Wine Days Still Not So Rosey
The Placer Group Sierra Club is not, and never has been, opposed to wineries, breweries, distilleries, cideries, etc. However, it is opposed to losses of farmlands and ag operations as well as code violations that are not enforced, especially in Residential Ag and Farm zones. Placer Group volunteers have spent years trying to persuade the County to adopt ordinances and codes in rural Res Ag and Farm zones that will mitigate egregious impacts from events (noise, traffic, air, water, etc.) which are created from supposed ag operations turning into defacto commercial event centers.

The latest Grand Jury (GJ) report, 2017-2018, once again deals with wineries and the lack of code enforcement.* To the GJ’s investigative credit, the nuances of why winery code enforcement seems to “look the other way” is more clearly identified. The online report and the “Findings” sections are worth a read to learn more of why we cannot walk away from non-ag operations in zones where they don’t belong.

The latest proposed amendment, “Winery/Small Brewery Ordinance,” will add breweries. They too will have open tasting hours and will want to hold “unlimited events.” The growing of grapes, hops, barley, or other crops is not the problem. However, contentious incompatible land-use operations, created by holding unlimited events in rural communities, have indeed become the problem.

Please check County public meeting agendas MAC’s,
(Continued on page 7)

Auburn State Recreation Area (ASRA) NEEDS YOUR INPUT FOR ITS GENERAL PLAN UPDATE!
Even if you have missed the ASRA General Plan Update workshops, it is not too late to give input as to how this gem of a CA State Park Recreation Area should BE used and should NOT be used. Whether your interest is conservation or recreation; whether it’s hiking, horseback riding, bike riding, art, or photographing; whether it’s hunting or fishing (yes, hunting is allowed in certain parts of ASRA but not in most State Parks or other Rec Areas), make your voice be heard by going to the “Auburn State Recreation Area General Plan Resource Management Plan” at
http://www.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=24325
You may email your name and address to be sent news: plan.general@parks.ca.gov or call 916-445-8814.

The above website also contains an Online Questionnaire for you to give input as well as other links (comments from others, Road and Trail Management Plan, Hunting Program, and a number of other topics of interest related to ASRA’s future uses.

NOTE: The comment deadline is July 23, 2018 that will be here soon!
### Placer Group Nominations Are Open for Three Executive Committee Positions

Placer Group Sierra Club nominations are open for three seats to serve two-year terms on the Sierra Club Placer Group’s elected “Executive Committee” (ExCom).

All ExCom meetings are open only to Sierra Club members, who are encouraged to voice their opinions. However, only the six elected ExCom members are allowed to vote on the issues.

To be nominated and considered as a candidate for one of the three seats, and if elected, serve on the Placer Group Executive Committee, please contact Marilyn Jasper at marilyn.jasper@mlc.sierraclub.org. Nominations are due by **no later than September 1, 2018.**

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### About Us: Placer Group Sierra Club

P.O. Box 7167  Auburn, CA 95604  
http://www.sierraclub.org/mother-lode/placer

#### Executive Committee

**Chair:** Michael Garabedian  
michaelgarabedian@earthlink.net

**Vice Chair:** Marilyn Jasper  
marilyn.jasper@mlc.sierraclub.org

**Secretary:** Arlene Jamar  
**Treasurer:** Tony Rakocija  
amrakoc@pacbell.net

#### Other Issues/Contacts

- **Conservation Chair:** marilyn.jasper@mlc.sierraclub.org
- **Renewable Energy:** Carroll Nast  
canasta@colfaxnet.com
- **Website:** marilyn.jasper@mlc.sierraclub.org
- **Air Quality:** Open
- **Fundraising:** Open

*The Sierra Conservationist* is published quarterly: January, April, July online and printed in October by the all-volunteer Placer Group Sierra Club, a 501(c)4 nonprofit organization.

We invite letters, comments, and input. Our newsletter deadline is 15 days prior to the end of each quarter. Publication is the first day of each quarter. Our newsletter can also be accessed on our Placer Group website.

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Like winds and sunsets, wild things were taken for granted until progress began to do away with them. Now we face the question whether a still higher 'standard of living' is worth its cost in things natural, wild and free.

For us of the minority, the opportunity to see geese is more important than television. Aldo Leopold

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### Citizens Take Action with Grassroots Proposals!

Environmental protection requires public “watch dogging,” scrutiny, and active citizen participation in order to be effective and influence decision makers to vote the right way.

Sierra Club Placer Group needs members to step up to volunteer and assist with the myriad of tasks and/or proposed projects in Placer County. The few Placer Group volunteers who routinely read public notices, check agendas, attend/speak out at public meetings, submit written comments, etc., are overwhelmed with “to do’s.” Many volunteers not only “lighten the load,” but also help present a united front when speaking to elected officials.

The Sierra Club also receives calls from upset citizens asking for help. It’s never easy to receive a distressed call reporting oak woodland clear cutting, or wetlands being filled, and have to tell them that there’s nothing we can do. Most often, the projects had been properly noticed, but citizens were either unaware, uninformed with the process, or are dealing with other issues that prevent them from digging into issues and effectively influence decision makers.

In at least three areas of Placer County, citizens, who are also Sierra Club members, stepped up to deal with what may have started out as one small issue in their neighborhood. The more active they became, the more they discovered needed to be addressed. Their “causes” expanded as they “learned the ropes” and became organized. They have become forces that decisions makers must reckon with.

Although they the Sierra Club has a protocol for vetting projects before it can take public positions, these citizens and groups are to be applauded for standing up for the environment. Their work, commitment, and determination are commendable. Descriptions of what they are contending with are included in this issue (see below).

If you can help, please look them up and give a hand (and still keep the Placer Group Sierra Club in mind also!).

**Granite Bay issues:** Defend Granite Bay—Page 5

**Rocklin/Loomis projects:** El Don Neighborhood Advisory Committee (that’s branched into other areas and projects)—Page 7.

**I-80/SR-65 Interchange—Phase I:** Kristen Farquhar—Page 5.

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Satisfy your altruistic inner self by volunteering with the Placer Group Sierra Club. As a member, you are welcome to attend our **monthly Member/Ex Com meetings** and decide where you can help make a difference.

We’d love to have you join us!
Wolf Adventures

Those involved in wolf issues were awe-struck to learn that a female wolf, OR 54 visited California in early June, _went as far south to be in “viewing distance” of I-80 in Nevada County_. OR 54 is an offspring of the infamous OR 7 from Oregon’s Rogue Pack. (In 2011, he was the first recorded wild wolf to visit California since 1924.)

OR 54’s GPS collar transmitter indicated she turned around and went back to Sierra County. Such wandering is natural and may be a precursor to “dispersing” (aka, “leaving the pack”).

According to the CA Dept of Fish and Wildlife, “Wild wolves generally fear and avoid people, rarely posing a threat to human safety.” For more detailed CA DFW info and questions on wolves, visit: [https://www.wildlife.ca.gov/conservation/mammals/gray-wolf/faq#25082308-will-wolves-attack-people](https://www.wildlife.ca.gov/conservation/mammals/gray-wolf/faq#25082308-will-wolves-attack-people).

For the latest news on wolves, visit the nonprofit Pacific Wolf Coalition’s website: [http://www.pacificwolves.org/news/](http://www.pacificwolves.org/news/)

Wildlife Advice

Spring and summer mean wildlife species are giving birth to offspring, that will have a tough time making it to adulthood. However, wildlife “babies” are not similar to human “babes in the woods.” The CA DFW reminds the public to “Leave Young Wildlife Alone.”

Two good websites provide the public with good information:

- [www.wildlife.ca.gov/keepmewild](http://www.wildlife.ca.gov/keepmewild)

### ANNUAL FUNDRAISER FOR OUR ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION PROGRAM:

**Builders of the Future – July 6 – 8, 2018**

Please mark your calendars and join us for this fun weekend filled with great hikes, awesome music, inspiring guest speakers, terrific meals, and much more. $210 includes lodging for **two nights and all meals and activities**.

Here’s more information from our Clair Tappaan Lodge Support Team: May 2018 Clair Tappaan Lodge Newsletter. Milton Hildebrand, one of the original Clair Tappaan Lodge builders, will be joining us for this fundraiser. He reached 100 years old on June 15th.

Call now to make a reservation: **530-426-3632**. Make sure you mention that you are part of the fundraiser weekend. This Event and program are posted on our Facebook page and our website:

[www.clairtappaanlodge.com](http://www.clairtappaanlodge.com)
2018 Summer Calendar of Events

Note: Events listed here include those of the Sierra Club and other local events of interest. Only Starred (*) activities are sponsored and administered by the Sierra Club.

July 11: Hike (1A) Summit Lake, Donner Rim Trail, PCT Loop (Senior Section)*

We’ll hike to Summit Lake from Boreal exit off I-80 making a loop linking portions of the PCT and recently opened section of the Donner Rim Trail with the Summit Lake trail. Our approx 5.5 mile outing with an elevation gain/loss of approx 300 ft. offers a hike through a variety of forest, meadows, and open granite areas with a mix of short ups & downs, a few creek crossings and often scenes of wildflowers. Plan on a long lunch break at the lake. Bring lunch, water and rain gear in case of afternoon showers. Rain cancels. No dogs. Meet in Auburn at Burger King, on Lincoln way at Foresthill Exit off I-80 at 9:00 am. Leader: Sheila Toner. (530) 886-0673

July 25: Hike (1A) Flora Lake (senior section)*

This short, easy hike starts out on a portion of the PCT in the Donner Summit area then goes up to Flora Lake. It has some great views and is a favorite summer hike. Plan on at least an hour to enjoy a long lunch break at Flora Lake. Bring lunch, water and rain gear in case of afternoon showers. Rain cancels. No dogs. Meet in Auburn at Burger King, on Lincoln way at Foresthill Exit off I-80 at 9:00 am. Leader: Sheila Toner. (530) 886-0673

August 25: From 10 am to 4 pm, 1st Annual Colfax Indian Day—

Hosted by Todds Valley Consolidated Tribe. Location: 55 School St., Colfax. CA Indian artisans, Vendors, Food, Demonstrations, Traditional Dances. This is a drug and alcohol-free event. For more info, please contact Clyde Prout – (916) 577-3558; Steve Prout – (916) 470-6866 or email colfaxindiday@gmail.com.

CA Dept of Fish and Wildlife Lecture Series

The Conservation Lecture Series is usually held in Sacramento, live-streamed online, free, and open to all. It’s wonderful presentations are organized by CDFW’s Science Institute, and are designed to deliver the most current scientific information about conservation issues in California. To subscribe and be noticed, visit: https://www.wildlife.ca.gov/conservation/lectures Also, if you miss one, view fantastic videos and past lectures at: https://www.wildlife.ca.gov/Conservation/Lectures/Archive

ONLY FOUR (4) CHANNEL ISLANDS NATL’L PARK TRIPS LEFT!!

Are you a nature lover? Do you enjoy trekking in the wild, especially for a good cause? This great adventure is a fundraiser for Sierra Club California!

2018 Island Hopping in Channel Islands National Park—

Remaining 2018 Trips: July 15-17; August 19-21; September 23-25; October 21-23

For more information, contact trip leader: Joan, (624) 443-0706; jholtzhln@aol.com.

To make a reservation, send a $100 check made out to the California Sierra Club PAC and mail to Joan Holtz, 11826 The Wye St., El Monte, CA 91732. Payments may be made via PayPal (https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/CASCPAC).
Interchange I-80/SR-65, Phase I
In mid-January 2018, the City of Roseville did not approve the interchange, nor did it accept its Environmental Impact Report (EIR). However, it did approve the request for a Tree Permit that implemented the mitigation outlined in the EIR Caltrans adopted back in September of 2016.

Phase I / Tree Removal began April into May while Cliff Swallows actively nested under the viaducts. Caltrans brought down many oaks and a riparian forest during the height of the nesting season as the banks and sides of Antelope Creek were “skinned alive” in preparation for the expanded road overhead.

Phase I / Construction began in June with swallows still nesting (fledging their young) totally disregarding the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, and their own EIR. I sent photographs and directions of the nests to the US Fish and Wildlife biologist in charge of project, with some at her request. The most recent email was dated Monday, June 11, 2018, and I included my special note on an Elderberry Bush 11 feet from new impact area.

The US FW Biologist for Expansion Project I/80/SR-65 got back to me two days later after 5:00 pm. She thanked me, and told me she had told Caltrans and would wait for their survey. Construction continued.

4/17/2018: At this time of year, on-site biological monitoring should be ongoing during construction and tree removal should have been done earlier in the year. ~ Dale Steel, Environmental Council of Sacramento

Granite Bay Development Projects
The Placer County General Plan and the Granite Bay Community plan describe Granite Bay as a “rural” community. From 2016 to 2018 alone, 16 higher-than-planned-for-density projects were proposed which challenged this promised lifestyle with significant impacts on infra-structure and public services.

- 300+% increase in number of home sites
- Increased density ranging from 200-400+% 
- Lot size reductions from 200-1,150%
- 14,000 additional car trips per week

Growth from adjacent communities such as Folsom, Roseville and Rocklin greatly affect local traffic. The Granite Bay Cumulative Traffic Study responsible for allowing these projects to move forward was found to have not included 14 key intersections. A local community group hired a professional traffic engineering firm to analyze and ultimately invalidate the study. Several projects were withdrawn for additional environmental review. The Placer County Transportation Planning Agency has allocated no major funding for road improvements projects at this time.

Four Senior/Memory Care Facilities, proposed and approved, will add approximately 400 beds—far exceeding the number required for this community—and will add 750+ emergency response calls per year. The South Placer Fire Department has expressed concerns that this increase in memory care and senior living will negatively impact emergency response times.

Defend Granite Bay, is currently assisting in two active California Environmental Act (CEQA) challenges against the County for selective enforcement of zoning and planning laws and approving projects with a self-induced variance, lack of required easements, and lack of adherence to required Storm Water Quality and Storm Water Management Plans.

Due process is being circumvented to move many of these projects forward with disregard for impacts and need. Residents’ reviews, comments, and legal challenges have slowed the progress of these projects approved with no overriding consideration. Funding for expert review and community comments are key for responsible and quality development. Citizen continued support is needed to promote due process and responsible development.

To help or for more information contact:
Defend Granite Bay: www.Defendgb.org
or like us on Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/protectgranitebay/
East Rocklin (& Loomis) Need Your Support

There is an influx of projects in the Rocklin/Loomis area that will, among other impacts, generate 70,000 new cars on Sierra College Blvd. and Rocklin Road corridors on the south/east side of I-80. Citizen groups, including the Sierra Club, need help with sending emails, showing up at City Council meetings or distributing flyers.

The largest of the projects coming to this area is Sierra College’s “Sierra Villages” development of 107 acres off Rocklin Road. The majority of this development will be in the neighborhood of 500 new homes on very small lots and an unknown amount of commercial square footage. One of their residential developments is in the middle of a pristine wildlife corridor alongside a Secret Ravine feeder creek. This area is home to literally hundreds of wildlife species such as river otters, beavers and the vulnerable Western Pond Turtle. We’ve got deer, bobcat, and the occasional mountain lion and more. This area is also home to hundreds of species of birds including beautiful raptors and the California Fully Protected White Tailed Kite.

Please see our photographic library at https://drive.google.com/open?id=0B1lebQtuPdbNejBibURKUHIQdnM

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Projects in 1-2 mile radius in/around Rocklin:

- **Residential projects Pending Approval (650 SF DWELLING UNITS plus SENIOR FACILITY)**
  - Sierra Villages subdivisions (500 small lot homes)
  - Secret Ravine Community Apartments (144 units)
  - Rocklin Park Senior Living Facility (86 beds)

- **Residential projects Approved/Pending Construction (550 residential units)**
  - Sierra Gateway Apartments
  - Granite Bluff Subdivision
  - Rocklin Meadow Subdivision
  - Vista Oaks Subdivision
  - Oak Vista Subdivision
  - Croftwood Unit #2
  - Rocklin 60 Subdivision
  - Sierra De Montserrat Subdivision

- **Commercial/Retail projects Pending Approval**
  - Secret Ravine Community Commercial (13,000 sq. ft.)
  - Tractor Supply Company (34,000 sq. ft.)
  - Costco (152,101 sq. ft.)
  - Center at Secret Ravine – pad 13 (6,120 sq. ft.)

- **Commercial/Retail projects Approved/Pending Construction**
  - Rocklin Station (33,000 sq. ft.)
  - Center at Secret Ravine - AAA Car Care Center (6,800 sq. ft.)
  - Amazing Facts Ministry Church (210,000 sq. ft.)

- **Heritage Park Estates Phase II – (Town of Loomis)**
  - Pending approval
  - north of I-80 at South Walnut Street (near Taylor Rd)
  - 12 acres, 40 residential units
  - 380 new “daily” vehicle trips (cars) added to local streets

- **Taylor Road Mixed-Use Project – (Town of Loomis)**
  - Approved, but not recorded
  - east of Taylor Road

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8.9 acres, 46 residential units
19,020 square feet of commercial buildings
15,512 square foot park
Minimum of 1,300 new “daily” vehicle trips (cars) added to local streets*
*does NOT include traffic #’s for park

- Del Oro Vistas – (Town of Loomis)
  - Approved, but not recorded
  - north side of Brace Road near I-80 (near SC Blvd)
  - 4.25 acres, 12 dwelling units
  - 3,350 square foot park
  - Houses = 114 new “daily” vehicle trips (cars) added to local streets
  - Park = unknown # of new “daily” vehicle trips (cars) added to local streets

- Nejadian Subdivision – (Town of Loomis)
  - Approved, but not recorded
  - south of Saunders Avenue at Berg Lane (near SC Blvd)
  - 9.5 acres, 8 residential units
  - 76 new “daily” vehicle trips (cars) added to local streets

- Morgan Estates – (Town of Loomis)
  - Approved, but not recorded
  - north of Saunders Avenue (near SC Blvd)
  - 10 acres, 8 residential units
  - 76 new “daily” vehicle trips (cars) added to local streets

- The Village at Loomis – (Town of Loomis)
  - pending
  - SE of King Road and Taylor Road
  - 66.5-acre project site in the Town of Loomis
  - 418 residential units

To help or for more information:

El Don Neighborhood Advisory Committee
https://www.facebook.com/groups/443005056155666/
c/o denise@wavecable.com
[see page 8 for “before/after” Sierra Gateway Apts]
Please do NOT Use Garden Netting!

Garden netting continues to be sold and used by unsuspecting homeowners and avid gardeners. If they only knew the dangers and death garden netting inflicts on wildlife and ecosystem balances, as well as the toll it takes on beneficial species, most would never purchase it. The objective may be to protect crops from being eaten, or ponds from being “fished,” but garden netting is neither environmentally sound or humane. It should be considered akin to drift net fishing operations and their toll on non-targeted marine life (state and federal laws have been introduced to ban drift net operations).

In trees, birds that are not interested in fruit and instead are helping to control unwanted insects, and/or lizards that are doing the same, are caught—entangled in the netting—and die. In gardens, birds, lizards, snakes, and other harmless-but-beneficial wildlife meet the same horrible fate. In ponds, in addition to birds and other unsuspecting wildlife, once snakes that help curtail rodent populations have entered a net opening, they are doomed, unless found in time and extracted (which is not an easy task).

Unless they’re exhausted and close to death from frantically trying to escape the “trap,” especially if rescued in a pond, snakes must be held while the netting is meticulously and painstakingly cut with small, sharp instruments. They can be injured in the process, especially when the netting is deeply embedded in their mouths or under their scales. If they have any remaining energy, they may continue their struggle, twisting and thrashing to escape, which makes holding them and cutting the netting even more difficult.

They may wrap around the arm that holds them (which can make the job easier unless it’s a very large gopher snake that weighs a lot!). Terrified snakes often release a musk odor as one of their defenses, which may come as a surprise to a first-time rescuer.

Please consider the many viable alternatives to garden netting. For starters, there are metallic strips, or even old but still “shiny” CD’s that can be “recycled” and hung from branches. They move with any breeze or branch-landing or touching movement and can be a deterrent (to deer also). Automatic motion detectors can emit a sound, light, or a spray of water. Although no netting is best, “wildlife safe” netting can be purchased with very small holes that reduce or prevent entry entanglements.

For ponds, if they are dug deep enough, or if there is a large rock or any type of “safe-haven overhang,” when fish sense a predator or water disturbance, they will “hide” in the depths or swim as far (out of reach) as possible where raccoons, for example, cannot reach them. It works to deter birds that love to fish in ponds also.

To view a video of freeing a snake from the death via netting, visit: http://wildlifeemergencyservices.blogspot.com/2018/05/5-snakes-caught-in-garden-netting.html

Before and After”—Rocklin’s Sierra Gateway Apartments

Even if development is approved, there are many alternatives that would save heritage oaks, wildlife corridors. When cost-cutting is the top priority, this is often the result:

(Continued from page 1)

Planning Comm, Ag Comm, Bd of Supervisors, etc., on a regular basis to stay informed, attend, and/or submit your thoughts when the “Winery/Small Brewery Ordinance” is listed.

*The 2012-2013 GJ report (Placer County Winery Ordinance Enforcement Review) stated, “The Grand Jury found many factors that have led to confusion, misinterpretation, and have left the ordinance unenforceable.” It then described the problems, which were what we had been saying continuously at meetings and submitting in written comments.

The 2015-2016 GJ report (Placer County Code Enforcement Complaint Feedback and Tracking—Inconsistency and Confusion) was not focused solely on wineries but stated that due in part to neglect, the result has been a “… burgeoning complaint load for each Code Enforcement Officer, slow response times to complaints and a lack of data to properly review the efficiency and effectiveness of the department’s operation.”

(Continued from page 1)

Also, if you are willing to help us sell at your place of work, or have sales ideas for us to follow up on, please let us know. Thanks!

Contact Marilyn: marilyn.jasper@MLC.

The wrongs done to trees, wrongs of every sort, are done in the darkness of ignorance and unbelief, for when the light comes, the heart of the people is always right.

- John of the Mountains: The Unpublished Journals of John Muir, (1938), page 429