day of Fishing Derby, please visit www.kidsdayoffishing.org

### Rio Vista

4/20: 10am-12pm Sandy Beach Park

Contact: Marissa Medders  
MAMedders@solanocounty.com

### Suisun City

4/20: 9-11am Lower Union Ave Creek

(Dead end of Railroad Ave near Marina Blvd)  
Contact: Kevin Cullen kcullen@fssd.com

4/20: 9-11am Suisun Waterfront- Kayaking Adventure (Call 797-341-6141 to reserve a spot) Contact: James Berg  
grizzlywaterskayaking@gmail.com  
www.grizzleywaters.com

4/20: 9am-12pm Grizzly Island Road (Meet at Rush Ranch Open Space)

Contact: Diana Samuels  
DLsamuels@solanocountry.com  
www.solanolandtrust.org

### Vacaville

4/20: 9-11am Southside Bikeway (behind WinCo, park at WinCo or use trail)

Contact: Peter Wanberg  
Peter.wanberg@cityofvacaville.com  
www.cityofvacaville.com/creekcleanup

4/20: 9-11:30am Andrews Park

Contact: Emma Mendiola  
emma.mendiola@gmail.com  
www.cityofvacaville.com/creekcleanup

### Vallejo

4/20: 9am-1pm, Vallejo Earth Day, at the Downtown Farmer's Market, 9am to Noon: fun activities, art, music, green booths, and more. To help save resources, please bring your own gloves, water bottle and collection bucket. Visit www.recycle.solanocounty.com

#keepsolanoclean

4/21: 9-11:30am McGary Rd- Adults only  
Contact: Diana Samuels

DLsamuels@solanocounty.com

4/27: 9-11am Blue Rock Springs Creek Corridor (below Wardlow Park)

Contact: Doug Darling ddfish4life@sbcglobal.net  
www.vallejowatershedalliance.org

### Join Us

Please attend the Solano Group meetings, usually on the first Monday of each month.

To confirm location, call/text Jane at 707-319-6398

### VALCORE Recycling and Paper Shredding updates:

Solano Group helps out with paper shredding every 3rd Saturday each month at 38 Sheridan Street, Vallejo from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. There is a charge of \$.50 per pound (CASH or CHECK ONLY) of paper shredded. (Maximum: 100 pounds)

WEEKDAY SHREDDING from 10 am to 4 pm, closed 1 pm to 2 pm for lunch (CREDIT OR DEBIT ONLY).

Sierra Club volunteers help tend the money and direct traffic. Once a year is all we ask, and you only need work an hour or so. Volunteers get FREE shredding!

—JANE BOGNER, CONTRIBUTOR  
GREG PETERSON, EDITOR

# Sonoma Group Report

## Redwood Chapter Webinar: Alternative actions for faster climate cooling

It's agonizing to watch the slow pace of our response to global warming. Carbon dioxide will take hundreds or even thousands of years to cycle out of the atmosphere after we stop burning fossil fuels, and converting to renewable energy requires major changes to our energy systems, houses, cities and transportation. All this takes a lot of time.

So it was heartening to learn from an excellent Sierra Club webinar on March 9 that there is another, faster approach to tackling climate change. The webinar, presented by Linda Brown of the Napa Group, discusses the importance of reducing short-lived climate pollutants (SLCPs) The main SLCPs, methane and black carbon, decompose quickly but they are much more effective heaters of the atmosphere than carbon dioxide, the most common greenhouse gas.

As the webinar shows, focusing on keeping SLCPs and their heating effects out of the atmosphere has immediate benefits and can help to stabilize global warming at a lower temperature.

Black carbon is emitted from burning fuel and settles on snow, helping to melt the polar ice caps. It has largely been left out of climate action and greenhouse gas reduction plans but is thought

to be the second largest cause of global warming world-wide. In California, tailpipe regulations are already reducing one of our largest black carbon sources, burning diesel fuel.

Methane comes from decaying organic matter and from the natural gas and oil industries and is often not fully accounted for in inventories. It is a very strong contributor to heating and also breaks down to carbon dioxide and water vapor which are left in the atmosphere as longer-term greenhouse gases.

Reducing methane and black carbon emissions is as urgent as reducing CO2, and in the last few years, government policies have begun to move in this direction. Cuts in SCLPs will gain us more time to build long-term CO2 solutions, which right now are being implemented too slowly to stop significant warming.

**Upcoming Action:** Senate Bill 682 has just been introduced in the state senate and will need our support. SB 682 will ensure that California uses a protocol derived from the 2013 IPCC report which makes a complete assessment of short-lived climate pollutants and proposes effective immediate action to reduce them.

**Action:** Watch the Redwood Chapter webinar online here: <https://fccdl.in/vCp1V8TvZ>

## Why invest more in the obsolete and polluting fossil fuel industry?

Two new gas stations have been proposed in the south County.

A new Safeway gas station in Petaluma is planned next to McDowell Elementary School which would expose children to exhaust fumes from idling cars and benzene in fuel vapor. Benzene is a carcinogen - it has been found in large amounts over 300 feet from gas stations, while this station will be only 60 feet from an on-site preschool.

Action: To support the local group fighting the station see the page on Facebook called "Oppose the Petaluma Safeway Gas Station."

A sixteen pump ARCO station, car wash and convenience store has been proposed in a scenic corridor west of Cotati on Highway 116. It plans to use well water and is right on the edge of a community separator, land meant to stay undeveloped to leave green open space between cities. It had a pretty negative reception at the Design Review Committee in February, which suggested that it should disguise itself to look more like a barn or other rural structure, but this may not be the end of it.

—SUZANNE DOYLE, SONOMA GROUP CHAIR



# North Group Report

## State Water Board Rebuke: The North Coast Water Board's Permits to Control Agricultural and Forestry Pollution are Inadequate!

In recent years I have personally filed numerous requests with the North Coast Water Quality Control Board asking them to control agricultural pollution in the Scott River Basin, Lower Klamath Lake area, Tule Lake Basin and adjacent to the Smith River Estuary. Clean-up plans for water pollution in these areas are supposed to implement the Clean Water Act and are required to control deposition of livestock waste and protect riparian areas in order to reduce nutrient, sediment and pesticide pollution in order to restore "swimmable and fishable" stream conditions.

The pollution clean-up plans also require that landowners allow natural shade to develop and remain along streams that pass through their property in order to reduce excessively high stream water temperatures which, along with excessive sediments and nutrients, are impairing beneficial uses of water, including culturally and economically important salmon fisheries.

All I have received in response to these requests, however, is lip service; as demonstrated by photos on this page, the North Coast Regional Water Quality has refused to actually regulate and control agricultural pollution; staff and board continue to allow bank trampling, plowing right down to streambanks, shade removal and the deposition of livestock waste directly into our streams.

In recent years, I've begun also asking the State Water Resources Control Board, which has a duty to "review the regional board's action or failure to act" (Water Code Section 13320), to step in and force the North Coast Board to actually and effectively regulate agricultural pollution. Even more recently the Karuk Tribe petitioned the State Board ([https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/public\\_notices/petitions/water\\_quality/docs/petitions/a2602petition.pdf](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/public_notices/petitions/water_quality/docs/petitions/a2602petition.pdf)) challenging the North Coast Board's Waivers of Waste Discharge Requirements for the Scott and Shasta River Basins and commercial salmon fishermen (PCFFA) challenged the North Coast Board's plan for "voluntary compliance" without a permit for lily bulb growers on Smith River Plain, adjacent to the Smith River Estuary. As I've reported before in these pages, those lily bulb growers use more pesticides per acre as compared to anywhere else in California; pesticide residues and nutrients are present in surface and groundwater at levels toxic to aquatic life and those waters pose health risks for workers and other residents.

Finally, the State Water Board has responded. Rather than directly ordering changes, however, they chose to present to the North Coast Board the "Eastern San Joaquin Precedential Order" ([https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralcoast/board\\_info/agendas/2018/june/item11/item11\\_pres\\_emel.pdf](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralcoast/board_info/agendas/2018/june/item11/item11_pres_emel.pdf)) as an example of what must be included in orders, waivers and permits in order to comply with federal and state anti-degradation requirements as well as the State Board's Enforcement and Non-Point Source Pollution Policies.

The Non-Point Source Policy ([https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water\\_issues/programs/nps/docs/plans\\_policies/nps\\_iepolicy.pdf](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/nps/docs/plans_policies/nps_iepolicy.pdf)) refers to so-called "diffuse" sources of pollution including stormwater, pollution from forestry activities and pollution from agriculture. The policy requires that five key elements be included in all orders to control agricultural, forestry and stormwater pollution. Here's how the State Board describes those five elements:



**Scott River Valley: Feedlots on live streams result in nutrient and sediment pollution and high stream water temperature.**

management practices (MPs) and other program elements expected to be implemented, along with an evaluation program that ensures proper implementation and verification.

Key Element 3: The implementation program shall include a time schedule and quantifiable milestones.

Key Element 4: The implementation program shall include sufficient feedback mechanisms so that the RWQCB, dischargers, and the public can determine if the implementation program is achieving its stated purpose(s), or whether additional or different MPs or other actions are required.

Key Element 5: Each RWQCB shall make clear, in advance, the potential consequences for failure to achieve an NPS implementation program's objectives, emphasizing that it is the responsibility of individual dischargers to take all necessary implementation actions to meet water quality requirements.

Most of the North Coast Water Board's agricultural and forestry orders do not contain all required elements. Critically and chronically missing are "evaluation programs" and "feedback mechanisms," including monitoring actual water quality conditions, needed to ensure "proper implementation and verification" and "all necessary

implementation actions to meet water quality requirements." **What happens now?**

Now that the State Water Board has made North Coast Board's non-compliance with the Clean Water Act's requirements clear (no matter how gently), I've asked the North Coast Board to identify those orders, permits and waivers that do not comply with State Board requirements and to develop a time line for fixing those orders, permits and waivers. And I have specifically identified the North Coast Board's so-called "Stewardship Program" for the Klamath River Basin, which amounts to voluntary compliance, as also being in violation of key State



**Bank trampling, dewatering and riparian shade removal along Moffet Creek in the Scott River Basin.**

Water Board policies implementing the Clean Water Act.

The North Group will be attentive to see how the North Coast Water Board and its staff respond to the State Board's rebuke. The North Coast Board's recent announcement that it will develop a permit for lily bulb growing adjacent to the Smith River Estuary is a good sign. However, if the Board fails to define a clear path and time line to bring its agricultural and forestry orders, permits and waivers into compliance with State Board requirements, The North Group and others will once again be petitioning the State Board.

This time we will challenge the non-regulatory and illegal "stewardship" policy which has failed to control the Klamath River's agricultural pollution. In some years that pollution kills most juvenile Klamath River Salmon before they can reach the Pacific Ocean. That must end. In addition to dam removal, adequate control of agricultural pollution in the Upper Basin, Shasta and Scott is necessary in order to restore the Klamath River and Klamath Salmon. Anything less is unacceptable. Stay tuned.

—FELICE PACE, NORTH GROUP WATER CHAIR



**Plowing right down to the streambank in the Scott River Valley.**



**Tule Lake Basin polluted agricultural wastewater destined for the Klamath River.**

**Redwood Chapter and all local Groups have a variety of volunteer opportunities.**

**Visit [www.sierraclub.org/redwood/get-involved](http://www.sierraclub.org/redwood/get-involved) for details or contact [vbrandon@lakelive.info](mailto:vbrandon@lakelive.info)**



# Volunteer Job Description: Editorial Assistant

## Time required:

3-5 hours every other month.

## Purpose of Position:

Assist the Communications Coordinator in producing the bimonthly print newsletter.

## Tasks:

- Update mailing list as subscribe and unsubscribe requests are received.
- Coordinate with the printer to submit newsletter in timely manner to reach members by the publication date.
- Download mailing label list from the Sierra Club database and send to printer.
- Coordinate with advertisers, send invoices and record payments.
- Mark up each issue to determine the proportion eligible for Foundation funding and send information to Chapter Treasurer.
- Other tasks as needed.



# 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. Visitors should call the committee chair to verify time and place. The Sonoma County Environmental Center is located at 55A Ridgway Avenue in Santa Rosa (West of Hwy 101, two blocks North of College and 1 1/2 blocks West off of Cleveland Ave, South of Coddington).

### Mon. Apr. 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. Apr. 1 - Sonoma Group.

Conservation Committee 5:30 pm - 6:30 pm. Info: Suzanne Doyle [carsort@gmail.com](mailto:carsort@gmail.com)

Sonoma Group Executive Committee at 6:30 p.m. Info: Suzanne Doyle [carsort@gmail.com](mailto:carsort@gmail.com)

### Tues. Apr. 9 - North Group ExCom.

North Group Sierra Club is holding its monthly Executive Committee meeting. All are welcome to discuss local conservation issues between 7:45 and 8:45 p.m. or come for the business meeting starting at 6:45 p.m. Meet at the Adorni Center Conference Room

on the Eureka Waterfront. For more information, contact Gregg at (707) 826-3740.

### Mon. May 6 - Sonoma Group.

Conservation Committee at 5:30 pm-6:30 p.m. Info: Suzanne Doyle [carsort@gmail.com](mailto:carsort@gmail.com)

Sonoma Group Executive Committee at 6:30 p.m. Info: Suzanne Doyle [carsort@gmail.com](mailto:carsort@gmail.com)

### Mon. May 6 - 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. May 14 - North Group ExCom.

All are welcome to discuss local conservation issues between 7:45 and 8:45 p.m. or come for the business meeting starting at 6:45 p.m. Meet at the Adorni Center Conference Room on the Eureka

Waterfront. For more information, contact Gregg at (707) 826-3740.

### Thurs. May 16 - 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.

### Sat., May 18 - Redwood Chapter ExCom. And ConsCom.

Location: Santa Rosa, Sonoma County Environmental Center. Conservation Committee meets at 10 a.m., ExCom meets 1-3 p.m. at the Environmental Center in Santa Rosa, 55A Ridgway. Info: Victoria [vbrandon@lakelive.info](mailto:vbrandon@lakelive.info)

### Tues. May 21 - 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, Xulio Soriano at [napavalleyclub@gmail.com](mailto:napavalleyclub@gmail.com)

## Redwood Needles Welcomes New Editor

I find it bittersweet that after twenty years of producing the *Redwood Needles* every other month, this is my last edition. I've learned a great deal during this time about environmental issues from the local to the global level. I am convinced that climate change is the greatest challenge that humanity has faced in my lifetime.

I have always loved being in nature, but I'll never forget the moment my eyes were opened and I became an environmentalist. I was a teenager, camping with my parents in a state forest in Northern California. I was shocked when I realized that the nearby sounds of chainsaws were coming from within the state forest itself and that logging was allowed there. I had assumed, until that point, that state forests were designed to protect the natural ecosystem for the enjoyment of all Californians. It was a rude awakening for me.

What inspires me the most, and brings me the most hope in the face of our current harrowing challenges, is the incredible dedication and effort of the local Sierra Club leaders I've had the privilege to work with. Whether attending and speaking at City Council or Board of Supervisor meetings; gathering information and then discussing the facts and creating policy positions; evaluating and endorsing local measures and candidates; or engaging in direct activism, all are tireless in their devotion to protect this area we call home. Our Sierra Club leaders show up repeatedly to influence political decision-makers— at meetings, through letters, and via personal contact.

So much of the work our local Sierra Club is doing ties into fighting climate change. This comes across clearly when reading "2018 Redwood Chapter Year in Review" (which appeared in the February 2019 *Redwood Needles*). Protecting wilderness, fighting potential coal shipments in Vallejo, political activism, and working on public transportation are just a few ways local Club members seek to make a difference. Redwood Chapter groups are also active in monitoring and commenting

on County Climate Action plans— a key way to "Think Globally, Act Locally." Reading the group reports in the *Redwood Needles* is a great way to stay informed about the crucial environmental work engaging local volunteers. In this issue, check out Sonoma Group's report on page six for information about a Redwood Chapter webinar that clearly and scientifically explains what's behind climate change and presents significant actions to be taken now to help turn the tide against this global threat. On page three, positive results in the battle against climate change from around the country are highlighted.

We are fortunate to have Shoshana Hebshi, the Chapter Communications Coordinator, taking over beginning with the June issue. I hope she enjoys being editor as much as I have. I'd also like to thank everyone who has contributed to the *Redwood Needles* during the past two decades, too many to name individually, but know you are appreciated.


I have been proud to contribute to the Sierra Club's positive impact in the Redwood Chapter area. I believe in the grassroots approach of the Sierra Club and with the looming threat of catastrophic climate change, our work is more important than ever. I intend to stay involved with the local Club, and I hope that you will join me. Together, we can make a difference.

I'd like to leave you with a few words from Sierra Club founder John Muir:

"The sun shines not on us but in us. The rivers flow not past, but through us. Thrilling, tingling, vibrating every fiber and cell of the substance of our bodies, making them glide and sing. The trees wave and the flowers bloom in our bodies as well as our souls, and every bird song, wind song, and tremendous storm song of the rocks in the heart of the mountains is our song, our very own, and sings our love."

Happy Earth Day.

—MARY DAVISON, REDWOOD NEEDLES EDITOR



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# Redwood Needles

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