



Explore, enjoy and protect the planet

Volume 56 Number 6

Newsletter of the Redwood Chapter of the Sierra Club

December 2015/Jan. 2016

ACTION ALERT: Weigh in on the TPP

By VICTORIA BRANDON,
REDWOOD CHAPTER CHAIR

Just as the *Redwood Needles* was going to press, the long-awaited text of the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) toxic trade deal was released to public view— and the environmental consequences revealed in the detailed language turn out to be even worse than expected.

In the words of Sierra Club Executive Director Michael Brune: “We now have concrete evidence that the Trans-Pacific Partnership threatens our families, our communities, and our environment. It’s no surprise that the deal is rife with polluter giveaways that would undermine decades of environmental progress, threaten our climate, and fail to adequately protect wildlife because big polluters helped write the deal... Many provisions in the deal’s environment chapter are toothless and fail to offer any of the protections proponents of this deal have touted.”

Unbelievably in the 21st century, the words “climate change” don’t even appear in the text. Instead, the TPP will allow massive fossil fuel corporations to threaten public health and challenge climate safeguards in unaccountable trade tribunals.

The ultimate decision will be up to Congress, which will be under immense pressure from the administration to support the deal instead of standing up for American jobs, clean air and water, and climate protection. All three members of Redwood Chapter’s Congressional delegation— Representatives Jared Huffman, John Garamendi and Mike Thompson— voted against Fast Track and are expected to stand firm when the TPP comes up for a vote, but they need to hear from us, and to know that their grassroots constituents are behind them.

Please take a moment to contact your Congressman to thank him for his vote against Fast Track, and to encourage him to oppose the TPP. They all accept emails through their Congressional websites, or you can call 415 258-9657 (Huffman); 530 753-5301 (Garamendi); and 707 226-9898 (Thompson). Please tell the aide who answers (or the message machine) that you are calling at the request of the Sierra Club.

For more information on Sierra Club’s Responsible Trade Program, please contact Courtenay.Lewis@sierraclub.org

New Poll: Sonoma County Voters Want More Greenbelts

By TERI SHORE, SONOMA GROUP EXCOM

A new survey of Sonoma County voters commissioned by Greenbelt Alliance found that 75 percent would definitely or most likely vote “yes” on a potential county ballot measure to renew and expand protections from sprawl for greenbelt lands designated as community separators between Sonoma County’s towns and cities. By the end of the poll that rose to 78 percent.

We need to renew and add to community separators or risk losing more agricultural lands and open space to housing tracts, malls and big box stores. The existing protections for community separators that voters approved by 70 percent nearly two decades ago expire at the end of 2016.

Sierra Club, Greenbelt Alliance and its allies are now calling on the Board of Supervisors to go beyond a renewal to strengthen protections and add priority greenbelts to community separators. Priority additions should also include lands around Penngrove

and between Cloverdale and Healdsburg that are identified for designation in the 2020 General Plan. Groundwater recharge areas, prime agricultural lands and wildlife habitat should also be considered for community separator designation for long-term preservation.

The Board of Supervisors is expected to decide by year’s end whether to just renew or to strengthen and expand community separators with a ballot measure in 2016. If the voter protections expire, a vote from just three of five members of the board of supervisors could allow inappropriate development in community separators.

As Board elections approach, 67 percent of voters stated they would view their supervisors more favorably if they placed a measure to renew and expand community separators on the ballot.

About 17,000 acres of agricultural and natural lands in
“Voters Want Greenbelts” cont. on page 3



Mountains and Rivers Update

By
VICTORIA BRANDON,
REDWOOD
CHAPTER CHAIR

When Redwood Chapter leaders met with Congressman Jared Huffman in October, the cordial and productive conversation ranged from efforts to protect the Wild and Scenic Smith River from nickel mining and remove dams from the Klamath to preventing right-wing extremists from dismembering the state of California and the goals of the upcoming United Nations climate conference in Paris. We also touched

briefly on an exciting proposal to designate substantial new federal Wilderness Areas and Wild and Scenic Rivers in the northern part of the Chapter.

As discussed earlier this year, a broadly based stakeholder group under the leadership of the Wilderness Society and California Wilderness Coalition has been working behind the scenes to define boundaries, identify outstanding natural features, and hold quiet discussions with neighboring private landowners, federal agencies and local

“Mountains & Rivers Update”
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From left: Victoria Brandon, Congressman Huffman, Keith Kaulum, Steve Birdlebough.

Keeping It California: Trinity County Says No to “Jefferson”

On September 15 the Trinity Board of Supervisors gave a sharp backhand blow to the ruinous “State of Jefferson” secession idea. Instead of supporting the proposal as proponents had requested, putting it on the ballot, or declining to take action, they voted to adopt a declaration, “declining to join the State of Jefferson and advocating improved representation of rural California counties.” The full text of the declaration, which is based on a comprehensive fiscal evaluation prepared by county staff and includes an incisive set of Whereases, is available at keepitcalifornia.org/opinion.html.

Congratulations to the Trinity BOS for this display of prudence and courage. Their action may have been the reason El Dorado County SOJ proponents withdrew a support motion agendized for September 29. With El Dorado leaders unenthusiastic about becoming a cash cow to a bankrupt new state, the motion never did

have much chance of success, but the possibility of its turning into a positive rejection along the Trinity model was apparently too much for the Jeffersonians to risk.



Then on October 20 the Plumas County supervisors resisted demands to endorse the secession movement and instead voted to put the issue on the June 2016 ballot. Although it would have been preferable to require proponents to gather signatures for an initiative before imposing a financial obligation on the taxpayers, this action nonetheless required considerable courage on the part of the board. Plumas voters will now join those in Lake and Lassen in having an opportunity to reject this very bad idea at the polls: in the meantime, any attempt to portray these counties as separatist supporters is purely fictional.

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

Redwood Chapter Sierra Club Directory

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 466, Santa Rosa, CA 95402, Phone 544-7651, Fax 544-9861

Office Address: Environmental Center, 55A Ridgway Avenue, Santa Rosa (West off of Cleveland Ave., to the west of Hwy 101)

Redwood Chapter		
The Redwood Chapter is governed by an executive committee, with one (1) member delegated by each of six (6) regional groups and six (6) members elected at large. Each group elects its own executive committee.		
Chair • At Large • Political Chair • RCC Delegate • Wilderness Chair • CCL Delegate Victoria Brandon* 994-1931 vbrandon@livelive.info		
Vice Chair • Lake Group Delegate to Chapter Ed Robey* 994-8304 edrobey@wildblue.net		
Secretary Jill Hunter redwoodjill@comcast.net		
Treasurer Tom Davis 963-4466 tom@napavalleycpas.com		
At Large • Legal Chair • Council of Club Leaders Alternate Keith Kaulum* 538-5569 kkaulum@sonic.net		
At Large • Conservation Committee Chair • Public Land • At Large Diane Beck* 445-2690 dianefbeck@gmail.com		
At Large Leonard L. Holt* 527-7516 lholt@sonic.net		
At Large Rue Furch* 823-3555 pqrst@monitor.net		
At Large Tom Roth* 632-5873 troth@monitor.net		
Transportation Chair Steve Birdlebough 576-6632 affirm@friendshouse.org		
Energy and Climate Chair Woody Hastings woodyhastings@gmail.com		
Grazing Chair Felice Pace 954-6588 unofelice@gmail.com		
Lake Group Delegate Alternate Carolyn Ruttan 295-0333 caninoridge@digitalpath.net		
Mendocino Group Delegate to Chapter Mary Walsh* 937-0572 bella@mcn.org		
Mendocino Group Delegate Alternate Lorrie Lagasse 964-3011 lorrielas@yahoo.com		
Napa Group Delegate to Chapter Lisa Godfrey* 731-9587 merichi@yahoo.com		
Napa Group Delegate Alternate Nancy Tamarisk 257-3121 napaquail@gmail.com		
North Group Delegate to Chapter Ned Forsyth* 826 2417 nedforsyth48@gmail.com		
North Group Delegate Alternate Joyce Yowell 559-916-8575 jayowell@hotmail.com		
Sonoma Group Delegate to Chapter Shirley Johnson-Foell* 206-1138 johnsons@sonoma.edu		
Sonoma Group Delegate Alternate Vacant		
Solano Group Delegate to Chapter • Water Chair Jim Dekloe* 864-3123 jimdekloe@aol.com		
Solano Group Delegate Alternate Vacant		
Administrative Staff • Publication Rep Tom Devlin 544-7651 tdevlin@sonic.net		
Finance Committee Jana Selph 829-5356 jselph@sonic.net		
Outings Chair • Outings Leadership Training Carol Vellutini 546-6308 carolvsr@sonic.net		
Redwood Needles Editor Mary Davison 874-3704 odavison@sonic.net		
Chapter Webmaster Melanie Matway adastra7@hotmail.com		

Redwood Needles									
Newsletter of the Redwood Chapter, Sierra Club of California									
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Outings Chair: Carol Vellutini (707) 546-6308 carolvsr@sonic.net	Submit articles by deadline via e-mail mail or fax to: <i>Redwood Needles</i> e-mail: odavison@sonic.net P.O. Box 466, Santa Rosa, CA 95401 Ph 707-544-7651 Fax 707-544-9861								
Meetings Coordinator: Carl Inglin (707) 538-8271 chinglin@sonic.net	Redwood Needles Deadlines								
Enewsletter Coordinator: Pamela Nelson	<table border="1"><tr><td>Issue</td><td>Deadline</td></tr><tr><td>Feb./March</td><td>January 8</td></tr><tr><td>April/May</td><td>March 8</td></tr><tr><td>June/July</td><td>May 4</td></tr></table>	Issue	Deadline	Feb./March	January 8	April/May	March 8	June/July	May 4
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Address Corrections: address.changes@sierraclub.org Sierra Club, P.O. Box 52968, Boulder, CO 80322-2968 (415) 977-5653									

Lake County Group	
P.O. Box 27 994-8304 Lakeport CA 95453	
Chair • Chapter Delegate • Political Chair • Treasurer	
Ed Robey* 994-8304 edrobey@wildblue.net	
Vice Chair	
Cheri Holden* 263-5787 cherrisierclub@gmail.com	
Secretary	
Win Stiles* 262-1242 win@w-s.com	
Outings Chair	
Steve Devoto 279-8308 sdevoto@mcchi.com	
Conservation Chair • Newsletter Editor • Webmaster	
Victoria Brandon* 994-1931 vbrandon@livelive.info	
Chapter Delegate Alternate • Water Chair	
Carolyn Ruttan* 295-0333 caninoridge@gmail.com	

Mendocino County Group	
P.O. Box 522 937-0903 Mendocino 95460	
Chair • Treasurer • Newsletter Editor • Membership • Chapter Delegate	
Mary Walsh* 937-0572 bella@mcn.org	
Vice Chair • Coastal Trails • Coastal Committee	
Rixanne Wehren* 937-2709 rixanne@mcn.org	
Secretary • Conservation Chair • State Forests	
Linda Perkins* 937-0903 lperkins@mcn.org	
Corp. Accountability • Energy • Global Warming • Toxics Committee	
Bernie Macdonald* 937-4352 omni@mcn.org	
Outings Chair	
Vacant	

Napa County Group	
P.O. Box 5531, Napa 94581	
Chair	
Nancy Tamarisk* 257-3121 napaquail@gmail.com	
Secretary	
Linda Gail Brown* 510-504-0226 lindagailbrown@earthlink.net	
Treasurer	
Tom Davis 320-3802 tom@bdcocpa.com	
Conservation Chair	
Bill Dyer* 942-5502 bill@dyerwine.com	
Chapter Delegate	
Lisa Godfrey* 731-9587 merichi@yahoo.com	
Web Master	
Nancy Tracy ntracy@sbcglobal.net	

Vice Chair • Membership Chair • Outings Chair	
Isabelle Saint-Guily* scnapaisabelle@gmail.com	
Political Chair	
Chris Benz * 252-7462 christinabenz@gmail.com	
North Group	
Box 238, Arcata 95518 (Del Norte, Humboldt, Trinity, western Siskiyou counties)	
Chair • Membership Co-Chair	
Gregg Gold* 826-3740 gregggold@netscape.net	
Vice Chair • Transportation • Chapter Delegate	
Ned Forsyth* 826-2417 nedforsyth48@gmail.com	
Secretary • Membership Co-Chair • Chapter Delegate Alternate	
Joyce Yowell* 559-916-8575 jayowell@hotmail.com	
Conservation Chair • Marine	
Diane Beck* 445-2690 dianefbeck@gmail.com	
Energy • Global Warming/CAFE • Webmaster/ Computer	
Richard Kreis* 626-622-8148 rgkreis@gmail.com	
Treasurer	
Sue Leskiw 442-5444 sueleskiw@suddenlink.net	
Newsletter • Agriculture • Water • Parks • Grazing • Publicity	
Felice Pace* 954-6588 unofelice@gmail.com	
Outings Chair	
Vacant	
Wilderness	
Lynn Ryan lynnr8@gmail.com	
Webmaster • Computer	
Nick Vogel nicholasvogel@gmail.com	

Solano County Group	
Box 4717, Vallejo 94590 553-1653 sierraclubsolanogroup@gmail.com	
Chair • Chapter Delegate • Genetic Engineering	
Jim Dekloe* 864-3123 JIMDEKLOE@comcast.net	
Vice Chair • Webmaster • Youth Events • Endangered Species	
Quinton Crawford 360-7567 quintoncrawford1@yahoo.com	
Political Co-Chair • Volunteers	
Amynoe Coughran* amynoe@coughran@yahoo.com	
Secretary	
Kathy Pettibone* 372-1229 kpettibone59@yahoo.com	
Electric Vehicles • Urban Farming	
Erin Tator* 925-286-1766 erintator@sbcglobal.net	

Watershed Issues	
Doug Darling* 373-1766 ddfish4life@sbcglobal.net	
Political Co-Chair	
Joe Feller* 415-902-3395 joe@americantelecomwest.com	
Newsletter Editor	
Greg Peterson** 864-8573 gspeterson1@gmail.com	
Outings Chair	
Vacant	
Treasurer • Recycling • Volunteer Coordinator	
Jane Bogner** 644-9183 jabogner@juno.com	** designates ExCom alternate vote
Sonoma County Group	
Box 466, SR 95402 544-7651 55A Ridgway Ave., Santa Rosa	
Executive Committee Members*	
Richard Sachen* 327-8298 richard@rsachen.net	
Adrienne Leihy* adriennenow@sbcglobal.net	
Teri Shore* 575-3611 tshore@greenbelt.org	
Theresa Ryan* carsort@sbcglobal.net	
Suzanne Doyle* 206-1138 shirlegirl707@yahoo.com	
Chair	
Vacant	
Vice Chair • Conservation Chair	
Suzanne Doyle carsort@sbcglobal.net	
Office Coordinator • ExCom Secretary	
Tom Devlin 544-7651 tdevlin@sonic.net	
Outings	
Vacant	
Transportation	
Steve Birdlebough 576-6632 affirm@friendshouse.org	
Parks & Trails • Backpacking	
Carol Vellutini 546-6308 carolvsr@sonic.net	
Political Chair	
Keith Kaulum 538-5569 kkaulum@sonic.net	
Membership Chair	
Vacant	
Treasurer	
Jana Selph 829-5356 jselph@sonic.net	
Webmaster	
Melanie Matway adastra7@hotmail.com	
Volunteer Coordinator	
Diana Nasser 823-4293 diananas@sonic.net	
Water Committee Chair	
Leonard L. Holt 527-7516 lholt@sonic.net	
Climate & Energy Committee	
Shirley Johnson-Foell* 206-1138 shirlegirl707@yahoo.com	

* Executive Committee members

Redwood Chapter & Sonoma Group Office
Location: Environmental Center, 55A Ridgway Ave., Santa Rosa

The Office is staffed most weekday afternoons. Call ahead to confirm, 544-7651. The Office is also open during evening meetings (see listings on last page) and at other times when volunteers are present.

Redwood Chapter Online
Redwood Chapter Website: <http://www.sierraclub.org/redwood>
for Group Websites, use www.redwood.sierraclub.org and add: /napa, /north, /sonoma, /lake, /mendocino, or /solano
Redwood Chapter Facebook: www.facebook.com/SierraClubRedwoodChapter

Get the latest updates on environmental activities in the Redwood Chapter!

Redwood Chapter Website:
www.sierraclub.org/redwood

“Voters Want Greenbelts”

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eight areas are designated as community separators around Sonoma County. They serve as green buffers and hold back sprawl, complementing urban growth boundaries around cities. Community separators also protect agricultural lands, waterways, woodlands and wildlife habitat from development.

Together, UGBs and community separator policies protect the places in Sonoma County most likely to be targeted by sprawl developers and encourage growth to occur within urban boundaries.

With the expiration approaching, Sierra Club is working to gather support and to safeguard these policies now. We are also helping to improve the policies so that they better protect Sonoma County's landscape for years to come.

Take Action

Please write or call your supervisor to support community separator renewal and expansion now, not later.

Susan.Gorin@sonoma-county.org

Shirlee.Zane@sonoma-county.org

Efren.Carrillo@sonoma-county.org

James.Gore@sonoma-county.org

David.Rabbitt@sonoma-county.org

An action alert with sample letter is posted on Greenbelt Alliance's website, greenbelt.org. To join the campaign, contact Teri shore at tshore@greenbelt.org or 707 575 3661.

“Mountains & Rivers Update”

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tribes. As the proposal (which includes plans for fire management, restoration, and trail building) has evolved, a few details have changed and maps have been redrawn, but all of the newly protected areas would be situated in Representative Huffman's Congressional District 2, with the bulk in Trinity County, others in Mendocino, Humboldt and Del Norte counties— and far to the south, Olema Creek in Marin.

Over the summer North Group has led several hikes into areas proposed for protection, and both Redwood Chapter Outings leaders and the San Francisco Bay Chapter's Backpacking Section have been making plans for more extended adventures next summer. At the same time, the campaign has drafted legislative

language that they hope to offer for Congressman Huffman's consideration before the end of the year. If all goes according to plan enabling legislation may be brought before Congress early in 2016.

Please visit www.mountainsandrivers.org for more information, and please consider offering a letter of support to demonstrate strong grassroots backing for the permanent protection of some of our most special public lands. Details about composing and sending support letters are posted to the website, with the crucial point being that they should be submitted to the campaign, not to the Congressman.

More later!

Sierra & Tierra: The Heroic Resistance of a Latino Community Besieged by Fracking

If I were a presidential candidate (fat chance!) and someone asked me whom I admire the most, I would answer any of the hundreds of heroes who defend their communities against a daily toxic bombardment.

This siege takes place in hundreds of Latino communities across the country, and one of these heroes is Juan Flores, an organizer with the Center on Race, Poverty and the Environment, in Kern County, California. Flores's fight is nothing short of heroic.

Kern County generates over 75 percent of California's oil output, including 95 percent of the fracking that occurs in the state, more than any other county in the nation. And the price the overwhelmingly Latino population pay for this is heartbreaking.

“We have one of the highest asthma rates in the country, especially among our children,” says Flores. “It is sad for a kid to live with the reality of having an asthma attack every other day. They cannot catch a break. That's why we are putting up a fight.”

According to a 2014 National Resources Defense Council study, close to 2 million Californians, who already put up with very high levels of other kinds of pollution, are living within a mile of an oil and gas development. Of them, a breathtaking 92 percent are communities of color.

The report also found that in Kern County, 64 percent of people living within one mile of an oil or gas well and in areas facing the worst environmental health threats are Latino.

“We are not organizing against this injustice because we hate the oil industry,” says Flores. “We do it because we love our community.”

Flores will need every last drop of devotion for his neighbors because the situation may well get worse for the already punished Kern County residents. At the oil industry's request, the County has proposed an ordinance to fast track oil and gas drilling permits for the next 20 years that would shield new operations from environmental review and public notice.

This virtual blank check for the fracking industry would worsen not only the already dire air pollution situation in the area but also threaten the irrigation water supply in a county that, along with the rest of the Central Valley, produces 35 percent of the

nation's fruit and vegetables.

“If there is some sort of fracking pollution in the water supply, the whole country would be affected by this crisis,” warns Flores. “We want to send a clear message to the Kern County officials: It's time to start protecting the community and not the oil industry.”

On Nov. 9th, the Board of Supervisors will hold a public hearing to discuss the proposed ordinance, and Flores and his colleagues await “with open arms all residents of Kern County, of California and of the entire country to testify against this injustice,” he says.

This mad race to extract every last drop of oil coincides with both our extraordinary clean energy boom and the stern warning from the world's scientists that to avoid the worst consequences of the climate crisis, we must leave at least 2/3 of the fossil fuel reserves in the ground.

It also coincides with the scandalous revelations that Exxon, the world's largest oil corporation, has known since the 1970's about the potentially catastrophic consequences for the planet's atmosphere of the unrestrained burning of fossil fuels.

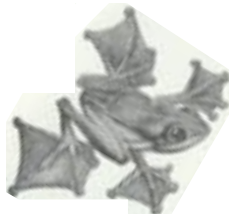
“If it is true that they knew about all this 40 years ago, then it's true that they don't care about their children or grandchildren,” laments Flores. “All they'd care about is how much money they can put in their pockets right now.”

Flores's heroic resistance pursues a different kind of riches: the good health and wellbeing of his community.

—JAVIER SIERRA, SIERRA CLUB COLUMNIST

Follow Javier Sierra on Twitter @javier_JS

This article originally appeared on the Sierra Club's website: <http://www.sierraclub.org/planet>



Non-Sierra Club Outings

The following activities and events are not sponsored nor administered by the Sierra Club. The Sierra Club has no information about the planning of these activities and makes no representations or warranties about the quality, safety, supervision or management of such activities. They are published because they may be of interest to the readers of this publication.

Saturday Saunters for Santa Rosa Area.

Every Saturday. Meets 9 am and usually ends around 11:30. These walks are moderate. Fun way to exercise with friends. For info call Bob Martin 707-539-6300 bmphoto@comcast.net.

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

Volunteer Days Riverkeeper Stewardship Park in Guerneville, Every Wednesday.

9 a.m. - Noon, for all or part of the time. Park is located on the north bank of Russian River directly upstream Guerneville pedestrian bridge. Access entrance from the driveway in front of Sonoma Nesting Co. (16132 Main Street, just east of Armstrong Woods Rd.) At bottom of driveway look for blue & white “Russian Riverkeeper Stewardship Park” sign. Bring drinking water & wear sturdy footwear. Light refreshments provided. Info Victoria Wikle 865-2474 VictoriaWikle@usa.net.

Redwood Needles

February Deadline: Due Jan. 8

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

odavison@sonic.net

Send Outings to Carol Vellutini via email: carolvsr@sonic.net

Send Meetings to Carl Inglin: chinglin@sonic.net



Outings

Sat. Dec. 5 - North Group Arcata Community Forest-Redwood Park Hike.

Join us for a cool, and perhaps dry, walk in the woods. No dogs. Bring water and lunch. Se habla poco Espanol. Class E-5-A. Carpools: Meet 9 am Arcata Safeway parking lot, or 9:15 Redwood Park Fourteenth Street parking area. Leader Ned nedforsyth48@gmail.com 825-3652.

Sat. Dec. 5. - Lake Group. Glen Eden Trail to Ridge Trail.

Fairly steep trail rewarded with great views including Clear Lake, Snow Mountain, Hull Mountain, Goat Rock area. Bring water and lunch. Class H-8-B. Meet: 9:30 am trailhead on Scott's Valley Rd. (approx. 2 miles from Hwy 20 at Blue Lakes and 8 miles from Hwy 20/Scotts Valley Road intersection in Lakeport). By reservation only. Leader Paul Farley 263-9320. Heavy rain cancels (call).

Sat/Sun. Dec. 19-20 Peter Grubb Hut Trip (Beginner-Intermediate).

Snowshoe/Ski 3 miles (800') to Peter Grubb Hut for a

Saturday overnight and avoid the shopping crowd. \$28 (\$33 Non Sierra Club members) by Dec 1st to Jim Gannon; PO Box 1038, Rohnert Park, CA 94927. Non-refundable reservations. Please include email address /phone #. Optional stay at Clair Tappaan lodge Fri 18th. Make reservations early to avoid disappointment. Lodge reservations 530-426-3632. Indicate you are with Peter Grubb trip-Redwood Chapter. Sno-Park pass necessary for parking at Sno-Park trailhead. Central commissary is planned. Meeting time/location provided with trip sign up. Contact Jim Gannon jgannon99@sbcglobal.net (707)-525-1052. Leaders Jim Gannon and Don Anderson donsluck@live.com.

Sat. Jan. 2 - North Group Male'l Dunes Hike.

Get away from it all, close to the town of Manila on Humboldt Bay. Expansive sand dunes, lush coastal forest, tidelands, the beach. No dogs. Bring lunch and water. Class: E-5-A. Call if you want to carpool as carpools are by prior arrangement. Meet 9 am BLM trailhead off SR 255

and Young Lane. Leader Ned, nedforsyth48@gmail.com, 825-3652.

Sat. Jan. 2 - Sonoma Group. Gunsight Rock via Johnson Trail Hike.

We'll take Johnson Ridge trail up Hood Mountain to Summit trail, over the top of Hood to our lunch spot at Gunsight Rock and return. Gunsight has some of the best views of Sonoma Valley and Santa Rosa. Bring water, lunch, good hiking boots, layered clothing for winter hiking. Parts of the trail are steep, hiking poles may be helpful. Class: MS-7-B. Moderately strenuous to strenuous, 7 miles round trip. There is a \$7 parking fee at the lot. Meet: Trailhead 10:15 am upper Regional Park parking lot at end of Pythian Road. Leader: Carl Inglin 538-8271 or chinglin@sonic.net. Rain cancels.

Sat.-Mon. Jan. 2-4 - Napa Group. Snowshoe/Cross-country-skiing at Loon Lake Chalet.

This is a 2 nights, 3 days trip. (Notice that we are going up on Sat. and coming back on Mon. to avoid traffic.) Do you enjoy snowshoeing, cross-country skiing, sledding, all snow activities in the company of others? This remote chalet by a Sierra lake offers access to the calm beauty of winter. The cost is \$25 for two nights. In the Sierra Club's spirit of doing things together, we will share the cooking and purchasing of food. Space is limited- reserve in Dec.. A \$25 check per person will reserve your spot. (Make it to "Napa Outings SC" and mail it to Isabelle Saint-Guily 1020A Easum Dr. Napa CA 94558). Leader: Isabelle Saint-Guily scnapaisabelle@gmail.com.

Sat.-Mon. Jan. 16-18 - Bradley Hut Trip (Adv Beginner-Intermediate).

Snowshoe/Ski 5 miles (1500') to Bradley Hut for MLK weekend Sat. /Sun. overnight and back out on Mon. midday. \$48 (\$58 Non Sierra Club members) by Dec 16th to Jim Gannon; PO Box 1038, Rohnert Park, CA 94927. Non-refundable reservations. Please include email address/ phone #. Optional stay at Clair Tappaan lodge Fri 15th. Make reservations early to avoid disappointment. Lodge reservations 530-426-3632 indicate you are with Bradley trip-Redwood Chapter. Central commissary is planned. Meeting time/locations provided with trip sign up. Contact leader Jim Gannon (707)-525-1052 jgannon99@sbcglobal.net or Don Anderson donsluck@live.com

Sun. Jan. 24 - Sonoma Group. Annadel State Park Lawndale Trail to Ledsen Marsh Hike.

A long steady uphill through oak, Douglas fir and redwood forest brings us to Ledsen Marsh, in the southeast corner of Annadale State Park. Bring lunch, water, good hiking shoes, layered clothing and binoculars if you want to watch for birds around the marsh. Approx. 6 mile round trip, Class: M-6-B. Carpools: 10 am.

Safeway parking lot Hwy 12 and Calistoga Rd. 10:20 am Lawndale Trailhead, on Lawndale Road. Leader: Carl Inglin 538-8271 or chinglin@sonic.net. Rain Cancels.



Lacks Creek hike, leader Ned Forsyth.

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: Isabelle Saint-Guily
Jim Gannon Phil Kohlmetz

Fast-pace with few or no stops: Paul Bozzo Carol Magill Paul Farley

Moderate-pace with few stops:

Don Anderson Lorrie Lagasse Julie Kreis

Moderate-pace with more frequent stops:

Pete McGee Tim Bartice Melinda Groom Val Nordeman

Carol Vellutini Yvonne Kramer Martin Farber Brian Collett

Carl Inglin Tom McFarling Nanette DeDonato Jonah Freedman

Steve Devoto Ned Forsyth Nick Caston

Slower-pace: Allison Bronkall

Instructions to hikers

Outings will start not later than 15 minutes after scheduled meeting time. The leader is in charge of the trip and is responsible for your welfare and the good name of the Club. He/she must have your cooperation to make the trip safe, pleasant and rewarding. Never charge ahead of the leader and keep within sight or shouting distance of the person ahead of you so you do not miss an intersecting trail. Do not lag behind rear leader: if you need help, the rear leader will remain to assist you. Do not leave the group without the leader's permission.

Be adequately equipped and prepared. You should carry lunch and liquids. Wear footwear appropriate for the outing. In most cases that would be hiking boots.

Guard against fire. Do not smoke on Sierra Club outings. Build fires only with the leader's permission, and extinguish them completely. Guns, pets, or radios are not to be brought on hikes.

The Sierra Club does not have insurance for carpooling arrangements and assumes no liability for them. Participants assume the risks associated with travel. Reimburse the carpool driver. Carpools are not part of the outing but a means of conserving natural resources.

All participants on Sierra Club outings are required to sign a standard liability waiver. If you would like to read the liability waiver please go to: <http://www.sierraclub.org/outings/chapter/forms/>, or contact the Outings Department at (415) 977-5528 for a printed version.

Visitors are welcome

All Sierra Club trips are open to the public unless otherwise announced. You are free to bring all members of your family and guests. Children are usually welcome, but please call the leader to make sure it is an appropriate hike.

DIFFICULTY	MILEAGE	ELEVATION GAIN
E - Easy	Actual	A - Less than 1,000
M - Moderate	Mileage	B - 1,000 to 2,000
H - Hard		C - 2,000 to 3,000
S - Strenuous		D - over 3,000
V - Very Strenuous		

The actual mileage will be listed for each trip. Elevation gain will reflect the gain from the start of the hike to the highest point. If you need to know the cumulative gain, please contact the leader.

To submit outings write-ups

Send all outings write-ups to: Carol Vellutini, Outings Chair, (carolvsr@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.



Camper Project Coordinator Sought

The North Group Sierra Club is looking for a volunteer to co-ordinate our long-standing program that sends deserving children to summer camp. This is a terrific opportunity for you to help enhance the lives of local children and help the Sierra Club give back to the community. Specific tasks include overseeing the printing and mailing of announcements to schools and past donors, receiving and helping to rate camper applications, thanking donors, and serving as the liaison between the camp and camper families. The project begins in late March and ends in August. For more information, please contact Gregg Gold at e-mail greggjgold@aol.com (note that is a J in the middle of all those g's) or call him at 707-826-3740. **Last year, North Group did not sponsor its usual four children to attend camp because we didn't have a project coordinator.** We are looking forward to hearing from you!

Outings Chair Report

The Valley Fire in Lake County affected many people. Sierra Club members had relatives living there. Luckily most Lake Group outings leaders did not lose their homes. Some had to evacuate and had smoke damage but at least their personal belongings were not lost. One former outings leader, Boone Lodge, was not as lucky. He and his partner had only minutes to evacuate. Their entire house burnt down. Generations of memories, art, furniture, all melted into ashes. My last email from Boone indicated he was staying in Marin with a friend, does not plan to re-build and did not want to see his property. I can't imagine losing your life photos, your records, your car, your "stuff." Former Sonoma Group leader Tim Bartice, taking a leave from hiking due to a serious leg injury, had moved up to Hidden Valley on the same street where my son lives. His house was saved. Tim is still recovering from his leg injury but I am hoping he will lead again next year for the Lake Group.

Redwood Chapter Outings are very limited the next two months. Let's hope that the New Year will bring new leaders, outings chairs for



Benson Hut work party. Leader Jim Gannon.

all groups, and energy to recruit new members. I am hoping that Solano Group leader Brian Collett will return from Kuwait in 2016.

Last report was that the Sierra had 8' of snow in many places. The ski season is open. Sign up for a winter trip to our huts. Jim Gannon is a great leader and would love to train new winter leaders.

The rains this winter will bring many challenges to our drought stricken forests, our remote roads, and our burnt forests. Check for flooding of creeks before leading hikes, and for closed trails. Many burnt trees have fallen down on trails and these are closed to hiking. Some will fall in high winds so check your weather before heading out.

—CAROL VELLUTINI, REDWOOD CHAPTER OUTINGS CHAIR

Sierra Club Volunteer/Activist Opportunities

"Even if you're on the right track, you'll get run over if you just sit there."

—Will Rogers

Group Hike Leaders: Many Redwood Chapter Groups need Outings Chairs. This volunteer position is working with leaders, coordinating with the Chapter Outings Chair, training leaders, keeping records, encouraging new leaders and community outreach. There is Outings Chair training available. Contact Carol 546-6308 or carolvrs@sonic.net for information.

Work with the Sonoma Group Water Committee! NOTICE: The Water Committee is now meeting at 5:00 PM on the first Mondays of most months in conjunction with the Conservation and Energy Committee meetings. The Water Committee develops and promotes measures to conserve, save, and reuse our water resources. Our goal is to preserve and improve the natural water environment, by promoting the responsible use of water and the safe reuse or disposal of our wastewaters. Help protect the quality of our water for people, wildlife, fish and other aquatic life. Check for our meeting dates in the *Redwood Needles*. To get on our Water Committee e-mail list, e-mail Len Holt at lholt@sonic.net. If you are not able to attend our meetings, you may e-mail Len Holt with your concerns and ideas. There will not be a meeting in December.

Get CHARGED by attending the Climate & Energy Committee. Join us on the 1st of the month at 5:00-5:30 p.m. at the Environmental Center in Santa Rosa, learn about what is going on in our community to fight climate change through renewable energy programs. Contact Chair Shirley Johnson-Foell: Email: Shirlgirl707@Yahoo.com, home 206-1138, or call office 544-7651.



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Come to Polar Bear Cottage. The back country and Silver Lake are right outside your front door where you can play in the snow, cross-country ski or snowshoe.

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With your help we can protect the wolf

Wolves are vitally important to maintaining nature's balance, culling out weak and sick animals to keep populations of elk and deer healthy and in check. The Sierra Club is working to defend wolf populations from continued threats from politicians.

Lead the pack & JOIN Sierra Club.

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Signature _____

Membership Categories	Individual	Joint
Special Offer	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 15	N/A
Standard	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 39	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 49
Supporting	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 75	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 100
Contributing	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 150	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 175
Life	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 1000	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 1250
Senior	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 25	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 35
Student	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 25	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 35
Limited Income	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 25	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 35



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Enclose a check and mail to:
Sierra Club, PO Box 421041
Palm Coast, FL 32142-1041
or visit our website: www.sierraclub.org

Lake Group Report

Return of the Zombie Project

As many Lake Group members will recall, back in 2010 the county approved a massive residential/golf course/resort development just outside the Community Growth Boundaries northwest of Lakeport. Called “Cristallago,” this project was notable for flawed environmental review and General Plan conflicts so severe that the Sierra Club brought suit, culminating in a mutually agreeable settlement. Economic upheaval and a series of bankruptcies and foreclosures followed, and it was generally assumed that the project was dead—not the first on this particular site to have met that fate.

But it turns out that Cristallago’s obituary may have been premature. The original developers are now trying to resurrect it, eliminating the golf course and substituting a 300-acre vineyard and accompanying winery. Obviously, despite a certain eerie resemblance to Cristallago the First, this is a different project with different impacts that were not addressed in the previous Environmental Impact Report.

Lake Group submitted formal comments in October, recommending that the county require a new EIR, and pointing out altered impacts to air quality, hydrology, sensitive species and agriculture (among others). Since large-scale commercial agriculture is now being proposed on a site that has been zoned and designated for residential and resort use, land use and planning will also be affected.

Do please stay tuned!

Watching Out for Walmart

After several years of on-again off-again applications to expand their Clearlake store alternating with murky proposals to move to Lakeport, Walmart finally seems to have decided to move ahead with expansion plans that would add about 39,000 square feet of additional retail space, with a full-service grocery and hard liquor sales. Although segments of an Environmental Impact Report have already been prepared, the city has wisely decided to restart environmental review from the beginning. A formal scoping period ended in mid-October, and YES, the Sierra Club submitted a letter. A draft EIR is expected some time next spring.

A Film Screening and a Party

In more cheerful news, as the *Redwood Needles* was going to press Lake Group was about to hold our final general membership meeting of 2015, on November 18 in Lower Lake. We’re really excited to be able to feature a repeat screening of the award-winning documentary “A Walk Through Time, the Story of Anderson Marsh,” with archeologist Dr. John Parker, Koi Nation Chair Dino Beltran, and representatives of the Anderson Marsh Interpretive Association on hand to talk about the Marsh, the native people who have lived there for thousands of years, and the events leading to its protection as a State Park. Next on the agenda: our annual holiday potluck party, coming up on December 11.

—VICTORIA BRANDON,
LAKE GROUP CONSERVATION CHAIR

North Group Report

Essential reading: What is really going on with western wildfires and how can humans adapt?

There’s a new book out that westerners who value wildlife and wildlands will want to read. *The Ecological Importance of Mixed-Severity Fires: Nature’s Phoenix* marshals science from around the West and globe to challenge what one of the authors calls the **fire suppression paradigm**. Heavily promoted by the Forest Service and firefighting establishment, the **fire suppression paradigm** holds that fire suppression has been effective across the American West, therefore, we can not allow



This large landslide is within a firefighter-ignited burnout in the Trinity Alps Wilderness. The natural wildfire never got here but the burnout’s landslide delivered a large amount of sediment to New River, one of our best remaining salmon streams.

fires to burn naturally in any forests or brushlands and must aggressively “manage” vegetation, including “thinning” public forests to protect them from unnaturally intense and destructive fires.

The *fire suppression paradigm* makes sense

on its face and many westerners, the vast majority of media and some environmental groups have bought it completely. But, as *Nature’s Phoenix* points out in detail, science does not support the *paradigm*. In fact, the preponderance of relevant studies find that western fires are not getting larger or more intense; mixed-severity fire, including occasional large areas of high intensity fire, are not only natural but an essential western habitat. Most vegetation in the West evolved with fire and certain plants and animals require intense burns or a diverse fire mosaic that includes all burn intensities.

In Northwest California some locals have long known that large fires do not conform to Forest Service one-size-fits-all simplifications. Since 1987, activists with the Klamath Forest Alliance have walked and studied most large fires that burned in the region. Time and again KFA activists documented the ineffectiveness of fire suppression in backcountry as well as the unnecessary watershed damage firefighting often causes. KFA’s fire reports, the latest of which are available on the organization’s web page. (<http://www.klamathforestalliance.org/>) document the waste and folly of attempting to control large fires in rugged western landscapes, particularly in

backcountry.

While most of *Nature’s Phoenix* focuses on science, editors Dominick DellaSala and Chad Hanson do not hesitate to highlight the policy implications the science suggests. The book’s final section makes the case against post-fire logging and suggests that astronomically escalating fire suppression costs can be substantially reduced by improved community protection coupled with *ecological fire use*, that is, allowing natural wildfires to burn when communities and essential infrastructure are not threatened.

Those who want to learn about the “ecological and biodiversity benefits” of everything from megafires to low-intensity underburns, and from chaparral fires to fires in old forests will want to read *The Ecological Importance of Mixed-Severity Fires: Nature’s Phoenix*. Along the way you will get analysis of the social and political dimensions of western wildfires as well.

—FELICE PACE,
NORTH GROUP EXCOM MEMBER, NG WATER
CHAIR, REDWOOD CHAPTER GRAZING CHAIR

Napa Group Report

Climate Change

The Napa group expects to be intensely involved with the Napa County Climate Action Plan, and with climate issues in general. On Nov 5th, Chris Benz and Linda Brown led a climate-change lobbying workshop for about 40 interested citizens. We are so pleased that locals taking action on this, the worst environmental crisis in human history.

Reverie Winery: A Small Victory for Rule of Law

In a partial reversal of a Planning Commission (PC) decision, the Napa County Board of Supervisors voted to increase Reverie Winery’s annual total of allowed visitors to only 5,640 people, where the PC had voted to allow 10,200 visitors. You may recall that this winery had committed multiple violations of its use permit, including exceeding visitation and production quotas, allowing visitors into a cave permitted for production only, and

dumping spoils from construction near a creek.

George Calyoniddis, the private citizen who had filed the self-financed appeal, was unhappy with this result. He would have liked to see the winery forced back to the terms of its use permit for three years.

This small victory came about as the result of intensive public pressure, in a revolt against a prevailing county policy of “forgive and forget” for the dozens (hundreds?) of wineries which annually abuse the terms of their permits.

Thanks to all who submitted comments or attended the hearing! We must keep the pressure on if we are to turn the tide against unregulated, illegal and unpunished overdevelopment of Napa County!

Whatever Happened to... the Walt Ranch?

Walt Ranch is the proposal to establish a 300+ acre vineyard on Atlas Peak, resulting in the destruction of over 28,000 trees, mainly oaks. This huge project raised many environmental concerns, including

habitat, ground water, greenhouse gas generation, and so forth.

Last fall, the Sierra Club along with several interested community groups mounted a vigorous challenge to the Walt Ranch proposal by disputing the adequacy of the draft Environmental Impact Report. A response to our comments was expected last summer.

The County Planning Department now informs us not to expect a response before next spring. We are cautiously optimistic that the reason for this unusual delay, is that collectively we raised so many valid concerns regarding the draft EIR that the developer is having difficulty crafting an adequate response. This could spell problems for the proposed project. Required studies and mitigation measures might be a bigger expense than he had anticipated.

Stay tuned, and thanks to all who contributed money, expertise, and time to this important effort to protect our precious Napa wildlands!

—NANCY TAMARISK, NAPA GROUP CHAIR

Classified Ads

LIVE CHRISTMAS TREES— Get your live, potted Doug Fir or Coast Redwood holiday tree at the M&M Ranch, 880 Austin Creek Road, Cazadero. Open 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. from Nov. 28 to Dec. 24. We are just one mile north of Highway 116 between Monte Rio and Jenner. (707) 632-5602. Enjoy your tree, then plant it, or return it!

Solano Group Annual Scholarship Award



The past six years of my life have been marked by movement. I have been around the world and experienced many different life adventures from playing trumpet in China to conducting seismic research in the glacial valleys of British Columbia. The most memorable and fulfilling times have always been attached to outdoor experiences; backpacking from rim to rim in the Grand Canyon, sleeping in the Mesquite Flat sand dunes of Death Valley, exploring the ancient Permian Reef in the Guadalupe Mountains, and many others.

Yearning for a profession in the geosciences, I landed in California a little over a year ago when my husband won an audition to work as a musician for the USAF band. Due to scholastic policy at UC Davis and Sacramento State, my only option as a nontraditional student is to petition to apply as an engineering student at UC Davis, where I hope to double major in geology. Solano Community College has thankfully allowed me to begin

lower division coursework. I see it as an opportunity to attain a degree that will mix my passion for earth science with a degree that will make me a diversified and productive citizen. Geotechnical engineers are responsible for managing the earth and how we interact with it; upon completion of my degree, I will be a viable candidate to design bridge bases, highways, earthquake damage prevention systems, as well as to conduct studies on geo-environmental problems while hopefully helping to develop solutions.

I am excited to apply all of my ambition and skill to becoming a professional engineer and geologist. I hope this scholarship opportunity will help set me apart from the average student, while also easing financial burden and reducing student debt, so I can be an ever more informed scientist and hopeful professional.

—ERIN (CARRICK) NEBEL

Mendocino Group Report

The EIR for the Mendocino Coast Transfer Station (CCTS FEIR) has been withdrawn indefinitely. Officially there has been no reason given. Mendocino Group knows that the California Department of Parks and Recreation has withdrawn its participation in the land swap. With that change in the conditions and elements new “enabling legislation” will have to be written and passed by the California legislature. At the meeting in July to unveil the FEIR before a joint meeting of the Mendocino Board of Supervisors and the Fort Bragg City Council, Mike Sweeney, Executive Director of Mendocino Solid Waste Authority (MSWA), reported that eleventh hour letters from CA Dept. of Fish and Wildlife and CA Dept. of Parks and Recreation necessitated a postponement. At which point the members of the Board of Supes and the City Council, to an individual, excoriated local activists and those who worked “behind the scenes” to manipulate agency members to write these last minute letters. Unsaid was the fact that the Agencies had commented many, many

times and their remarks were ignored. The acreage proposed to be swapped by Parks containing second growth redwood which is Marbled Murrelet habitat, was not discussed. It is under the protection of Parks and would be available to be logged if it passes into the purview of Jackson Demonstration State Forest (JDSF). A unique area known as Mushroom Corners that has been visited by scholars and investigators and mushroom enthusiasts for decades is part of the proposed swap from Parks to JDSF. These areas were not referenced in the EIR. Fish and Wildlife pointed out the mis-categorization of the Pygmy site; that “the Pygmy Forest or Mendocino Pygmy Cypress Woodlands (MPCW) is recognized as a Sensitive Natural Community with global and State conservation rankings of G2 and S2 respectively”. Fish and Wildlife said, among other things, there was an inadequate analysis of feasible Project alternatives that would substantially reduce or eliminate most of the significant environmental impacts of the Project.

Sonoma Group Report

Take a Bus to the November 21st climate rally in Oakland!

The December climate talks in Paris are crucial for stopping climate change. Bay Area environmental groups are rallying at a big event in Oakland to urge effective action in Paris. Take a bus to the march from downtown Santa Rosa or SSU. For more details see <http://www.norcalclimatemob.net/busses>.

December 2 Holiday Networking Party

Meet old friends and new - the Sierra Club Sonoma Group and Sonoma County Conservation Council will be having a joint Holiday Party on:

Wednesday, December 2 from 5:00-8:00pm,

**food, wine, music and hot cider
Sebastopol Grange, 6000
Sebastopol Ave., on Hwy 12,
just east of Sebastopol**

\$25 suggested donation includes dinner and one drink, volunteers needed for more info: Wendy Krupnick, wlk@sonic.net, 544-4582

THIS is the Year to put Solar Panels on Your House

There is still a 30% federal tax credit for solar panels, but it's due to expire next year. Solar panels are the cheapest they have ever been and the consequences of adding more CO2 to the atmosphere are becoming depressingly clear. Act now!



Keep the SMART Train Station at Corona Road

SMART staff are considering moving the location of the proposed north-east Petaluma train station from Corona Road near Hwy 101 to a site near McDowell and Old Redwood Hwy. This change would move the station from a centrally located residential area to an industrial site at the north edge of Petaluma, next to a community separator and the commuter traffic snarl of Penngrove.

Our concerns are that this will create development pressure in the rural area between Petaluma and Penngrove and into the community separator to the east, as well as adding to serious traffic problems. The Petaluma City Council is in favor of keeping the station at Corona Road. Please email the chair of the SMART board, Judy Arnold, at jarnold@marincounty.org and ask that any change of the station site require a full environmental review (EIR).

Next Sonoma Group Meetings

Location: Environmental Center, 55A Ridgway in Santa Rosa

December 7: Conservation issues from 5:00 to 6:30pm, Executive Committee meeting from 6:30 to 8:00pm.

January 4, 2016: Conservation issues from 5:00 to 6:30pm, Executive Committee meeting from 6:30 to 8:00pm.

—SUZANNE DOYLE,
SONOMA GROUP VICE CHAIR

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.



Meetings

Send all Meeting events by the 8th of the month to Carl Inglin: chinglin@sonic.net Sierra Club meetings are open to all members. You are welcome to participate or observe as often as you wish. Meetings are located in Sonoma County unless otherwise noted. Visitors should call the committee chair to verify time and place. The Sonoma County Environmental Center is located at 55A 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).

Thurs. Dec. 3 - 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. Dec. 7 - Sonoma Group.

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

Water Committee - No December meeting. Contact Len Holt: 707-527-7516 or lholt@sonic.net

Climate & Energy Committee at 5:30 p.m, Contact Shirley, shirlgirl707@yahoo.com, 707-206-1138.

Conservation Committee at 6:00 p.m. Info: Suzanne Doyle carsort@gmail.com

Sonoma Group ExCom at 6:30 p.m. Info: SuzanneDoylecarsort@gmail.com

Tues. Dec. 8 - North Group.

The public is invited to attend the monthly meeting of our governing committee. Join us for a discussion of local conservation issues between 7:45 and 8:45 p.m., following the ExCom business meeting from 6:45-7:45 p.m. Meet at Adorni Center Conference Room on Eureka Waterfront. For more info, call Gregg at 707-826-3740.

Mon. Jan. 4 - Sonoma Group.

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

Water Committee meets 5:00-5:30 p.m. Contact Len Holt: 707-527-7516 or lholt@sonic.net

Climate & Energy Committee at 5:30 p.m, Contact Shirley, shirlgirl707@yahoo.com, 707-206-1138.

Conservation Committee at 6:00 p.m. Info: Suzanne Doyle carsort@gmail.com

Sonoma Group Executive Committee at 6:30 p.m. Info:

carsort@gmail.com

Tues. Jan. 12 - North Group ExCom.

The public is invited to attend the monthly meeting of our governing committee. Join us for a discussion of local conservation issues between 7:45 and 8:45 p.m., following the ExCom business meeting from 6:45-7:45 p.m. Meet at Adorni Center Conference Room on Eureka Waterfront. For more info, call Gregg at 707-826-3740.

Sat., Jan. 16 - Redwood Chapter ExCom. And ConsCom.

Location: Best Western in Willits. Conservation Committee meets at 10 a.m., ExCom meets 1-3 p.m. Info: Victoria.vbrandon@lakelive.info

Tues. Jan. 19 - Napa Group ExCom.

7 p.m. Our location varies; it is generally at a member's home. Anyone wishing to attend the meeting should contact the chair, Nancy Tamarisk at nancy@aya.yale.edu

Thurs. Jan. 21 - 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. Feb. 1 - Sonoma Group.

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

Water Committee meets 5:00-5:30 p.m. Contact Len Holt: 707-527-7516 or lholt@sonic.net

Climate & Energy Committee at 5:30 p.m, Contact Shirley, shirlgirl707@yahoo.com, 707-206-1138.

Conservation Committee at 6:00 p.m. Info: Suzanne Doyle carsort@gmail.com

Sonoma Group ExCom at 6:30 p.m. Info: SuzanneDoylecarsort@gmail.com

Coming Clean - November 6, 2015

The Pipeline Stops Here

The Keystone XL tar sands pipeline was supposed to reach from Canada clear to the Gulf of Mexico. Today, it ended in the Oval Office.

President Obama's decision to deny a permit for the pipeline is a tremendous victory for the millions of people who for years have been raising their voices, organizing their communities, and demonstrating in the streets to stop this polluting project that would have signaled "full-speed ahead" for tar sands oil. In 2008, when alarms were first raised about Keystone XL, we were up against incredible odds. Every expert on energy policy believed that approval of the full route to the Gulf was a done deal, and with good reason. Big energy projects like Keystone XL had almost never been rejected - and certainly not on the basis of climate disruption.

What set Keystone XL apart, though, was how it dramatized the disconnect between reducing carbon emissions and opening up vast new sources of fossil fuels. And in the case of tar sands, we are talking about a source that is not only enormous but also carbon intense. The UN's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change has made it clear: For us to have at least a 50 percent chance of limiting global temperature rise to a survivable level, fossil fuel corporations must leave three-quarters of their known reserves in the ground.

Faced with the sudden realization that the fight to save our climate could be lost on the tar sands fields of Alberta, a seemingly quixotic opposition movement began to spread the message that we could instead say "no" to dirty fuels like tar sands and "yes" to clean energy alternatives. It was a message the ultimately reached all the way to the White House.

But although President Obama took decisive action today, the real heroes are the ordinary people who refused to give in, give up, or give way. They came together from an incredible array of backgrounds and communities - united by a determination not to let Big Oil have its way. From climate activists marching in the streets of Manhattan to farmers, ranchers, and Tribal leaders in Nebraska who stood up for their land and water, this was a broad, deep and powerful coalition. And in that sense, it's a vital model for the greater clean energy and climate-action movement that can move our country - and the world - from the dirty fossil fuels of the past to a 100 percent clean energy future.

But let's not forget the man who got the people's message. For Barack Obama, this was a principled decision in the tradition of our greatest presidents. By saying "no" to Keystone XL, he has established an Obama Climate Test: All energy projects are not created equal, and it can never be in the best interests of the United States - nor any nation - to steal from our children's future for the sake of reckless profits today. As the President said today, approving this project would have undercut American leadership on climate, and that's not something we can afford. The President noted that we will have to leave some fossil fuels in the ground, unburned, if we hope to protect the future of our planet. That message needs to resound here at home, around the world, and wherever politicians run the risk of settling for what seems expedient versus what is truly right. When the world gathers in Paris later this year for the next big round of climate talks, we can take real pride in the climate leadership the United States has shown under President Obama.

So let's thank the president for doing what is right for both America and the planet. But let's also remember that this will surely not be the final test of his resolve, as the fossil fuel industry uses all its enormous financial resources to maintain its grip on our society. President Obama has proven that he knows how to make the right decision. Our job is to help him keep doing it.

From the blog of Executive Director Michael Brune - <http://www.sierraclub.org/michael-brune>

Environmental Center Benefit www.envirocentersoco.org
Presented by Sonoma County Conservation Council and the Sierra Club, Sonoma Group

Holiday Networking Party!

For Environmental and Social Justice Groups

Enjoy food, wine, music and hot cider! Mingle with your friends and local movers and shakers!

Wednesday, December 2, 2015, 5-8pm

At the Sebastopol Grange

6000 Sebastopol Ave., on Hwy. 12, just east of Sebastopol

Suggested Donation: \$25 includes dinner and one drink!!

Open to the public - family and friends welcome! RSVPs requested but not required.

<p>Advance Purchase http://www.envirocentersoco.org</p> <p>Checks To SCCC, PO Box 4346, Santa Rosa, CA 95402</p> <p>Volunteers Needed Dec 2: Set-up & clean up food & drink servers</p> <p>For More Info Wendy Krupnick, wlk@sonic.net 544-4582</p>	<p>Make This Your Group's Holiday Party!</p> <p>Sonoma County Conservation Council</p> <p>The SCCC is the federation of non-profits that operates the Environmental Center in Santa Rosa. The Council supports the work of member organizations, serves as an information and referral service, and provides connectivity for adhoc collaborations.</p>
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Thanks to our sponsor - Sebastopol Grange!