

Redwood Needles



Explore, enjoy and protect the planet

Volume 58 Number 1

Newsletter of the Redwood Chapter of the Sierra Club

February/March 2017

Sierra Club Opposes Vallejo's Proposed Cement Plant

By PETER BROOKS,

SIERRA CLUB AND FRESH AIR VALLEJO

Hello from South Vallejo, where residents don't want a cement factory just 450 yards from their elementary school. Just after Labor Day 2015, the City of Vallejo posted a Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) on a proposal to build a shipping terminal and cement grinding facility on the banks of the Napa River.

A newly formed company called Vallejo Marine Terminal plans to build a private, deep-water marine terminal, to bring raw materials to a "green cement" factory run by an Irish company called Orcem (Ecochem in Ireland). VMT/Orcem wants to import slag—an industrial waste product from steel mills in Asia—to be blended with gypsum, limestone and coal-ash to make a product Orcem calls "green cement." These materials would be stored in open-air piles on the waterfront.

The project, adding to the "Bay Area Refinery Corridor," which already contributes considerable pollution in the surrounding area goes against California's promise to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and would greatly harm air quality, increase truck traffic, and posing an immediate threat to students at Grace Patterson Elementary School and residents living and working nearby. Even health sciences students at nearby Touro University voiced opposition to the project writing in an op-ed: "These projects carry heavy public health risks that would outweigh their economic benefit to the City of Vallejo."

Sierra Club supports local opposition led by Fresh Air Vallejo, which has helped delay the project. The public demanded and received three public meetings on the proposal. (Initially, the City had planned just a single public meeting.) Nearly 500 residents submitted questions and comments on the DEIR. Many responses came from postcards that Fresh Air

Vallejo handed out at the weekly farmers market.

It has been more than a year since the DEIR became public, and the Vallejo Planning Commission will vote in February or March on the Final Environmental Impact Report.

Here are the biggest problems with the proposed project:

- The DEIR states that residents of South Vallejo can expect 544 truck trips per day on a single residential street.
- Combined, Orcem/VMT will emit nearly 70 tons of nitrogen oxides and "fugitive dust" from its facility each year.
- Ships unloading raw materials will idle their engines for six days at a time; VMT will not supply shore power.
- VMT now promises it won't handle coal or petroleum coke but the initial DEIR left that option open for discussion.
- Trains, running on tracks unused for more than a decade, will simultaneously block multiple intersections throughout the city.

Environmental justice is also a concern. South Vallejo, the city's poorest neighborhood, suffers from twice the state average for asthma. As compensation for loss of public access to the waterfront, Orcem/VMT have offered the residents of South Vallejo a kayak ramp at a marina about two miles away.

Many in Vallejo do not believe Orcem's "green" claims. Orcem says recycling slag from steel mills replaces some of the more-polluting aspects of cement. But opponents are quick to point out that bringing raw materials by ship all the way from Asia, plus the tons of fugitive dust and exhaust from trucks, trains, ships and Orcem's three-story cement grinder would quickly eliminate any green benefits Orcem can claim.

By the time Orcem's product gets to market, the "green" will be gone.

Litigation Looming for Napa's Walt Ranch Project

By NANCY TAMARISK, NAPA GROUP CHAIR

In what could be a landmark case uniting the fights against deforestation and climate change, the Sierra Club has joined the Center for Biological Diversity to file a lawsuit challenging Napa County's approval of the Walt Ranch project. Two other local organizations, the Living River Council and the Circle Oaks Water District are also filing separate lawsuits.

This fight extends Redwood Chapter's long tradition of forest and woodland protection, which has included victories in the Headwaters redwood forest preservation, the Bohemian Grove timber harvest plan, and the proposed Preservation Ranch and Artesa clear cuts.

The challenge to Walt Ranch, a vineyard project proposed for the eastern Napa hills, has galvanized community opposition beyond any development in recent local history.

Located at the top of Atlas Peak, the project plan originally called for clear-cutting over 28,000 trees in a 400+ acre total area. The land straddles the headwaters of two creeks: Milliken and Capell. Milliken hosts spawning steelhead, and also feeds Milliken Reservoir, a Napa City water source. The Capell ground waters supply the needs of Circle Oaks, a small community adjacent to Walt. The

wild lands harbor several 'species of concern', and is a critical wildlife corridor spanning the north-south range of hills which form the eastern rim of Napa Valley.



Over 3000 pages of public comment were submitted in response to the 2014 Walt Ranch draft environmental impact report (EIR), highlighting a wide range of issues, including habitat loss, groundwater depletion, pollution of creeks by sediment and fertilizers, unsafe road access, ground instability, greenhouse gas impacts and noise and air pollution.

Sierra Club and Living Rivers Council were two early local challengers, joined by the renowned statewide advocacy group, Center for Biological Diversity. Community concerns spurred the creation of two new watchdog groups: the Defenders of the East Napa Watersheds, centered in Circle Oaks, and Vision 2050, which has become a prominent challenger to development projects up and down the County. Hundreds of people contributed to the effort in ways ranging from donating money, analyzing technical documents, to community canvassing, to turning out for demonstrations. At least a dozen experts in various environmental fields were hired or contributed pro bono to the EIR challenges.

Thanks to our unremitting pressure over two years, we wrested significant concessions from the developers. The vineyard size is down to 160 acres, about half the original proposal. Trees to be felled are down from 28,000 to 14,000. Groundwater use has been capped. Construction vehicles are banned from Circle Oaks Drive, an unstable roadway overlying sewer lines. More protections are in place for threatened Circle Oaks and City water supplies, though these are still inadequate.

However, the failure to achieve concessions on greenhouse gas impacts and special species protections, among other issues, prompted an

We Want to Hear from You!

Redwood Chapter has put out a member survey to find out what environmental issues are most important to you and how best to get everyone more engaged and involved in our local and regional work.

Please take a moment to take the online survey. It will only take about 5 minutes to complete. We value your input.

Go online to: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/WXMFGJR>

The survey will be open until Feb. 15. Thank you for your time!

— REDWOOD CHAPTER LEADERSHIP

What You Can Do:

• **Attend the Planning Commission hearing when it is announced. Public testimony will be allowed, and it is critical to show overwhelming opposition to this project.**

• **Check our website: www.sierraclub.org/redwood/solano, which will be updated as soon the date of the Planning Commission meeting is announced where the vote on this issue will take place.**

• **Write letters to the editor, post on social media, speak to your neighbors and local leaders about the issue.**

"Walt Ranch Litigation" cont. on page 3

Sierra Club Members Talk to Elected Leaders about Local Environmental Issues

Following the Nov. 8 election, members from Solano Group, Sonoma Group and Lake Group interviewed a few successful local Sierra Club endorsed candidates to get a sense of where they stood on issues important to the Chapter and how to work together.

Redwood Chapter Chair Victoria Brandon and Sonoma Group member Rue Furch sat down with state Assemblymember Jim Wood in his Santa Rosa office where they discussed water issues, the challenges of the cannabis industry, and ways to stand up to a hostile new administration in Washington.

"We're going to have to do everything we can to protect the progress we've made in California," he said.

On the freshly legalized marijuana issue, Wood, who represents the counties in the "Emerald Triangle," said there has been a lot of protection and conservation work that has been undone by farming operations.

"If you're going to grow, cultivate cannabis, we want to be sure you're doing it in a sustainable, responsible way that's not damaging the environment," he said.

Sonoma Group member Steve Birdleough met with new Santa Rosa City Councilmember Jack Tibbetts at the Environmental Center to discuss local issues, including affordable housing, conservation and storm water management and transportation options and traffic.

"Santa Rosa is a leader among our sister cities...but there's a lot more I think we can do," he said.

Talking about storm runoff and the amount of oil that drips from vehicles and ends up in local waterways, he said he has been looking into methods to filter the runoff so that oil doesn't

end up in the ocean.

"I have tremendous respect for the ocean. I think it's the lifeblood of our planet," he said.

Solano Group members Joe Feller and Doug Darling interviewed Bob Sampayan, who won the Vallejo mayoral race. Sampayan, a former police officer, served on the City Council since 2011.

In response to the national election, Sampayan said he wants to keep it local. "As mayor, I am going to emphasize that climate change is real, that the drought is real, that environmental issues are real and we need to focus on that, that we need to work on these issues locally."

Sampayan discussed water in relationship to the drought as one of his environmental priorities. "We need to look at the use of reclaimed water. We need to be able to manage our water effectively," he said.

Sea level rise and urban forest management are also sensitive issues relating to climate change that will need to be addressed.

"I want to make sure we are environmentally sensitive to all that is going on around us," he said. "I'm relying on the Sierra Club to put these issues into focus for us," he said.

The full videotaped interviews of Wood, Tibbetts and Sampayan are either on the Chapter's website now or will be soon: <http://www.sierraclub.org/redwood>.

—SHOSHANA HEBSHI,

REDWOOD CHAPTER COMMUNICATIONS COORDINATOR

"Walt Ranch Litigation"

continued from page 1

appeal of the final EIR to the Board of Supervisors. When that was rejected, litigation remained our only option for continuing the fight.

The Greenhouse Gas Connection

Each litigating party will focus on particular areas of concern. The core issue of Sierra Club's litigation is the loss of carbon sequestration from the 160 acres of woodland to be destroyed. Worldwide, deforestation is the second strongest driver of global warming. The Sierra Club is charging that, contrary to California law, the EIR fails to account or mitigate for the greenhouse gas impacts of the deforestation.

Center for Biological Diversity is focusing mainly on sensitive species issues; the Circle Oaks Water District is seeking groundwater protections, while Living Rivers Council is attacking creek sediment and dewatering of Milliken Creek.

The Walt Ranch EIR mitigates for loss of trees by the establishment of conservation easements on other parts of Walt Ranch. However, the Sierra Club maintains that, neither logically nor legally, does preserving one tree while cutting down another mitigate for the carbon storage lost by the destroyed tree. In addition, the Walt developers maintain that they do not have to account for the impacts of tree disposal, whether by burning or chipping.

Win or lose, vineyard developers have been put on notice: Attempts to clear cut Napa woodlands will meet fierce opposition, resulting in huge costs and project delays. Many will decide there are easier ways to make money.

And if we prevail, our legacy could be a powerful legal tool for the protection of forests and woodlands across the entire state.

Marching for Justice and Equality

Thousands rallied and marched in Santa Rosa on January 21st, joining millions around the country and the world to speak out against the Trump administration's agenda to roll back the advances of recent decades. Sonoma County Stands Together for Women, a sister to the the Washington Women's March, brought hope and an outlet for the angst created by Trump's election. The Redwood Chapter region also witnessed demonstrations in Napa, Sonoma, Eureka, Fort Bragg and Ukiah. Sierra Club was a sponsor of the march in Washington D.C., and encouraged members to support gender equity. The Santa Rosa crowd was inspired by several local speakers including former Congresswoman Lynn Woolsey; 2nd District Congressman Jared Huffman; Santa Rosa City Council Member Julie Combs; Ann Gray Byrd, President of the Santa Rosa/Sonoma County NAACP and Alicia Sanchez, longtime Latino activist, lawyer, labor organizer, and board member of KBBF.

Although the movement's focus is on protecting women's rights as human rights, the implications are broad. The movement calls for "justice and equity for all" including environmental justice, non-discrimination, and the protection of immigrants, civil rights, and diverse communities including LGBTQIA and the disabled.

As soon as Trump took office, he removed every mention of Climate Change from the White House website. His energy plan commits to eliminating the Climate Action Plan and other environmental policies, and plans to further open up federal lands to untapped shale, oil and natural gas reserves. Are you seeking a way to combat the new administration's plans to attack the environment? Contact a Sierra Club leader in your area - see the directory on page 2 for a list of names and phone numbers. Add your voice to the chorus demanding protection of our land, water and air.

—MARY DAVISON, REDWOOD NEEDLES EDITOR



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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 City _____ State _____ Zip _____
 Phone _____
 Email _____

Check enclosed. Please make payable to Sierra Club
 Please charge my: Visa Mastercard AMEX
 Cardholder Name _____
 Card Number _____ Exp. Date ____/____/____
 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

Contributions, gifts & dues to Sierra Club are tax-deductible. They support our efforts to protect local wilderness and habitat. Thank you for your support. For more information, visit www.sierraclub.org.



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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



Rallying in Santa Rosa on Saturday, January 21st for justice and equality.

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 ★ every night ☆

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Outings

Fri., Feb. 10 - Mojave National Preserve Restoration Event.

Join the California/Nevada Desert Committee and The National Park Service for a restoration project in the Mojave National Preserve (MNP) on February 10, one day before the Desert Committee meeting on Saturday and Sunday. We will gather on Friday at 9 am, work through the afternoon, and adjourn in time to reach Shoshone for the dinner hour. Our primary task will be to remove "culturally planted species" (tamarisk, fan palm, sunflowers) along Zzyzx Road and at the Desert Studies Center. Bring water, sun screen, a hat, gloves, and lunch. Tools will be provided. Contact Sid Silliman for project details, directions, camping options, and to RSVP (gssilliman@cpp.edu). Don't miss this annual, pre-Shoshone service opportunity. The work will be rigorous yet rewarding.

Sun. Feb. 12 - North Group. Ma-le'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 water and lunch. Carpools by prior arrangement, or BLM trailhead off SR 255 and Young Lane at 9 a.m. Heavy rain cancels. Class: E-5-A. Leader Ned, nedforsyth48@gmail.com 825-3652.

Sun. Feb. 19 - Mendo Group. Cow Mountain Recreation Area Valley View Trail Hike.

Join members of the Mendocino Native Plant Society to see the first

blooms of spring in the chaparral of Cow Mountain and also experience the gushing splendor of a waterfall in a fern canyon. We will first hike up the ridge, lunch, and then enter the canyon. Wear sturdy shoes, bring water, lunch, & dress in layers. Class: M-7-B. Meet 10 am at trail head across from Mill Creek Park. By reservation only. Leader Yvonne Kramer, 463-0342, kramer@saber.net. Rain cancels.

Wed. Feb. 22 - North Group. Former Coastal Drive Hike, Redwood National Park.

Walk old roadway closed to vehicles since 2011, hugging bluffs overlooking rugged coast. Maintained road resumes in 3 miles, near High Bluffs Overlook. Optional side trip north to disguised WWII radar station. Return same route. Dress for coastal exposure. Bring lunch, water. No dogs. Class: M-6-A. Carpools: Meet: 9am Rays Valley West, 10:30 am trailhead (Coastal Drive south closure gate.) Leader Melinda 707-668-4275 mgroomster@gmail.com

Fri.-Mon. Feb. 24-27 - Death Valley National Park. Camping & Hiking.

This will be a car-camp tour of Death Valley with some primitive camping and some easy to moderate hikes. We will meet Friday at noon at primitive campsite near Shoshone. We will hike in Amargosa Canyon in afternoon. Sat. we will start on tour of Death Valley, stopping at Badwater, Natural Bridge and Golden Canyon and camping at Furnace Creek. Sunday we will tour on with stops along the way and camping at a campground in north

part of park. On Monday morning, we will hike the Mesquite Sand Dunes before heading home. To sign up and get more details contact Carol Wiley at earthlingwiley2000@yahoo.com or 760-245-8734. Mojave Group/CNRCC Desert Committee

Sun. Mar. 5 - North Group. Trinidad State Beach Hike.

Let's explore Trinidad's coastline, from Elk Head to Trinidad Head and Indian Beach. Woods, cliffs, beaches, pounding surf. Visitor services. Bring water and lunch, or plan to get a meal in town. No dogs. Class E-4-A. Heavy rain cancels. Carpools: Meet 9 a.m. Valley West (Ray's) Shopping Center, or 9:30 a.m. at State Beach parking area off Stagecoach Road and Main Street. Leader Ned, nedforsyth48@gmail.com 825-3652.

Fri.-Mon. Mar. 10-13 - Mojave Preserve. Camping & Hiking.

On Friday, we will meet at Sunrise Campground at noon and then hike Teutonia Peak (4 miles rd. trip). Saturday we will move on to Midhills campground and hike in the area. Sunday we will visit the Kelso Depot and continue to the Kelso dunes for primitive camping where we will enjoy a moonlight hike on the dunes. Sunday we will enjoy a hike before heading home. There are no services in the Preserve, so you will need to show up with a full tank of gas and food and water for the entire trip. Temperatures can vary greatly so bring clothing for both warm and cold weather. To sign up and get more information contact Carol Wiley at earthlingwiley2000@yahoo.com or 760-245-8734. Mojave Group/CNRCC Desert Committee

Sat. Mar. 18 - North Group. Skunk Cabbage Trail, Redwood National Park.

Join us for this favorite spring hike!

The trail follows Skunk Cabbage Creek, passing stands of freshly-blooming namesake plant and a dainty sprinkle of others, to a high coastal overlook, then winds northward and descends gradually to the beach. Bring water, lunch. Wear layers, hiking footwear. No dogs. Class: M-8-A Carpools: Meet 9 am Rays Valley West, 10 am trailhead. Leader Melinda 707-668-4275 mgroomster@gmail.com

Fri.-Sun. Mar. 24-26 - Desert BLM Monument Work Party. Service & Camping.

Our series of trips to CA desert wilderness with Needles BLM staff continues. CA/NV Wilderness Committee joins with Mojave Group for special celebration and service venture in newly designated Mojave Trails National Monument-- Afton Canyon area. Central commissary, fee. Exact car-camp site still a mystery--contact Vicky at vicky.hoover@sierraclub.org or 415-977-5527 for project news and to sign up. Mojave Group/CNRCC Wilderness Committee

Fri.-Mon. Mar. 24-27 - Sacatar Wilderness Trail Improvement. Service & Camping.

Join the Ridgecrest BLM and help improve this historic trail in the eastern Sierra. The first project will be improving the trailhead area by delineating parking areas and trailhead with rocks. The other project will be hiking the trail and recording the places where it needs work. We will camp at Fossil Campground (pit toilets, picnic tables and available water). Contact leader for questions or to sign up: Kate Allen, kj.allen96@gmail.com or 661-944-4056. CNRCC Desert Committee

Wed. Mar. 29-Sun. Apr. 2 - Mojave National Preserve Spring Weekend. Camping & Hiking.

Enjoy the California desert when

temperatures are cooler and wild flowers may be blooming. We will visit some of the well known features of the park like the Hole-in-the-Wall, Kelso Dunes, Joshua Tree forests, and Lava Tube. We are staying in a group campground (\$20 per person) which includes vault toilets, trash receptacles, potable water, fire ring, grill, picnic shelter with tables. We have the campsite from 2pm Wednesday until noon on Sunday. Wednesday is a free day. Arrive anytime and explore the park on your own. Maximum hiking distance is 8 miles with 1500' elevation gain. Deposit required to confirm participation. Limited to 20 people. Net proceeds will support the Sierra Club Desert Report. Email or call leader for reservation information. Leader: Rich Juricich, rich.sierraclub@pacbell.net, 916-492-2181.

Sat. April 1 - Lake Group. Six Sigma Ranch hike.

We will hike the historic old stagecoach route from Lower Lake to Knoxville, following the ranch road through Six Sigma ranch heading east toward Morgan Valley road. We will stop by the Ranch tasting room on the way, so bring along cash or credit card if so inclined. Much of the hike will follow Asbill Creek and canyon to the confluence with Soda Creek. We will return aboard the ranch's Pinzgauer, a vintage European military 6X6, making the hike approximately 6 miles one way. This limits the number of hikers to 10 people. Class E-6-A. Meet 8:30 am Lower Lake Coffee Company, Main St. Lower Lake. By reservation only. Leader Tom McFarling (707) 994-5490. Rain cancels.



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.

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

Fast-pace with few or no stops: Carol Magill

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

Moderate-pace with more frequent stops: Tom McFarling Melinda Groom Val Nordeman Carol Vellutini Yvonne Kramer Brian Collett Nanette DeDonato Jonah Freedman Steve Devoto Ned Forsyth Tim Bartice

Slower-pace: Allison Bronkall Carl Inglin

Support the Environment and Help Children!

Become a Laguna de Santa Rosa Docent

Training Starts March 13, 2017... Apply Today!

Laguna Environmental Center, 900 Sanford Road, Santa Rosa, CA 95401

Laguna Docents volunteer to teach the Learning Laguna program to 2nd-4th grade students in the classroom and during field trips to the Laguna de Santa Rosa, a Wetland of International Importance right here in Sonoma County! Being a docent is a fun and enriching way to make new friends while supporting the environment and our community. The training includes presentations, hands-on practice with the Learning Laguna classroom and field activities, plus field trips to Laguna sites. Experts in biology, natural history, cultural history and environmental education train volunteers in 10 lively classes beginning March 13, 2017. Classes are on Mondays from 10:00 am - 3:00 pm. Orientations take place on Thursday, February 16 & Monday, February 27. For more information and an application, go to: www.lagunafoundation.org/volunteer_docent.html

Island Hopping in Channel Islands National Park.....2017

April 2-4 May 7-9 June 11-13 July 16-18
August 20-22 September 24-26 October 22-24

Join us for a 3-day, 3-island, live-aboard cruise to California's Channel Islands!

Hike wild, windswept trails bordered with blazing wildflowers. Kayak rugged coastlines. Snorkle in pristine waters teeming with colorful fish. Swim with frolicking seals and sea lions. Look for unusual sea and land birds. Watch for the highly endangered island fox. Or....just relax at sea! All cruises depart from Santa Barbara. The cost, \$650, includes an assigned bunk, all meals, snacks and beverages plus the services of a naturalist-



document assigned by the national park to help lead hikes, point out items of interest and give evening program. For more information contact leader: Joan Jones Holtz; 626-443-0706; jholtzhl@aol.com. To make a reservation send a \$100 check, written to Sierra Club, to leader, 11826 The Wye St., El Monte, CA 91732.

Volunteer Opportunity in Yosemite National Park

The Yosemite Conservation History Center (formerly known as LeConte Memorial Lodge) is a National Historic Landmark building that represents the rich heritage of the Sierra Club in Yosemite Valley. The building houses several interpretive displays, a children's nature corner, a wonderful library, art projects and evening programs.

Since 1904 a curator and Sierra Club volunteers have provided information to park visitors. Today the program welcomes over 15,000 visitors to the Sierra Club's spiritual

home in Yosemite Valley and volunteers are needed now as the building reopens for its 113th season on Wednesday, May 3, 2017.

Volunteers spend a week in the park assisting the club's curator Bonnie Gisel, PhD. by interacting with park visitors and carrying on the Sierra Club tradition of helping others appreciate and protect our natural environment. Volunteers get free park admission and camping in a group campsite during their service week.

Potential volunteers must:

- Be outgoing and comfortable interacting with park visitors
- Have visited Yosemite within the last two years and have current park knowledge
- Be familiar with current Sierra Club programs and initiatives
- Be able to stand for up to 3 hours per day
- Tent camp only
- Bring their food and supplies
- Not bring children, pets or guests

To become a volunteer for the 2017 season, please contact Bonnie Gisel at 209-347-7300.



From the *Redwood Needles* Archive: Half Dome, Yosemite, from Tanaya Canyon by Clark Nattkemper

Sierra Club Volunteer/Activist Opportunities

Napa Group Treasurer: This is an opportunity to serve the Sierra Club without too heavy an investment in time, and without leaving home. No meetings to attend! Our accounts are kept on QuickBooks, and we have only a few transactions each month. The treasurer does need to become familiar with C3 vs C4 forms. If you might be interested, contact me at nancy@aya.yale.edu

Outing Chairs and Leaders: All groups need more outing leaders. Redwood Chapter also is missing Group Outing Chairs for Mendocino, Napa, North, Solano and Sonoma. Qualifications are explained Training offered. Our program is only strong when we have all positions filled. Please help out. Info Carol 546-6308 or carolvsr@sonic.net

Climate Action- Be part of change: Join us for Climate Action 2020 review and recommendation. We meet 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 reducing greenhouse gases. Contact Chair Shirley Johnson-Foell: Email: Shirlgirl707@Yahoo.com, home 206-1138, or call office 544-7651.

Outings Chair Report

As I started to write this report the rain and wind started. First we had a cold front, then the Pineapple Express and now back to cold. The wind gusts, some up to 60 miles per hour, took down many trees. White-out conditions in the Sierra closed the highways. Clair Tappaan was closed due to a power outage. Floods happened in many counties. People needed to be evacuated. Mudslides were the norm. Today as I am back to writing, the wind has stopped, fog lifting but still cloudy, sun trying to come out and people cleaning up their property. The Sierra is beautiful with new snow and most roads open. The avalanche danger has become unlikely as the snowpack has consolidated and gained strength since the storm. Unstable snow could still exist on isolated terrain features. The Bradley hut outing is taking place and I hope they do not have any problems. Our leaders are experienced, qualified and know how to keep the group safe. Jan. 16th weather should be better than when they went in.

I am happy to report that leader Brian Collett returned from Kuwait. I am hoping he will continue to lead outings to Mare Island this year. Phil Kohlmetz had a bad 2016 but he tells me he is ready to lead again. Phil applied to the Sierra Club's snow division for some advanced winter training. Phil is interested in leading outings to Mare Island, Carquinez Straits Regional Park, Los Posadas State Forest and some near Lake Berryessa. Tim Bartice is looking forward to leading hikes again this year with the Lake Group.

Leaders retiring from leading are Doug Condrotte, Pete McGee, Isabelle Saint-Guilly and Nick Caston. I was honored to be on Pete's last outing that took place after the fires in Lake County. Val Nordeman is staying in the loop but is taking a break from leading backpack outings. Brenda Chatman and Tiffany Hoang are not continuing their training at this time.

Thanks to Gina Hitchcock for sending out Outings leader update registrations while I was away.

Climate change is real and is affecting the way we predict storms. Our leaders have a challenge as trails have been affected by fire, wind, and floods. We all look forward to a great wildflower bloom (hopefully) this spring. See you on the trail.

—CAROL VELLUTINI, REDWOOD CHAPTER OUTINGS CHAIR

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Sonoma Group Report

Group Executive Committee Elections

Teri Shore has taken over as the Group Chair, and three ExCom members: Theresa Ryan, Shirley Johnson-Foell and Richard Sachen, were re-elected. We still have one vacancy to fill: if any members are interested, come to the next ExCom meeting February 6 and check it out.

County Recycling Programs

Felicia Smith, from the Sonoma County Waste Management Agency, will give a presentation on the current state of recycling in the County at 6:15 at the next Excom Meeting, Feb 6, at the Environmental Center. Economic turmoil in global recycling markets, problems with our local trash hauler, and loss of the composting facility at the Central Landfill make these interesting times.

Climate & Energy Committee

The current focus of the Climate committee is to thoroughly digest and understand the County's new Climate Action Plan (<http://rcpa.ca.gov/projects/climate-action-2020/>) and its Environmental Impact Report and to encourage cities to adopt the Plan and implement it. There are plenty of greenhouse gas reduction actions that can be taken on every level of government and no reason to wait!

Transportation

The DeTurk Winery Village development near Railroad Square in Santa Rosa is a crucial opportunity for using transit-oriented development design. We need affordable housing and denser development in city centers.

The County transportation tax, passed as Measure M in 2004 (Expenditure Plan: http://www.sctainfo.org/pdf/sonoma_co_expenditure_plan_2004_final.pdf), is likely to be on the ballot for renewal in 2018. The last Plan was heavy on money for roads and light on money to support non-auto transportation. Measure M funding is a crucial tool for long-term reduction of the County's transportation greenhouse gas emissions.

Anyone interested in transportation issues is invited to attend the Sonoma County Land Use and Transportation Coalition meetings. SCTLC meetings are usually at 4:00pm at the Environmental Center on the first Wednesday of every month. Check the Center calendar for time and place: <http://www.envirocentersoco.org/calendar.htm>.

Sonoma Group website: <http://www.sierraclub.org/redwood/sonoma>.

—SUZANNE DOYLE, SONOMA GROUP CONSERVATION CHAIR

Lake Group Report

Middletown Dollar General: the Beat Goes On

As was previously reported in the Redwood Needles, the proposal by Cross Development to construct a Dollar General outlet on the outskirts of Middletown bounced back and forth between the Planning Commission and the Board of Supervisors last year. First the Commission rejected it on grounds of inconsistency with the General Plan and Middletown Area Plan (a position the Sierra Club believes to be correct), then the BOS supported the developers' appeal and granted a Use Permit while returning the application to the PC for "design and environmental review."

When the Commission met in August members of the public led by Lake Group chair Ed Robey urged them to reject the project a second time, but since the "environmental" portion of their review had not been appropriately noticed no decision was possible. Instead local residents were asked to work with the developer to come up with a design that meets local needs—with the question remaining whether visual modifications can ever satisfy the fundamental discrepancy between the business, the building, and the will of the community as expressed in the Middletown Area Plan.

When the follow up meeting took place in December noticing requirements were (again) unmet, so the Commission was precluded from adopting a Mitigated Negative Declaration as recommended by Community Development Department

staff.

Another hearing on "whether to approve, conditionally approve, or deny the Major Use Permit . . . and Design Review" has been scheduled for January 26. By that time new three new Planning Commissioners will probably have been seated, with the necessity of coming up to speed on the complex issues surrounding this project. Further delays seem likely.

To complicate matters further, the Commission's decision is virtually certain to be appealed to the BOS, which has two newly-elected members. Stay tuned.

Middle Creek Update

Lake Group's first community meeting of the New Year will feature a presentation by retired Ecology Professor Dr. Harry Lyons on the biology, economics, and politics of the Middle Creek Marsh Wetland Restoration Project. This multi-agency effort at flood damage reduction and ecosystem restoration would eliminate dwellings on low ground, add 1400 acres of wetland to the Clear Lake watershed and reduce nutrient input to the lake: it is generally considered the single most important measure available to restore the long term health of the lake's ecosystem. It would also require an investment of over \$50 million by the county, state, and federal governments, and along with cooperation among a dozen agencies and support from a score of stakeholder organizations, so is far from a done-deal.

—VICTORIA BRANDON, LAKE GROUP CONSERVATION CHAIR

Napa Group Report

Walt Ranch – It's not Over!

Sierra Club will be taking the County of Napa to court over the Walt Ranch project. (See article on front page.) Litigation is the tool of last resort, after years of employing more "polite" ways— comments on Environmental Impact Reports, stakeholders meetings— to influence county policy on woodland destruction.

In Napa, as in other California counties, community pressure is amping up over the ever-increasing impacts of the burgeoning wine industry. In Napa's case, the insatiable demand for new vineyard acreage has led increasingly to developing vineyards in the hills and treating the agricultural preserve as an entertainment venue.

Other Hot Issues.

In 2017 we expect to be working hard to influence the County Climate Action Plan. This plan will determine Napa's

approach to reducing carbon emissions through 2050. We are fortunate to have an ally in the energetic local group Napa Climate Action NOW.

The Napa River faces another potential threat in the proposed Orcem cement plant in Vallejo. The debris from the slag used to manufacture the cement could contaminate the outlet of the Napa River, affecting the health of Napa's native salmon and steelhead, which travel between the river and the ocean. Napans have put huge efforts into restoring salmonid habitat in the river. We can't let downstream pollution negate our progress. (For more information, see front page article.)

Welcome Annette!

We are thrilled to welcome Annette Krammer to the Napa Executive Committee. Annette has been a vital contributor to Defenders of the East Napa Watershed in their challenges to the Walt Ranch project, especially through her talents as a graphic designer. She has been a volunteer for the Land Trust, and served on the board of other Napa non-profits.

—NANCY TAMARISK, NAPA GROUP CHAIR

Mendocino Group Report

Our two major efforts this fall have been the siting of the new Central Coast Transfer Station and the logging of the Albion Forest by Mendocino Redwood Company.

We opposed the proposed site of the transfer station because it would entail bulldozing 5 acres of the unique Pygmy Forest habitat, which is supposedly protected by the CA Dept. of Fish & Wildlife. However, the City of Fort Bragg and the County of Mendocino really, really wanted to get this particular site for free through a land exchange with State Parks. After a long drawn-out EIR which had to be rewritten twice to attempt to satisfy the requirements, the Dept of Fish & Wildlife still opposed the plan, as did State Parks and the Sierra Club. The City & County decided to certify the EIR anyway and wait to see if we would sue them. We tried to raise the money, but fell far short of the \$200,000 estimate for a CEQA suit in this day-and-age. So the transfer station will likely proceed.

The very large (758 acres) Timber Harvest Plan scheduled for logging by Mendocino Redwood Company has been opposed by the Sierra Club group, and an individual resident next to the property has come forward with a lawsuit to challenge it. We are very grateful for this effort, which we could not support by ourselves. The lawsuit is going through the courts, and the Sierra Club has engaged attorney and long-time forestry activist Sharon Duggan to prepare an Amicus Brief to the Appellate

Court outlining our objections to the plan, which would cut 2/3 of the trees in Redwood Gulch, surrounded by the rural residents of Albion and Little River.

Other members worked on the campaigns for Move to Amend and registering voters.

At this time, we must make a plea for more members to become involved with the workings of the Sierra Club at the group level. It is so important that local people watch for challenges to the environment and voice concerns early in planning of developments. Our ExCom is filled with people who have been active for 10, 20, 30 years, but are aging now. We simply don't have the energy to continue keeping the Mendocino Group active without new people. We need at least a couple of people from the coast and a couple from inland to join the ExCom and make comments on new development, follow the Planning Commission and Board of Supervisors, and follow through on efforts for protecting the environment. We meet every two months, with the next meeting on February 9, 2017 at 4 pm. Without new colleagues, we may have to let the Mendocino Group go dark. Please talk to your friends and try to find time to contribute to this effort.

—MARY WALSH, MENDOCINO GROUP CHAIR, 937-0572

LINDA PERKINS,

MENDOCINO GROUP CONSERVATION CHAIR, 937-0903

RIXANNE WEHREN, MENDOCINO GROUP COASTAL CHAIR, 937-2709

Redwood Chapter and Group Election Results

Redwood Chapter	Napa Group
Rue Furch	Annette Krammer
Tom Roth	Bill Dyer
Sonoma Group	Nancy Tamarisk
Shirley Johnson-Foell	Solano Group
Richard Sachen Jr.	Jane Bogner
Theresa Ryan	Doug Darling
Lake Group	Stephanie Garcia
Ed Robey	North Group
Carolyn Ruttan	Richard Kreis
Cheri Kessner	Mendocino Group
	No Candidates Ran

Solano Breeze Corner

Covering Benicia, Fairfield, Rio Vista, Suisun,
Vacaville and Vallejo
sierraclubsolanogroup@gmail.com 707-319-6398

Vallejo celebrates Earth Day on April 15

Call your recycling coordinator for events in your city.

Solano Group Meetings

Join Solano Group meetings on the first Monday of each month. Our next dates are: February 5, March 6, April 3, 2017. Also looking for hiking leaders and event planners.

Call Jane at 707-319-6398

VALCORE Recycling and Paper Shredding updates:

Solano Group helps out with paper shredding every 3rd Saturday at 38 Sheridan Street, Vallejo, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. There is a charge of \$10 (CASH or CHECK ONLY) per twenty pounds 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. Helping once a year is all we ask. Volunteers get FREE shredding!

Orcem- A Problem For Vallejo

The plan by Orcem and Vallejo Marine Terminal to build a shipping terminal and cement grinding facility on the banks of the Napa River to create "green" cement is environmentally unsound and opposed by Sierra Club. For details, see the article on page one of this Redwood Needles.

CONTRIBUTER: JANE BOGNER, EDITOR: GREG PETERSON

North Group Report

We Shall Never Surrender

Due to the Trump administration it is expected that we will face unprecedented challenges to our fundamental freedoms and rights both as a nation and as individuals. This both angers and saddens me deeply.

Equally disturbing is the clear and present danger this administration and Congress pose to the air we breathe, the water we drink, the land we love, and the planet we all share. At such a similar dark moment when on June 4, 1940 Great Britain was surrounded by enemies and all hope seemed lost Sir Winston Churchill said in part:

"... when we see the originality of malice, the ingenuity of aggression, which our enemy displays, we may certainly prepare ourselves for every kind of novel stratagem and every kind of brutal and treacherous maneuver ... we shall not flag or fail. We shall go on to the end, we shall fight in France, we shall fight on the seas and oceans, we shall fight with growing confidence and growing strength in the air, we shall defend our Island, whatever the cost may be, we shall fight on the beaches, we shall fight on the landing grounds, we shall fight in the fields and in the streets, we shall fight in the hills; we shall never surrender ..."

Against seemingly impossible odds, the British won that fight and so shall we win ours. That was then, this is now. The Sierra Club has been winning environmental battles since 1892, the North Group Sierra Club since 1964. The Sierra Club never has and never will back

down when it comes to the environment. Neither should you, and we want your help.

Here are just some of our plans for 2017:

1. We are fortunate that we have an outstanding Congressional representative and environmental champion in Jared Huffman. We intend to work closely with him and his staff to protect the environment.

2. We will work closely with your North Coast Environmental Center and the many outstanding environmental groups here in Humboldt to leverage our strength.

3. We will initiate regular letter writing get-togethers. Personal handwritten letters are the most effective way to influence lawmakers. This will provide you with a simple and effective way to make a difference (everything matters!), and meet like-minded others.

4. We will increase our presence on social media to make it easier for you stay current with what we are up to.

5. We plan to increase greatly the number of regular presentations by experts so that you can learn more to do more. Besides, learning is fun!

6. You will be seeing a lot more of us at local events like Godwit Days and the North County Fair.

The time is now and the moment is upon us. I look forward to meeting you!

—GREGG GOLD, NORTH GROUP CHAIR

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

Volunteer Days Riverkeeper Stewardship Park in Guerneville.

Every Wed 9am - 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.

Docent Volunteer Opportunity:

Attend a training series to become a Jepson Prairie docent. A series of trainings on Tues. evenings in Davis and Sat. mornings at Jepson Prairie throughout the month of Feb. and into early March will be offered. The exact dates will be posted at solanolandtrust.org as soon as they are available. Trainees will learn about vernal pools and the aquatic invertebrate and flowering plants that depend on them. Graduates of the training will be part of the docent team that offers tours of Jepson Prairie each year from mid-March to early May. No experience necessary. Perfect attendance is not required. RSVP to Kate by Tues. Feb. 7.

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

Laguna Stewardship Days: Once a month on a Saturday from 9am - noon (Feb 11, Mar 11, Apr 8)

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

Redwood Chapter Chair to Lead National Political Team

Earlier this month Redwood Chapter Chair Victoria Brandon was appointed to succeed North Carolina activist Ken Brame as volunteer Co-Lead of the Sierra Club Political Team. National Political Director Khalid Pitts is the other Co-Lead. As currently constituted, the SCPT consists of eleven volunteer activists from all over the country, who work closely with political and compliance staff to advance a mission that includes election of environmentally supportive candidates, raising public awareness about environmental issues, encouraging Club members to participate in the political process, building relationships with elected officials, and strengthening the Club's political capacity at all levels of government. Besides oversight of the Club's political program in general, the committee is specifically tasked with approving Chapter-initiated endorsements for Congressional and Senatorial candidates and initiating Presidential endorsements for confirmation by the Board of Directors.

Brandon has served as Redwood Chapter Political Chair since 2006, and as Chapter Chair since 2014; she is also co-chair of the California Political Committee.

"I'm honored and humbled to have the opportunity to lead such a strong team of committed activists in these very challenging times. While doing all we can to resist the destructive actions that can be expected from the incoming administration, we also have to seize every opportunity to make positive gains whenever an opportunity presents itself. Working together, I have every expectation that we can do exactly that."



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.

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Join Marine Action Team to Protect Our Oceans

As Chair for the Sierra Club's national issue Marine Action Team (MAT), I am reaching out to coastal area Chapters and Groups to broaden our understanding of marine and coastal concerns in Northern California, encouraging dialogue about how we might proceed in gaining ground on the various issues. Additionally, to facilitate an increased effectiveness, I invite you to join* MAT to expand the marine and coastal conversations within the Sierra Club.

We essentially operate under four different layers: Fisheries Management; Marine & Coastal Ecosystem Conservation; Marine Protected Areas; and Marine Wildlife & Habitat. We have added a few specialized areas, including Beach Nourishment Issues, the Southeast Florida Sierra Marine and Water Quality Team, and the Guam Action Team.

There is little need to tell you that the Trump administration will not be looking out for the wellbeing of our oceans, so it's up to all of us.

Our membership is growing as ocean health, fisheries, and sea level rise have increasingly become headline issues, and as people become aware of MAT—the ocean arm of the Club.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Aloha and mahalo / thank you,

Doug Fetterly (Honolulu)

Sierra Club National Marine Action Team Chair

FETT4PAZ@gmail.com 808-627-5722

To Join MAT:

1. As a Sierra Club member, go to: <https://content.sierraclub.org/grassrootsnetwork/>
 2. Click on Register now (or if you are already a Grassroots Network member, log in and skip step 3.)
 3. Fill in the registration form and click "Create New Account" at the bottom of the page
 4. Under "Find A Team" on the left side of the page, type "Marine Action Team" into the window provided and press Search.
 5. When the list of teams comes up in the body of the page, find Marine Action Team and click "Join Now"
- Done.

Redwood Needles
Sierra Club
 Redwood Chapter
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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).**

Mon. Feb. 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.

Mon. Feb. 6 - Sonoma Group.

Conservation Committee 5:30 pm-6:30 pm. Info: Suzanne Doyle carsort@gmail.com

Sonoma Group Executive Committee at 6:30 p.m. Info: Suzanne Doyle carsort@gmail.com

Tues. Feb. 14 - 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. Mar. 6 - Sonoma Group.

Conservation Committee at 5:30

pm - 6:30 p.m. Info: Suzanne Doyle carsort@gmail.com

Sonoma Group Executive Committee at 6:30 p.m. Info: Suzanne Doyle carsort@gmail.com

Sat., Mar. 11 - Redwood Chapter ExCom. And ConsCom.

Location: Willits Super-8 Conference Center on Main Street. Conservation Committee meets at 10 a.m., ExCom meets 1-3 p.m. Info: Victoria vbrandon@laketlive.info

Mon. Mar. 13 - 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. Mar. 14 - 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.

Thurs. Mar. 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.

Tues. Mar. 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, Nancy Tamarisk at napaquail@gmail.com

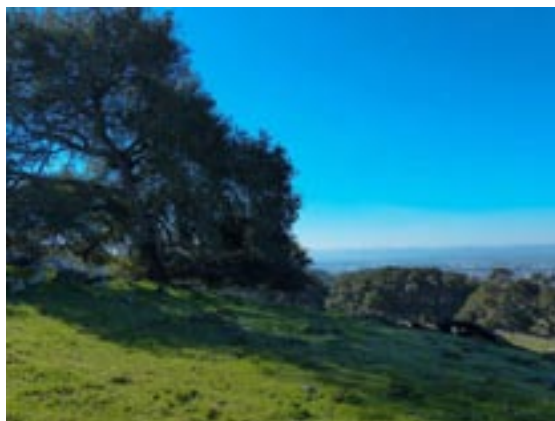
Mon. Apr. 3 - Solano Group ExCom.

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.

Taylor Mountain Receives Trail Grant



Just as the Redwood Needles was going to press the Chapter was delighted to learn that Sonoma County has received a \$1.7 million federal grant to build eight miles of new trails at Taylor Mountain Regional Park and Open Space Preserve in Santa Rosa. The project, one of the largest trails projects in county history, will open the northeast section of the 1,100 acre park to public access.



Work will start in the spring, according to county parks director Caryl Hart, and will include new trailheads on Kawana Terrace, Linwood Avenue and Panorama Drive to make access easier for nearby residents.

"Taylor Mountain is one of the greatest gems we have," said Sonoma County Supervisor Shirlee Zane, whose district includes the park. "It's in the backyard of the southeast Santa Rosa section of the city that is absolutely in need of parks and open spaces."

The county applied for the \$1.7 million grant for the trail work through the Federal Highway Administration's Recreational Trails Program in September 2015. Approval was contingent upon an \$80,000 local match by the Sonoma County Regional Parks Foundation, which Redwood Chapter was proud to support with a \$2000 donation early in 2016 and sponsorship of a volunteer work day in October.

Now we're looking forward to hiking on some of those great new trails!

—VICTORIA BRANDON, REDWOOD CHAPTER CHAIR

Redwood Needles

April 2017 Deadline: Due March 8th

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

odavison@sonic.net

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

Send Meetings to Carl Inglin: chinglin@sonic.net