

# Redwood Needles



SIERRA CLUB

Explore, enjoy and protect the planet

Volume 58 Number 3

Newsletter of the Redwood Chapter of the Sierra Club

June/July 2017



## Berryessa Snow Mountain National Monument on Trump's Hit List

BY VICTORIA BRANDON,  
REDWOOD CHAPTER CHAIR

The Trump administration's hostility to environmental protection is no secret, and there have been rumblings about its intention to weaken public lands safeguards since well before the inauguration. Therefore the recent Executive Order instructing the Interior Department to "review" a number of monument designations came as no great surprise, though the sweeping nature of the reevaluation— including the Antiquities Act itself— and the large number of monuments potentially under threat was even worse than expected. When the dust settled, 22 terrestrial monuments and five marine reserves were on the hit list, with six in California, including the 330,000-acre Berryessa Snow Mountain national monument, most of which is here in Redwood Chapter.

Sad to say, the disingenuous nature of the decree was also something we've learned to expect

from this president, whose alternative realities seldom seem to require even a rudimentary foundation of truth. His characterization of monument designation as a "massive federal land grab" conveniently ignores the fundamental fact that all the land involved belongs to the federal government before, during and after, and the accusation that monuments are created without consulting surrounding communities is equally untruthful. These actions are also typically Trumpian in being the antithesis of good government. It's hard to imagine a worse impediment to effective public service than uncertainty about agency mandates, especially coupled with the diversion of scarce resources towards this distracting and destructive "review" —from an administration that proposes slashing budgets for essential services of all sorts in the name of economy.

Although the Antiquities Act gives a president authority to create a monument,

there is no legislative authority for a successor to reverse a designation, and no previous president has ever attempted to take such a step. Our national monuments preserve natural, cultural and historic public lands throughout the United States, recognizing that some places are too special to be at risk from exploitation for mining, logging, and energy development. Berryessa

Snow Mountain's extraordinary biodiversity, outstanding recreational potential and rich Native American cultural heritage made it ideally suited for designation, as evidenced by the very broad public support for monument status demonstrated throughout the region.

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## Sea Level Rise and Transportation

BY STEVE BIRDLEBOUGH,  
REDWOOD CHAPTER TRANSPORTATION CHAIR

Rising sea levels combined with king tides and rainstorms last winter to flood a busy highway that skirts the northern margins of San Pablo Bay. For 25 days during January and February, 2017 traffic at the west end of Highway 37 had to be rerouted, while CalTrans spent millions of dollars to rebuild levees and raise parts of the roadway.

Two highways (Routes 37 & 12/116/121) and a railroad connect people and businesses in Marin and Sonoma counties with those to the East. These routes cross wetlands and farmlands

between US-101 and I-80 that provide habitat for wildlife and visual splendor for visitors. The environmental challenges here foretell the future for other parts of the Bay Area. The road traverses parts of three counties, and there is no public transportation between Novato and Vallejo.

In 2016, a private company (United Bridge Partners— UBP) formally proposed to acquire the 9-mile highway right-of-way between Sears Point and Mare Island, and build a toll causeway that would provide elevated traffic lanes. The Solano Transportation Authority recently authorized itself to become a lead agency for

"Sea Level Rise & Transportation" cont. on page 3

## Sierra Club Endorses Rent Control Measure in Santa Rosa

BY STEVE BIRDLEBOUGH, SONOMA GROUP

In response to the extremely low vacancy rate for rental housing, the Sierra Club recently endorsed Measure C, the Santa Rosa rent control ordinance which is before voters in the June 6 election. Environmental advocates see the measure as a way to stabilize the cost of housing near transit routes, and avoid longer commutes in single occupant vehicles.

The Santa Rosa City Council adopted a "rent control lite" ordinance in 2016 as one element of its response to a severe shortage of affordable housing. The measure will affect some 17,000 apartment and duplex units in the City, and would remain in effect at least until the vacancy rate reaches 5%. Organizations representing realtors and apartment owners gathered sufficient signatures to require the June referendum.

The present 1% vacancy rate has essentially destroyed the market for rental housing. The proponents foresee added benefits to neighborhoods and residents when people remain in their apartments for longer than a year or so. Crime decreases, teachers get to know their students better, and people are exposed to less stress.

The Environmental Justice Policy of the Sierra Club recognizes the importance of attaining social justice and protecting human rights. <http://www.sierraclub.org/policy/environmental-justice> The Sierra Club has a record of supporting affordable housing throughout the Bay Area. When people can afford to live near where they work — particularly in transit-rich, walkable urban areas — there is an aggregate reduction of sprawl and greenhouse gas emissions.

[www.sierraclub.org/san-francisco-bay/environmental-justice](http://www.sierraclub.org/san-francisco-bay/environmental-justice)

## Continuing to Fight Back Against Vallejo Cement Plant

For months now Solano Group has been among the leaders of a group of Vallejo residents opposing a proposed cement plant and marine port in South Vallejo that would devastate a disadvantaged neighborhood and impair Mare Island Strait, the Napa River, and potentially all of northern San Francisco Bay. The project was rejected by the city's planning commission in March, but an appeal by developers will be heard by the City Council in two hearings: May 30 and June 1 at Vallejo City Hall, 555 Santa Clara St.

Doors open for the May 30 hearing at 4 p.m. — an awkward time for many working residents who would like to attend and speak out. Project opponents are therefore looking for individuals who don't intend to speak themselves, but who are willing to stand in line starting at 1 p.m. as a "placeholder" for a Fresh

"Vallejo Cement Plant Fight" cont. on page 3

## Sonoma Group Presents Water & Power: A California Heist

Saturday, June 3, beginning at 6 p.m.

Environmental Center, 55A Ridgway Ave., Santa Rosa

Join us for a social hour before this screening of the acclaimed documentary examining the relationship between agriculture, water brokers and politics in California. The event is free, but a \$10 donation is suggested. Includes food and drink. Following the film, water issues expert Rue Furch will lead a discussion about groundwater and local water issues.

Space is limited. RSVP online at

[www.eventbrite.com/e/movie-night-and-social-tickets-34225941713?aff=es2](http://www.eventbrite.com/e/movie-night-and-social-tickets-34225941713?aff=es2)

or email [shoshana.hebshi@sierraclub.org](mailto:shoshana.hebshi@sierraclub.org)

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

# Redwood Chapter Sierra Club Directory

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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.

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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](http://www.redwood.sierraclub.org) and add: /napa, /north, /sonoma, /lake, /mendocino, or /solano

Redwood Chapter Facebook: [www.facebook.com/SierraClubRedwoodChapter/](http://www.facebook.com/SierraClubRedwoodChapter/)

## Redwood Needles

## August 2017 Deadline: Due July 8th

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

[odavison@sonic.net](mailto:odavison@sonic.net)

Send Outings to Carol Vellutini via email: [carolvrs@sonic.net](mailto:carolvrs@sonic.net)

Send Meetings to Carl Inglin: [chinglin@sonic.net](mailto:chinglin@sonic.net)

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\$6.00 per year.  
Requests:RedwoodNeedlesSubscriptions,

P.O. Box 466, Santa Rosa, CA 95402

The *Redwood Needles* is published six times a year on recycled paper using soy-based ink.

Circulation: 4,800

An additional 4000 newsletters are distributed electronically

Printing: Healdsburg Printing, Inc.

Submit articles by deadline via e-mail

mail or fax to:

*Redwood Needles*

e-mail: [odavison@sonic.net](mailto:odavison@sonic.net)

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### Redwood Needles Deadlines

Issue Deadline

Aug./Sept. July 4

Oct./Nov. Sept. 8

Dec./ Jan. Nov 4



# “Sea Level Rise & Transportation”

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the project east of Sears Point.

In a joint letter to the State Route 37 Policy Committee formed by Marin, Sonoma, Napa and Solano counties to review the UBP proposal, the Redwood and San Francisco Bay chapters of the Sierra Club have recommended that efforts be made to keep the entire corridor in public hands.

The letter also urges that any project should:

1) Maintain tidal flows into and out of the marshes along the Corridor by placing the road on bridges or causeways that permit water and wildlife to move freely. Sound attenuating measures should be used to reduce the noise impacts of elevating traffic. Roads and trails that afford access to the wetlands should be preserved and prudently extended.

2) Recognize that a focus on moving people rather than automobiles is the most effective and economical way to deal with traffic congestion. Develop travel options such as van, bus, ferry or rail services in addition to single-occupant vehicles. It has been observed that creation of a new roadway lane usually attracts new drivers, so that

without adequate traffic management, the intensity of traffic returns quickly to its previous congestion, with additional greenhouse gas emissions.

3) Recognize that it could take several years to obtain needed permits and construct a causeway. In the intervening years, manage existing traffic by giving preference to car pools, and provide bus, and van services to reduce delays.

It has been observed that the environmental approval process for this project could be complex. However, by building on studies already performed for earlier projects, and by addressing environmental issues early, the complexity may be reduced.

Sierra Club members can remind the Chairs of the Policy Committee (David Rabbitt David.Rabbitt@sonoma-county.org) and the Solano Transportation Authority (Jim Sperring JPSperring@solanocounty.com) about the importance of public access to wetlands and other natural habitat, as well as needs to minimize traffic noise and offset increased greenhouse gas emissions.

# “BSM on Trump’s Hit List”

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In the words of Congressman Mike Thompson, “the monument is now a vital and thriving part of our region’s identity. I am fully confident that any good faith review will reaffirm the merits of Berryessa Snow Mountain and confirm our community’s support for its designation as a national monument. Overturning its designation would be grossly out of step with the will of the public.”

Although Berryessa Snow Mountain is probably unlikely to be chosen as a test case, vigilance is still necessary, not only for the continued existence of this monument, but for them all. Bears Ears in Utah is probably most at risk: situated on more than 1 million acres of land that’s sacred to Native Americans and home to tens of thousands of archaeological sites, it was designated by President Obama over the objections of the fossil fuel industry and local developers. “Once it’s designated, it’s designated,” said Davis Filfred of the Navajo Nation. “This is sacred land.”

Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke has been charged with making a recommendation on Bears Ears next month, and issuing a final report by the end of August.

In the meantime, resistance is being mobilized: on May 12 the Interior Department opened a 60-day public comment on monument designations. Let’s tell them to maintain protections for Berryessa Snow Mountain and the rest of these special places. Comments may be submitted online <http://www.regulations.gov> by Searching for “DOI-2017-0002,” or by mail to Monument Review, MS-1530, U.S. Department of the Interior, 1849 C Street NW, Washington, DC 20240.

## Sierra Club Volunteer/Activist Opportunities Highlights: Transportation for Redwood Chapter

### Chapter Transportation Committee Members

We are looking for people who use public and/or paratransit transportation systems in their communities and around the North Bay.

Ideally, members will represent all geographic areas within the Chapter’s boundaries and provide a network to report to the Chapter on transit service quality, efficiency and cost.

### Responsibilities Include:

- Keeping notes on transit experiences to share with

the group and writing a short summary of conditions each month.

- Keeping track of volunteer shuttle services and local car-share arrangements.
- Representing the Sierra Club at local government meetings that address transportation issues.
- Working with other groups as a Sierra Club liaison to address transportation issues and improvements within communities.

Estimated time commitment: 4 hours a month.

Contact: vbrandon@lakelive.info

## “Vallejo Cement Plant Fight”

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Air Vallejo member who can’t be there until later. Please help us get good representation in the meeting and keep Building Trades supporters of this ill-conceived project from packing the hall.

Contact Solano Group Chair Joe Feller for more information about how you can help: [joe56feller@gmail.com](mailto:joe56feller@gmail.com)

# Earth Day Around the Redwood Chapter



North Group ExCom member Richard Kreis at Godwit Days in Arcata



Sonoma Group Members marching for science



Napa Group display



Chapter Chair Victoria Brandon at Woodland Community College Earth Day Celebration



Lake Group Chair Ed Robey at Habemotel Upper Lake Pomo EarthFest





# Outings

## Fri.-Sun. June 2-4 - Bright Star Wilderness Service Trip.

Bright Star is located in the eastern Sierra, south of Hwy 178. For this trip we will be rebuilding a fence that was burned in the Erskine Fire in 2016. The fence was built to stop off-road vehicle trespass into the wilderness area. This project will be the beginning of a fence line that will extend across

the corridor route to help protect this vulnerable burned area. Camping will be primitive; you will need to bring all the food & water you need for the weekend. Kate Allen, kj.allen96@gmail.com, 661-944-4056

## Sun. June 4 - Lake Group. Redbud Trail to Cache Creek Hike.

Start in a meadow, wind up a ridge,

enjoy oak woodlands and the last blooming wildflowers as we reach Cache Creek, then we'll double back the same route. Bring snack, water & hiking boots. Class: M-5-A. Carpools: Meet 9:00 am Lower Lake Coffee Company, Lower Lake, or 9:45 at trailhead. By reservation only. Leader Julie Kreis 707-671-5947 or 707-987-9040. tikaljak@yahoo.com rain cancels.

## Sat. June 10 - North Group. Del Norte Redwoods St. Park Last Chance Coastal Trail Hike.

Join us for this easygoing ramble through lush old-growth upon a stretch of Redwood Highway replaced in the 1930's by the present 101 route, itself soon to be abandoned for more stable inland terrain. With luck, we can descend to the beach below. We will see how the main roadway is evolving with the latest round of slope failures. Bring water and lunch. No dogs. Class: M-8-A. Carpools: Meet 9 a.m. Valley West (Ray's) Shopping Center, 10:30 a.m. Damnation Creek trailhead (3.3 mi. north of Wilson Creek bridge, west side Hwy. 101) Leader Ned nedforsyth48@gmail.com, 825-3652. Heavy rain cancels.

## Fri.-Thu. June 16-22 - Escalante Backpack.

The first part of this 37 mile backpack covers 11 miles in Harris Wash, then 12 miles along the Escalante River, and finally 14 miles out 25 Mile Wash. The entry and exit washes have narrows, large alcoves, and side canyons that become slot canyons. Along the river we will take day hikes to explore Choprock Canyon and Neon Canyon. Be prepared to get your feet wet - hiking may be easier in the river if the banks are choked with tamarisk. Trip requires a car shuttle, high clearance vehicles best. Limit 10. David Hardy, 702-875-4826, hardyhikers@embarqmail.com. Email preferred. S. Nevada Group/CNRCC Desert Committee

## Sat. June 24 - Mendo Group. Peter Douglas Trail Lost Coast.

Hike to a fantastical grove of "candelabra" redwoods with twisted massive limbs and along bluffs with sweeping ocean views of the Lost Coast. Learn about the unique redwoods, the efforts of the Save the Redwood League and Mendocino Trust to preserve them, and Peter Douglas the founder of the California Coastal commission. Join a group camping at Usal Beach after the hike if you like. Bring lunch, water, layered clothing. Carpools: Meet 10 am at Harvest Market, Fort Bragg. Class: M-4-A. By reservation only. Leader Yvonne Kramer, (707)463-0342, kramer@saber.net



6 sigma hike. Leader Tom McFarling.

## Sat.-Mon. July 1-3 - Fourth of July Juplaya.

Expect several dozen people at this event on the edge of the Black Rock Desert about 100 miles north of Reno. This will be a busy weekend on the playa as many Burning Man attendees use this as a "shakedown" trip. We normally camp on the edge of the playa and visit hot springs, see the Lassen-Applegate branch of the Emigrant Trail, talk with new visitors, and similar activities. And there are usually large fireworks! The Playa is flooded as of the end of April, future conditions will dictate July activities but it will probably be dry by then. There's normally a potluck one night. There will also be a lot of Ham Radio activity so if you have a license, bring a radio! Call for repeater frequencies. David Book KD7YIM, 775/843-6443 Great Basin Group

## Sun.-Thu. July 2-6 - Central Nevada Backpack: Twin Rivers Loop, Arc Dome.

This area has been described as one of "deep, rugged canyons, high bald peaks, elk and wet feet." The trip begins on the North Twin River, near Carver, about an hour's drive northeast of Tonopah, at an elevation around 6300 ft. After arriving at the trailhead we will hike in 2 or 3 miles to our first camp. The next day we will hike around another 5 miles and camp. On day 3 we do a day hike (bring a day-pack) to the top of 11,773 ft Arc Dome, 12 miles rt with 4100 ft. elevation gain. Day 4 sees the start down South Twin, with a camp after several miles. The last day is the hike out. 16 miles, 3000 ft. elevation gain with backpacks. The group has the option to do the trip in the opposite direction. Elevation gain to the top of Arc Dome is 300 ft less. Possibility of car pool or caravan

from Las Vegas, details on trip sheet. Limit 12. David Hardy, 702-875-4826, hardyhikers@embarqmail.com. Email preferred. S. Nevada Group/CNRCC Desert Committee

## Sat.-Sun. July 8-9 - First Redwood Chapter Benson Hut Work Party.

Benson Hut work party scheduled this summer for June to beat USFS fire restrictions. Involves hiking 3 miles to the Benson Hut Saturday morning, hut maintenance Saturday afternoon and Sunday morning, then hiking back Sunday afternoon. Maintenance involves stocking the hut with wood, repairs, staining and cleanup. Good exercise, wonderful setting and great fun. Friday night stay at Clair Tappaan Lodge included with work party (Dinner Friday night and breakfast Saturday am). Contact leader Jim Gannon (707)-757-5695 jgannon@sonic.net for sign up or questions.

## Sat. July 15 - North Group. Mt. Lassic Wilderness and Botanical Area, Six Rivers NF Hike.

Take a scenic drive and hike with us in this natural wonderland off Highway 36. See vernal pools, stark serpentine and peridotite barrens, and vegetation with character. After this season's abundant rain and snow, we should see some good regeneration from the 2015 wildfires. We will ascend distinctive 5,916-ft. Black Lassic and explore other nearby features. Bring lunch and extra water, and dress for the weather. No dogs. Class M-6-A. Carpools: Meet 8 a.m. Herrick Ave. Park'n'Ride in Eureka. By reservation only. Leader Ned, nedforsyth48@gmail.com, 825-3652. Bad weather cancels.

## Fri.-Sun. Aug. 11-13 - Perseid Meteor Shower Campout.

Expect about 100 people at this event in the Black Rock Desert about 100 miles north of Reno. Playa conditions permitting, we'll be camping mid-Playa about 10 miles from a couple of hot springs. We'll have porta-potties but little else so bring water, food etc. but there's usually a potluck/Dutch oven meal one night. LNT, dogs must be on leash and expect to pick up after them. David Book 775/843-6443 Great Basin Group

## Sat.-Sun. Sept. 9-10 - Second Redwood Chapter Benson Hut Work Party.

Benson Hut work party involves hiking 3 miles to Benson Hut Saturday morning, hut maintenance Saturday afternoon and Sunday morning, then hiking back Sunday afternoon. Maintenance

## 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 Pete McGee

**Slower-pace:** Allison Bronkall Carl Inglin

## 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.*



Mare Island Hike Leader Phil Kohlmetz with the bridge across the Carquinez Straits in the background. Photo by Marilyn Farley.



# Outings

involves stocking the hut with wood, repairs, staining and cleanup. Good exercise, wonderful setting and great fun. Friday night stay at Clair Tappaan Lodge included with work party (Dinner Friday night and breakfast Saturday am). Contact leader Jim Gannon (707)-757-5695 jgannon@sonic.net for sign up or questions.

## Island Hopping in Channel Islands National Park 2017

June 11-13

July 16-18 Aug. 20-22

Sept. 24-26 Oct. 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-docent 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.



## Outings Chair Report

Congratulations to new leaders. Solano Group Doug Tracy has completed all his requirements, thanks to Phil Kohlmetz. Doug lives in Benicia. Marilyn Farley is the Solano Group Outings Coordinator.

Sonoma Group David Oliver has completed his training. Thanks to Dave Chalk for his help. David will start leading, perhaps in October with day hikes in Sugarloaf & Hood Mountain Parks.

Sonoma Group Miles Bradley had completed a Sierra Club Snow camping course this year. Miles will train with leader Jim Gannon. Jim would like Miles to have avalanche training and to join him on work party trips.

Leaders taking a summer break are Tom McFarling Lake Group and Phil Kohlmetz Solano Group.

After my write-up in the last Needles about John Benson, the 10th Mountain Division, and our Benson Hut, a lady named Jeanette Spiegel who lives in Sonoma called me. Her husband Albert passed in 1999. He had survived the war in Italy and was with the 10th Mountain Division 85th regiment. Jeanette has a memory book, stories etc. from her husband. Val Rios, the Sierra Nevada Chapter President of the 10th Mountain Division, invited both of us to join him May 13th at the Sebastiani Winery for their annual picnic.

Congratulations to the Paulin Creek Neighborhood Association for a brilliant, aggressive campaign in Santa Rosa. They insured that our already protected Open Space Preserve will continue to be protected when the county sells the surrounding property to a developer. I led



Historian, Bird Rescue Volunteer and author Jeremy Nichols speaks at the Chanate Historical Cemetery.

a historical walk to the Chanate Property and have included photos from that walk. Many thanks to all my speakers, especially Jeremy Nichols who was with us for the entire walk. More about this in the next issue. Teri Shore visited the preserve with me—thank you Teri.

—CAROL VELLUTINI REDWOOD CHAPTER OUTING CHAIR



Speaker Tom Brown speaker for home owners on Chanate & Parker Hill.



Beginning talk by the Wellness Center on County Farm Drive. Speaker Marie Clary talked about Sloan House.



Carol Vellutini Sierra Club leader speaks to group.



## April Marches Draw Thousands

Redwood Chapter members had a busy April, attending Earth Day events across the region and joining local marches for science and People's Climate actions and rallies.

Earth Day, April 22, set the stage for the March for Science in Santa Rosa. An estimated 3,000 people joined the rally and march to City Hall, expressing their support for science, scientists and climate research. Speakers, including Lisa Micheli, president and chief executive of the Pepperwood Foundation in Sonoma County, warmed up the crowd by providing examples of the importance of science in our society. Marchers peacefully walked from Julliard Park to City Hall.



Marching for science.

A week later, an estimated 1,500 gathered in a Roseland shopping plaza to support the People's Climate initiative. Demonstrators wielded signs urging action on climate change, jobs and justice. The march proceeded along a 1.5-mile route culminating at the new Courthouse Square in downtown Santa Rosa.

—SHOSHANA HOBSHI, REDWOOD CHAPTER COMMUNICATIONS COORDINATOR



Tom Roth joins the People's Climate march in Santa Rosa.

☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆  
 where the stars  
 put on a grand performance  
 every night  
 ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆  
  
**Sorensen's Resort**  
 in beautiful Hope Valley, California  
 1-800-423-9949 www.sorensensresort.com



### 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.

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 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"/> \$20	<input type="checkbox"/> \$25
Limited Income	<input type="checkbox"/> \$25	<input type="checkbox"/> \$35


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 Enclose a check and mail to:  
 Sierra Club, P.O. Box 421041  
 Palm Coast, FL 32137-1041  
 or visit our website www.sierraclub.org



## Sonoma Group Report

### Sierra Club in Action

Sierra Club members from across Sonoma County and beyond turned out in force for marches for science on Earth Day in Santa Rosa and for Climate Action in Santa Rosa and Sonoma Valley. Shoshana Hebshi and Tom Conlon helped mobilize our members and carry signs to show Sierra Club's commitment to resisting, persisting and protecting our planet and all people. Conservation Chair Suzanne Doyle organized a lively New Members night that drew about 25 members, some new, some old, who are ready to move into action! Watch for upcoming events.

### Open Space and Parks

Critical green spaces in our neighborhoods are at risk of development and needing our attention. The Paulin Creek Open Space



Carol Vellutini at Paulin Creek Open Space Preserve.

Preserve in Santa Rosa off Chanate Road where Sierra Club has held hikes for years is at risk of development by a county land sale. Neighbors rallied and convinced supervisors to promise long overdue permanent protection for the oak woodlands and meadows, but the project needs watchdogging. Chapter Outings Chair Carol Vellutini recently toured the site with Sonoma Group Chair Teri Shore; and also led a public hike on May 6. In Petaluma, the Scott Ranch property on the edge of town is slated for 66 luxury wine country homes. The Friends of Kelley Creek and community groups turned out in force to delay the approval of the EIR, now set for Petaluma City Council review on June 19. The land is close to other key open space parcels including the West Petaluma Hills, precious undeveloped land between the downtown and Helen Putnam Regional Park. Now is the time to speak up for protection of these and other urban green spaces before they disappear. You can do this by writing letters,

attending critical meetings, and going out on walks. The Open Space District is seeking ideas for priority lands for protection. Learn more here <http://www.sonomaopenspace.org/projects/vital-lands-initiative/> Contact Sierra Club at [songrp@sonic.net](mailto:songrp@sonic.net) and get involved if you have a favorite place or park you want to help protect.

### Recycling and Waste

Now that multiple recycling and waste contracts are expiring across the county, the pressure is on to find the best green solutions at the best price. Sierra Club's policy is not to endorse any contractor or vendor but to support the county and cities in setting strong environmental policies to guide their selection. Sierra Club is advised and represented by waste guru Ken Wells on the Local Task

Force (LTF), a state appointed community advisory board to the Sonoma County Waste Management Agency (SCWMA). To broaden our expertise, Executive Committee member Theresa Ryan participated in the Zero Waste Symposium on May 11 in Rohnert Park. We plan to help craft a zero waste ordinance for the county and closely monitor developments. If recycling, waste or composting is your thing, now is the time

to get engaged with Sierra Club! Send us a message at [songrp@sonic.net](mailto:songrp@sonic.net).

### Climate & Energy Committee

The Climate Action Plan Committee continues to explore ways to convince the cities and county to implement measures to reduce greenhouse gases. Co-Chair Tom Conlon is serving on the new county-level Climate Action Advisory Committee. He recently presented the challenges ahead to the Sonoma Valley Democrats. The Sierra Club's Steve Birdleough is leading our advocacy for climate-friendly policies in the renewal of the county transportation sales tax measure and for solutions to flooding and sea level rise along Highway 37. Help us move forward to a low carbon future by getting involved. Join the Climate & Energy Committee on the first Monday of every month at the Santa Rosa Environmental Center.

—TERI SHORE, SONOMA GROUP CHAIR

## Lake Group Report

### Dollar General Update

As reported in the previous edition of the Redwood Needles, in January the Lake County Planning Commission unanimously rejected a proposal to construct a Dollar General outlet on the outskirts of Middletown, citing multiple gross inconsistencies with the Middletown Area Plan, design standards suitable for a medium security warehouse, and a detrimental effect on visitor appeal. Predictably, the developers appealed the decision to the Board of Supervisors, which heard the appeal on April 18.

At that time the same arguments were buttressed with an intriguing suggestion that instead of evaluating these proposals individually it would be more constructive to consider the impacts of a countywide infestation, and that such a broader view might even be mandated under the anti-piecemealing provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act. With two new supervisors since the last time the Board addressed the issue, many observers hoped that the BOS would reject the project this time around— but despite the heartfelt eloquence of members of the community and a previous determination to assign authority over design review to the Planning Commission, Supervisors Moke Simon, Jeff Smith and Tina Scott voted to uphold the appeal and let the project move forward. Possible responses are currently under consideration.

Round Two came a week later. Again the Board heard an appeal against a unanimous Planning Commission rejection of a Dollar General, this one in the Clear Lake Riviera. Again, major inconsistencies with the Area Plan were identified; and again, the community spoke with a united and impassioned voice against the proposal, which they expected to have severe negative impacts on local businesses and their own quality of life. There the similarity ended: when the day was over the Board had

voted 4-1 to reject the appeal and kill the project, with the deciding factor in both cases apparently being the position of the home-district Supervisor.

### Aguiar-Curry Proposes Help for Clear Lake

AB 707, authored by Lake County's Assemblywoman Cecilia Aguiar-Curry with Senator Mike McGuire a principle co-author, would establish a Blue Ribbon committee for the restoration of Clear Lake, based in the Natural Resources Department and with broad local, agency, and scholarly participation. The committee will be charged with identifying factors contributing to poor water quality and strategies for improvement in both water quality and habitat, including identification of funding sources.

Previous legislative efforts to provide monetary assistance for Clear Lake have not been successful, but the omission of direct financial support from this bill increases the likelihood of its passage and—very important!—signature by the Governor. It is hoped that the authoritative nature of this committee will give extra weight to its recommendations, including those that require funding from the state. The Sierra Club is advocating for its passage.

### Walmart expansion lurches forward

The long-anticipated Draft Environmental Impact Report on Walmart's proposal to expand its Clearlake store was released in March: the project would add nearly 40,000 square feet to the existing store, including full-service grocery facilities, hard liquor sales, and 24/7 opening hours, and would have countywide impacts. Comments submitted by Lake Group and others identified glaring omissions in the DEIR, which has now gone back to the consultants for revision.

—VICTORIA BRANDON,  
LAKE GROUP CONSERVATION CHAIR



## Silver Lake & Carson Pass

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

Kit Carson Lodge

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

or call:

(209) 258-8500





# North Group Report

## Science Projects Receive Awards

For the 11th year, North Group sponsored an award at the annual Humboldt County Science Fair held in mid-March. The projects were so competitive in 2017 that a second prize was given.

The \$50 first-place award went to "Jammin' Freshwater: The Influence of Log Jams on Macroinvertebrates in Freshwater Creek" by Anneli and Mathilde Macdonald, 7th graders at Jacoby Creek School. They hypothesized that there would be more macroinvertebrates in a natural log jam area than in a stretch where human intervention had removed wood and debris from the stream. They used kick nets to sample two of each type of area on three different days, finding in all cases that there were more macroinvertebrates in log jam areas (as well as juvenile lamprey eels). Log jams slow down the stream and collect leaves and sediment, making them a natural habitat

7th graders would believe because they have more schooling; 3) teens who have visited no national parks would be less likely to believe; 4) teens who spend more time outside would be more likely to believe; 5) teens who are influenced by teachers, scientific studies, and personal experience would be more likely to believe; and 6) Humboldt County teens will believe at a higher percentage than the rest of the nation.

Eva received 204 completed surveys from six different schools. Eighty-five percent of those responding believed that climate change was happening (vs 5% not believing and 9% not sure). She found that more girls than boys and more 8th than 7th graders believed in climate change. Students who had visited the most national parks were most likely (96%) to believe. The amount of time spent outdoors did not correlate with belief. Believers were most influenced

by scientific studies, while nonbelievers were most influenced by news coverage. Believers were most concerned about melting glaciers, while nonbelievers were most concerned about forest fires.

Both projects were among the 19 selected to represent Humboldt in the state science fair competition held in late April, where Eva Weller placed third. North Group received a thank-you note from the Macdonald sisters saying that "we appreciate the award a lot; it makes all of our hard work on our

project seem worthwhile."

—SUE LESKIW, NORTH GROUP TREASURER  
**Please join us!**

The North Group's Executive Committee meets on the second Tuesday of each month in the first floor conference room at the Adorni Center on the waterfront in Eureka. The meeting, which covers regular business and conservation issues, begins at 6:45 PM. Members and non-members with environmental concerns are encouraged to attend. When a new person comes to us with an environmental issue or concern, we often place them first or early on the agenda.



**Sisters Anneli and Mathilde Macdonald pose with their first-place Humboldt County Science Fair medals and Bruce Smith from Eureka Rotary Club. Courtesy of Humboldt County Schools.**

for the macroinvertebrates upon which many creatures further up the food chain depend. Anneli and Mathilde also identified multiple macroinvertebrates that were sensitive to pollution, telling them that Freshwater Creek was not very polluted.

A \$25 second-place prize was awarded to "What Influences Early Teens' Views of Climate Change in Humboldt County?" by Eva Weller, an 8th grader at Pacific Union School. She wanted to investigate possible factors and reasons for junior high students to believe that climate change is occurring. Among her hypotheses: 1) girls would more often believe in climate change than boys because their brains are more developed; 2) more 8th graders than

# Solano Breeze Corner

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

Join Solano Group meetings on the first Monday of each month. Our next dates are: June 5, July 3, August 7, 2017. To confirm, call Jane at 707-319-6398

## VALCORE Recycling and Paper Shredding updates:

Solano Group helps out with paper shredding every 3rd Saturday each month at 38 Sheridan Street, Vallejo from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. There is a charge of \$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. Once a year is all we ask, and you only need work an hour or so. Volunteers get FREE shredding!

—EDITOR: GREG PETERSON

# Napa Group Report

## Healing Walk

Beginning with a water blessing ceremony in Yountville, and concluding with indigenous drumming and prayer dances in the Oxbow Commons, Napans joined to celebrate the Valley's second annual Healing Walk, staged this year in solidarity with the nationwide People's Climate Marches. The contemplative mood was "rooted in the indigenous philosophy of invoking sacred space to heal the land and its people."

Speakers, including Napa Sierra Club Chair Chris Benz, Linda Brown of our sister organization Napa Climate Now!, other local activists, and several Vintage High students reminded us of steps we could take on the local and national stages to fight the threat of climate change.

The turnout of over 100 people for various stages of the pilgrimage was heartening evidence that more and more of us are ready to throw our

energies into environmental protection.

## Earth Day Celebration

It was great to meet and greet so many of our local supporters, and new friends at the Napa Earth Day gathering. Our theme this year was the celebration of our favorite recreational places in our local parks and open spaces.

## Vallejo's Orcem/VMT plant: City Council decision due

A team from Napa travelled to Congressman Mike Thompson's Benecia Town Hall forum to reinforce our opposition to the proposed Orcem Cement Plant at the mouth of the Napa River. The City Staff and the Planning Commission have already turned thumbs down on the project. On May 31-June 1, the Vallejo City Council will rule on the project applicant's appeal, in what should be the last step in this process.

—NANCY TAMARISK, NAPA GROUP VICE 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

**Garden Volunteer Days: First Friday of the Month, 9am - noon.** Laguna Environmental Center, 900 Sanford Road, Santa Rosa. Enjoy our native plant garden! Volunteers are essential in beautifying our site. Share your expertise or learn new skills by getting involved today! [http://lagunafoundation.org/volunteer\\_garden.html](http://lagunafoundation.org/volunteer_garden.html)  
**Laguna Stewardship Days: Once a month on a Saturday from 9am - noon.**

Details of the site location announced 2 weeks in advance of the workday (various sites along the Laguna) Help care for the Laguna and restore critical wildlife habitat! Joining the Laguna Stewards is a fun and meaningful way to volunteer while enjoying the outdoors.

[http://lagunafoundation.org/volunteer\\_lagunastewards.html](http://lagunafoundation.org/volunteer_lagunastewards.html)



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

Explore, enjoy and protect the planet

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

For more info and confidential assistance, contact:  
**Sierra Club**  
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San Francisco, CA 94105  
gfpplanning@sierraclub.org • (800) 932-4270

# HELP!!

**Mendocino Group seriously needs a few more active members to keep our Group alive!**

We need one or two active people each from the inland valleys and the south coast to advocate for conservation goals, manage the web page, and help with group and chapter tasks. Please consider joining us! Our next meeting is April 13th at the Allison School. Meetings could also be by conference call or be held in other communities.

Please contact one of these members for more information:  
Mary Walsh, Chair, 937-6572, email: bella@mcn.org  
Linda Perkins, Conservation, 937-0903, lperkins@mcn.org  
Rixanne Wehren, Coastal Comm. 937-2709, rixanne@mcn.org



# Save the Date: Friday, July 28, 2017

Meet our new  
**California Coastal  
Commissioner, Aaron Peskin,**  
at the  
**Bodega Marine Laboratory  
2099 Westshore Road,  
Bodega Bay, CA 94923**

Join us for an informal reception with  
a spectacular ocean view. Learn more  
about the Lab, the Commission's work,  
and Commissioner Peskin's insights while  
we enjoy the the Marine Lab's beautiful  
coastal campus.

RSVPs are necessary. For details contact  
[ruepqrst@gmail.com](mailto:ruepqrst@gmail.com)

For a map, visit: <https://www.google.com/maps/place/UC+Davis+Bodega+Marine+Lab/@38.3184021,-123.0718004,15z/data=!4m5!3m4!1s0x0:0x50317ec01e25cfb3!8m2!3d38.3184021!4d-123.0718004>

# Meetings

Send all Meeting events by the 8th of the month to Carl Inglin: [chinglin@sonic.net](mailto:chinglin@sonic.net) Sierra Club meetings are open to all members. You are welcome to participate or observe as often as you wish. Visitors should call the committee chair to verify time and place. The Sonoma County Environmental Center is located at 55A Ridgway Avenue in Santa Rosa (West of Hwy 101, two blocks North of College and 1 1/2 blocks West off of Cleveland Ave, South of Coddington).

## Mon. June 5 - 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. June 5 - Sonoma Group.

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

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

## Tues. June 13 - 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. July 3 - Sonoma Group.

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

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

## Mon. July 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.

## Tues. July 11 - 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.

## Sat., July 15 - 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@lakerlive.info](mailto:vbrandon@lakerlive.info)

## Tues. July 18 - 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](mailto:napaquail@gmail.com)

## Thurs. Aug. 7 - 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.

## GSA's Forming to Address Long-term Groundwater Sustainability

### Santa Rosa Plain Basin

Thursday, June 1,

5:30 p.m.

Santa Rosa Utilities Field Office  
35 Stony Point Road,  
Santa Rosa

### Sonoma Valley Basin

Thursday, June 8,

5:30 p.m.

Vintage House Senior Center  
264 1st St E, Sonoma

### Petaluma Valley Basin

Thursday, June 22,

5:30 p.m.

Petaluma Community Center  
320 North McDowell Blvd.,  
Petaluma

Public hearings have been scheduled to consider designating three local agencies to be responsible for ensuring groundwater is available now and into the future. The meetings will also include the election of the groundwater sustainability agencies (GSA) officers, administration of the GSAs, and the advisory committee process.

The hearings are one item on the agendas of the first meetings of the Santa Rosa Plain, Sonoma Valley and Petaluma Valley GSAs. These agencies were formed to meet the requirements of California's historic Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA), which went into effect in 2015. The public hearings will include an opportunity for members of the public to speak.

The GSA-eligible entities have been meeting since 2015 to understand SGMA requirements and explore options for GSA formation. Basin Advisory Panels (in Sonoma Valley and Santa Rosa Plain) have provided

input on reaching out to stakeholders and shared ideas on how eligible entities can work together. Public workshops were held in the fall of 2015, summer of 2016 and spring of 2017.

The three GSAs were formed as joint powers authorities by local public entities that have responsibility for water supply, water management and land use. SGMA requires that these new entities hold a public hearing prior to formally deciding to be the GSA for SGMA purposes. The deadline for forming GSAs is June 30, 2017. If local agencies fail to serve as GSAs, the state will step in to manage groundwater in the three basins.

Each GSA board will create an advisory committee to provide input and feedback on policies, programs and projects, including groundwater sustainability plans.

Meeting agendas and more information can be found at [www.sonomacountygroundwater.org/](http://www.sonomacountygroundwater.org/).

## Windsor to Vote on UGB

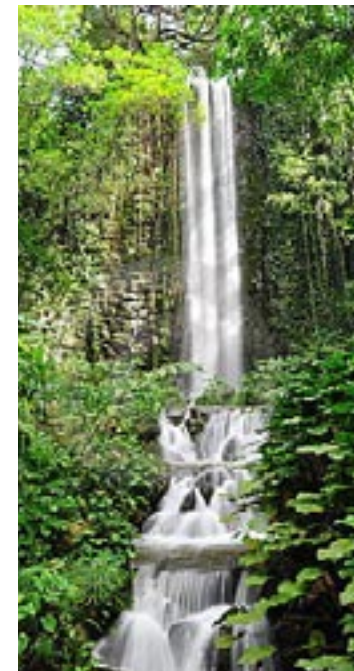
The Windsor Town Council needs to hear from us by June 5 about revising and expanding its Urban Growth Boundary (UGB) with a ballot measure in time for the November election. Sierra Club supports the renewal of the UGB for 22 years, but expanding the boundary into farmland raises a red flag. The environmental review reveals that converting 21 acres of important farmland to industrial and light use could trigger additional loss of farmland in the vicinity of the UGB Expansion Area.

Please ask the Windsor Town Council to keep on track with smart growth and:

1. Remove provisions to expand the UGB into farmland,
2. Conduct a public hearing before the June 5 deadline for public comments and the approval of the ballot measure on June 7.

Here are the City Council members emails and contact info. <https://www.townofwindsor.com/58/Town-Council>

Get the full details on the Town of Windsor UGB Expansion and Environmental Review here: <https://www.townofwindsor.com/CivicAlerts.aspx?AID=1033>



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