Fighting Against Coal in Vallejo

The controversial Orcem cement plant and VMT deep water port projects proposed in South Vallejo have faced opposition. FoGR contributed financially to the successful lawsuit. The case was exchanged for shipping rights to at least 49 percent of the terminal’s capacity for four Utah counties to ship coal to overseas markets.

FoGR is seeking reform of CAL FIRE’s timber harvest plan procedures and documents so that they actually function as efficient equivalents of CEQA Environmental Impact Reports and meet the same fundamental standards of CEQA with regard to evaluation of alternatives that reduce impacts to the environment, “one of the most important functions of an EIR.” The court also ruled that CAL FIRE failed to assess cumulative environmental impacts to the Gualala River and its watershed in accordance with CEQA, and the agency jumped to conclusions of “no impact” without evidence or accounting for other impacts from past or future logging and land and water uses.

In this decision, the court agreed with legal precedents and stated it is “absolutely clear” that timber harvest plans must be functionally equivalent to Environmental Impact Reports and meet the same fundamental standards of CEQA. The court also ruled that CAL FIRE failed to assess cumulative environmental impacts to the Gualala River and its watershed in accordance with CEQA, and the agency jumped to conclusions of “no impact” without evidence or accounting for other impacts from past or future logging and land and water uses. FoGR is seeking reform of CAL FIRE’s timber harvest plan procedures and documents so that they actually function as efficient equivalents of CEQA Environmental Impact Reports that focus on significant environmental impacts and solutions in the public interest, not just private interests of the timber industry applicants. FoGR and its broad coalition of public citizens and organizations will continue to pursue conservation of the unique Gualala Redwood Floodplain Forest, including full consideration of alternatives that protect the most sensitive wetland and floodplain habitats.

~ FROM FRIENDS OF GUALALA RIVER

Sebastopol passes Zero Waste Resolution: Ambitious goal of Zero Waste by 2030

The following is a press release Leslie Lukacs, chair of the Zero Waste North Bay group, prepared for the Press Democrat. It is an update on the Sebastopol City Council adoption of the Zero Waste Resolution accepted by the Sonoma County Waste Management Association. Lukacs summarizes the steps the city council is taking to begin to put the resolution into action. If any Sierra Club members in Sebastopol want to become involved with the city council’s zero waste efforts, contact Theresa Ryan at theresa411@comcast.net. Windsor is the next city council’s zero waste efforts, contact Theresa Ryan at theresa411@comcast.net. Windsor is the next city council’s zero waste efforts, contact Theresa Ryan at theresa411@comcast.net.

The following is a press release Leslie Lukacs, chair of the Zero Waste North Bay group, prepared for the Press Democrat. It is an update on the Sebastopol City Council adoption of the Zero Waste Resolution accepted by the Sonoma County Waste Management Association. Lukacs summarizes the steps the city council is taking to begin to put the resolution into action. If any Sierra Club members in Sebastopol want to become involved with the city council’s zero waste efforts, contact Theresa Ryan at theresa411@comcast.net. Windsor is the next city council’s zero waste efforts, contact Theresa Ryan at theresa411@comcast.net.
Redwood Chapter
The Redwood Chapter is governed by an executive committee, with one (1) member delegated by each of six (6) regional groups and six (6) members elected at-large. Each group elects its own executive committee.

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Redwood Needle January 2019 Deadline: Due Jan. 8th
Submit Articles to Louis Vas: Ivas75@sonic.net and Meetings to Carl Inglin: chinglin@sonic.net
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Redwood Needle Website: http://www.sierraneedle.org/redwood
for Group Websites, use www.redwood.sierraclub.org and add: napa, /north, /sonoma, /lake, /mendocino, or /solano
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Climate call to action

Following the release of a United Nations report that poses extreme climate change will reach hazardous levels within the next 20 years, Saturday Night Live’s Michael Che commented during his Weekend Update segment that the whole episode “should be a rerun or something, but it’s not.”

“We’re all gonna lose the planet! We should be sad, right?” Che said. “I think it’s because they keep telling us we’re gonna lose everything, and nobody cares about everything, people only care about some things.”

The United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, a group of scientists convened by the United Nations to guide world leaders, describes a world of worsening food shortages and wildfires, and a mass die-off of coral reefs as soon as 2040 — a period well within the lifetime of much of the green generation.

The report’s authors stated that if the current rate of greenhouse gas emissions continue, the atmosphere will warm by as much as 2.7 degrees Fahrenheit. This shift will intensify the ongoing effects of climate change around the globe, such as stronger storms, fiercer droughts and rising sea level.

To stave off this dire projection, humans would have to reduce Greenhouse Gases by staggering amounts—essentially, getting carbon neutral. Yet the Trump administration, and the president himself, denies climate change is a threat, continues to bolster the fossil fuel industry by reversing conservation initiatives and weakening environmental regulations. Therefore, it is even more crucial individuals take drastic steps to reduce their emissions.

Redwood Chapter’s climate committee chair Randy MacDonald said there’s no time or room to despair about the outlook. It is time for action.

“Each of us can do something tangible in our own lives to make a difference,” he said. “We can’t just say, ‘I’m alarmed.’ We need to provide ways for people to take action.”

Some of these actions, he said, include working with Sierra Club in our communities, collaborating in the political process by advocating to our political representatives, talking to schoolchildren and taking steps to reduce our individual carbon footprint.

“Unfortunately, the worst impacts of climate change are yet ahead of us and it will be particularly severe if we don’t take sustained action and focused action now,” he said.

Regionally, MacDonald said we will feel a worsening in the drought conditions, which will impact agriculture and water availability, as well as make land more susceptible to destructive wildfires. The help forests off the region’s coastline are suffering an ecological collapse, which is altering the entire food chain and the fishing industry that has sustained North Coast communities.

“This situation isn’t normal,” he said. “Climate change is already here and we need to take action now.”

During an Oct. 24 talk in Sebastopol, author Barbara Kingsolver asked whether she had hope for our dire predicament. She responded by saying not taking action on climate change is “institutionalized child abuse.” The younger generations, she said, will be the ones dealing with the worst effects of climate change, and the lack of action by political leadership is akin to child abuse. “There’s no other choice but to have hope, she added.

“MacDonald is optimistic. He sees our region reducing its fossil fuel production and use, but also sees a potential to improve removal of carbon from the atmosphere through our forests and regenerative agriculture.

Yet, we can all do more. MacDonald suggests assessing our individual carbon footprint by looking at the products and services we consume and by making our homes more energy efficient. Solar panels and driving a used electric vehicle are worthwhile investments. Moving to a plant-based diet will also help, as will reducing vehicle trips and carpooling. We can also explore alternatives in our stock portfolios and invest in companies that promote climate friendly business models while divesting those that support fossil fuels.

We can also take more political action, he said. While Sierra Club at the state level is making a real difference advocating for policy changes in California, the chapters and the local groups can do more with cities and counties.

“We should be reaching out to our schools, and we should be recruiting the next generation of Sierra Clubbers and promoting energy efficiency in the private sector,” he said. “We’ve got local leadership in all our groups, but we don’t have many people stepping up. All you need to do is reach out to your group and say: ‘I want to help address climate change at the local and regional level,’ and the group will plug you in.”

With more involvement at the local level, he said, we can achieve the drastic shift needed to keep our planet hospitable.

“It’s a matter of personal commitment and political will,” he said. “With Sierra Club’s proven track record over the decades, we can make change happen.”

Please get involved, and contact Randy MacDonald at randal@whatcanbedone.com to get hooked up with others in your area wanting to take action on climate change.

—SUSANNA HEIND, REDWOOD CHAPTER COMMUNICATIONS COORDINATOR

“Zero Waste Goal by 2030” continued from page 1

Volunteers Needed

Holiday Networking Party & Environmental Awards
Thursday, December 6, 2018, 5 – 8 pm
Benefits for the Environmental Center of Sonoma County

$30 per person includes dinner and one drink!
Tickets online at https://envirocentersoco.org/

Tickets online at https://envirocentersoco.org/holiday-networking-party/ or mail a check to SCCC, PO Box 4346, Santa Rosa, CA 95402, or at the door.
Volunteers needed to bake, set up, clean up and drink service.
To help or for more information, contact Wendy Kupnick, 544-4582, wlk@sonic.net

Redwood Needles December 1, 2018 3
Nattkemper Trail History

I volunteered in Hood Mountain Regional Park for over 30 years. I joined the Sierra Club in 1982. That coincided with the Sierra Club building the Nattkemper Trail because there wasn’t a connection between Sugarloaf State Park and Hood Mountain Regional Park. Clark Nattkemper decided to build the trail. I am blessed to have known Clark Nattkemper and his group of volunteers. Clark was a professor at Santa Rosa Junior College. He was a founding member of the Redwood Chapter in 1957, an Outing leader for 33 years, and an Outing Chair for 27 years. It took many weekends to build the trail. We worked from 1982 until late 1985 when the two trail workers met (one working from the top of the mountain and another from Sugarloaf). In 1986 we drove a gold spike behind a tree as a part of celebration to commemorate the success. Clark was the moving force behind the trail in those days. After his passing I decided that a bench overlooking the beautiful valley would be a fitting memorial. I visited the trail many times before selecting just the right spot. On warm sunny days hiking the Nattkemper Trail is a challenge. After a hot steep area there is a forest. Before the trail goes into the forest is the bench. Professor Don Emblen, the first Sonoma County Poet Laureate, wrote a poem about Clark. Professor Bob Rubin mounted the poem on a redwood stand and also did carvings on the bench before it was assembled. A group of volunteers carried the parts to the bench and assembled them on the trail in 2003. After the 2017 firestorm the bench was blown off its base. Only the poem was saved. Elisa Stancil hiked in, sanded and sealed the bench. John Roney, Sugarloaf State Park manager with a team of workers, removed the stand, replaced the burned legs, removed the graffiti, replaced the poem, stained the wood and reinstalled the said. We are all very grateful to volunteers.

Today Regional Park Now Open!

Today Regional Park is now open to visitors after more than a decade in the making. The former Cardoza Ranch was 1,737 acres. Now with additions it is 3,400 acres making Today the largest of the County Parks. The Fall Harvest Festival is a fun place to bring families or to volunteer. The park is known for the significant Native American and ranching histories. I led walks on Rita Cordoza’s Ranch years ago before it was a park to show participants the spring flowers and the magnificent views from the ridges. At one point there was talk about using the ranch as a storage for wastewater. There used to be a huge lake there, but farmers long ago drained it for agriculture. A variety of wildlife roams the area. For birders, the park provides a great habitat for viewing burrowing owls, golden eagles, and many other birds of prey. Congratulations to park staff on the completion of years of work on the park. I urge you to visit this fantastic Regional Park.

~CAROL VELLUTINI,
SONOMA GROUP PARKS & TRAILS

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/Heritage corridor near the Laguna Water Treatment Plant) were critical wildlife habitat! Joining the Laguna Steward is a fun and meaningful way to volunteer while enjoying the outdoors. http://lagunafoundation.org/volunteer_lagunastewardships.html

Sonoma County Regional Parks Matter

Outings will start not later than 15 minutes after scheduled meeting time. The leader is in charge of the trip and is responsible for your welfare and the good name of the Club. He/she must have your cooperation to make the trip safe, pleasant and rewarding. Never charge ahead of the leader and keep within sight or shouting distance of the person ahead of you so you do not miss an intersecting trail. Do not lag behind rear leader: if you need help, the rear leader will remain to assist you. Do not leave the group without the leader’s permission. Be adequately equipped and prepared. You should carry lunch and liquids. Wear footwear appropriate for the outing. In most cases that would be hiking boots.

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

The Sierra Club does not have insurance for carpooling arrangements and assumes no liability for them. Participants assume the risks associated with travel. Reimburse the leader’s permission and extinguish them completely. Guns or radios are not to be brought on hikes.

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**North Group Report**

**Capitalizing on Disaster: Why Recent State Legislation and Subsidies for Biomass Electric Generation are Very Bad Ideas**

In the wake of wildfires that caused terrible devastation when they entered Northern California towns, politicians are ignoring the facts and using the disasters to push “solutions” that will only increase fire risks. While some communities are bordered by forests, most fires which threaten western towns and cities come from shrublands and woodlands with few trees, not from forests. But that has not stopped President Trump from blaming “poor forest management” for the devastation communities have experienced, even as his administration pushes the Forest Service to convert more national forest to highly flammable tree plantations.

Trump is not the only politician using the fire disasters to push logging-related agendas. Northeast state representatives Mike McGuire and Jim Wood helped get AB 901 passed by the California legislature. Signed into law by Governor Brown, AB 901 allows some landowners to log and construct logging roads without notice or review by Regional Water Boards and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife. Because younger forests and tree plantations burn hotter as compared to older and natural forests, AB 901 will actually lead to more fire risk as older forests are replaced by younger, more flammable forests and tree plantations.

Green Diamond Resources (formerly Simpson Timber) is converting the Northcoast forests it controls (This one is in Redwood Creek) into tree plantations. That increases the fire risk to nearby towns, including Hoopa, Weitchpec, Klamath and Trinidad.

Another industry capitalizing on the public’s fear of wildfires is the Biomass Industry. Biomass electricity generation cannot compete with cleaner forms of electric generation like natural gas, solar and wind. In order to survive, the Biomass Industry requires government subsidies paid for by taxpayers. Unfortunately, California politicians appear eager to subsidize this dirty form of electricity generation.

Subsidies for Biomass Electric Generation are Very Bad Ideas

When used for biomass electric generation, tree plantations are typically harvested every 30 to 50 years, guaranteeing that enhanced fire risk is sustained over time. And because biomass plants pull fuel only from nearby forests, the enhanced risk is located where it can do the most damage, that is, close to rural towns and cities. Sierra Club California is looking out for the health of rural residents

While some major environmental organizations support subsidies for the Biomass Industry, Sierra Club California opposes them and is working to educate state lawmakers and others about the problems biomass electricity generation creates and why it is not a good, sustainable solution for electricity generation. You can learn more from Sierra Club California’s fact sheets at https://www.sierraclub.org/california/biomass-dirty-energy-source.

Sierra Club California Director Kathryn Phillips “Letter from Sacramento” (https://www.sierraclub.org/california/letter-sacramento-step-away-from-the-incinerator) is about attempts by the Biomass Industry and California politicians to use the recent fires to leverage more subsidies for biomass electricity generation.

Because Northeast Senator Mike McGuire and Northcoast Assemblymember Jim Wood supported logging without review and biomass subsidies, they need to hear from constituents who object to unregulated logging and dirty power. Please tell McGuire and Wood that AB 901 will increase fire risk and damage our watersheds. Remind them that biomass creates massive greenhouse gas emissions, threatens the health of residents living near the plants and increases fire risk by encouraging conversion of naturally diverse forests to single-tree plantations managed on short rotations.

Let these politicians know that you do not want them to promote plantation forestry which poses the greatest risk for forest catastrophic fire effects. Here’s how to contact them:

Contact Senator McGuire via email at this address: senator.mcguire@senate.ca.gov, or by calling his Sacramento office: 916-651-6092.

Contact Assembly Member Wood via his website or by calling his office: 916-319-2002.

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

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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. 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 Coddingtontown).

Sun. Dec. 2 - Redwood Chapter ExCom. And ConsCom.

Location: Willis House, Super 8 Motel, 1119 5. Main St. Conservation Committee meets at 10 a.m., ExCom meets 1–3 p.m. Info Victoria vbard enondlakelive.info

Mon. Dec. 3 - Solano Group ExCom. Come join us for our monthly meetings which rotate between Vallejo, Fairfield and Vacaville. We are making a positive impact on our county and need a few more people to help carry the load. Call Jane for information. (707)319-6938.

Mon. Dec. 3 - Sonoma Group. Conservation Committee at 5:30 p.m. - 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

Mon. Jan. 7 - Sonoma Group. Conservation Committee at 5:30 p.m - 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

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Tues. Jan. 8 - North Group ExCom. All are welcome to discuss local conservation issues between 7:45 and 8:45 p.m. or come for the business meeting starting at 6:45 p.m. Meet at the Adorni Center Conference Room on the Eureka/Westside. For more information, contact Gregg at (707) 826-3740.

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Tues. Jan. 15 - 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 napaqaul@gmail.com

Mon. Feb. 4 - 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. 707-319-6938.

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Siesta Club endorsement candidates won their races! In Petaluma, City Council member Teresa Barrett was voted in as mayor. As a longtime City Council member, Barrett has a proven track record putting the environment first. Her platform includes protecting the environment.

Endorsed candidate Kevin McDonnell was elected to the Petaluma City Council on a slate that aligns with Siesta Club’s support of city-centered growth. He has served on the city’s parks and recreation commission and organizes the Know Before You Grow public forum. D’Iundra Fischer, also endorsed, was ahead in the last vote count to win a seat on the city council. A newcomer to local politics, her expertise is in urban planning.

The third candidate we endorsed, Dennis Pescek, did not get elected but we look forward to supporting his progressive policies on affordable housing at the City Council.

In Santa Rosa, endorsed candidate Victoria Fleming won the 4th District seat. We look forward to partnering with Fleming and other pro-environment council members to move forward implementation of the city’s Climate Action Plan and a new electric-vehicle ordinance for all new homes. The city is poised to take up a number of sustainability initiatives and to update the General Plan and Downtown Station Area Plan to advance downtown housing that is affordable.

Unfortunately, our endorsed candidate Lance Pancer did not win his race against longtime council member John Sawyer, but he ran a strong race.

In Sonoma, two of the three candidates we endorsed won victories: Rachel Hundley was re-elected and newcomer Logan Harvey also won. Together with City Council member Amy Harrington, the city has a progressive majority that will have the votes to advance affordable housing and climate-smart policies and push back against inappropriate development. Endorsed candidate Chris Petlock did not win a seat on the Council. Instead, Madelyn Agamonti, who we didn’t endorse, won re-election, and is expected to be a swing vote.

---TEI SHORE, SONOMA SIESTA CO-CHAIR---

Elections Update

Several Sierra Club-endorsed candidates won their races! In Petaluma, City Council member Teresa Barrett was voted in as mayor. As a longtime City Council member, Barrett has a proven track record putting the environment first. Her platform includes protecting the environment.

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In Sonoma, two of the three candidates we endorsed won victories: Rachel Hundley was re-elected and newcomer Logan Harvey also won. Together with City Council member Amy Harrington, the city has a progressive majority that will have the votes to advance affordable housing and climate-smart policies and push back against inappropriate development. Endorsed candidate Chris Petlock did not win a seat on the Council. Instead, Madelyn Agamonti, who we didn’t endorse, won re-election, and is expected to be a swing vote.

---TEI SHORE, SONOMA SIESTA CO-CHAIR---

Elections Update

Several Sierra Club-endorsed candidates won their races! In Petaluma, City Council member Teresa Barrett was voted in as mayor. As a longtime City Council member, Barrett has a proven track record putting the environment first. Her platform includes protecting the environment.

Endorsed candidate Kevin McDonnell was elected to the Petaluma City Council on a slate that aligns with Siesta Club’s support of city-centered growth. He has served on the city’s parks and recreation commission and organizes the Know Before You Grow public forum. D’Iundra Fischer, also endorsed, was ahead in the last vote count to win a seat on the city council. A newcomer to local politics, her expertise is in urban planning.

The third candidate we endorsed, Dennis Pescek, did not get elected but we look forward to supporting his progressive policies on affordable housing at the City Council.

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---TEI SHORE, SONOMA SIESTA CO-CHAIR---
Rue Furch

My children and grandchildren live in this very special place and I want to preserve it for all generations. In the 1990’s, I helped establish the Stakeholders Consensus on Reuse to promote clean water. I also co-founded Citizens for Responsible Water Use, and the Russian River Watershed Council. I have supported local agriculture through Farmlands Group, helped craft Santa Rosa and Sebastopol’s Urban Growth Boundary initiatives, plus the countywide Community Separators. I serve on the Policy Committee for the Community Alliance for Family Farms, and on the Santa Rosa Groundwater Sustainability Advisory Committee. I am also on the Board of the Larkspur and Mill Valley Club and am on the Committee for Immigrants’ Rights. As a county planning commissioner for 18 years, and President of the California County Planning Commissioners Association (CCCPA) I produced a statewide conference on land use and water. I was also instrumental in prioritizing water resources in the Sonoma County’s General Plan which addresses water quality, quantity and sustainability. I’ve been honored to be named the California Assembly Woman of the Year, the Upstream Swimmer by Sonoma County Conservation Action, Environmentalist of the Year by the Sonoma County Conservation Council, County Planning Commissioner of the Year by the CCCPA, and received the Lifetime Achievement Award from Russian Riverkeeper. I hope you will support my continuing work with the Sierra Club, and that you’ll be involved.

Tom Roth

Running for re-election as an at-large member of the ExCom, I bring with me years of experience gained working for two Members of Congress and for a state legislator. I played major roles in expanding two National Marine Sanctuaries; cleaning up and transferring two former military bases to create wildlife preserves, protecting the endangered tiger salamander; ensuring the sustainability of California’s crab fishery; and keeping our state parks open.

During the last two years, I spearheaded the Chapter’s response to the Trump Administration’s attempts to open our coast to offshore drilling. I worked with local elected officials to oppose pro-drilling executive orders, testified at hearings, and organized transportation to a Sacramento rally. When catastrophic wildfires burned through the North Bay, I represented the Chapter in the Just and Resilient Future Fund which has funneled more than $280,000 to non-profits providing assistance to the most marginal survivors and grants to build community resilience.

I am the Chapter’s Conservation Chair and Council of Club Leaders delegate, sit on the Advisory Committee of Sonoma County Conservation Action and teach environmental policy at SRJC. I look forward to working with a re-energized ExCom on initiatives for climate action, forest protection, transportation and environmental justice.

MENDOCINO COUNTY GROUP

Randal Stuart MacDonald

It’s an honor and a pleasure to serve on the Executive Committee of the Mendocino Group. I'm currently an appointed member of the committee, I humbly ask for your vote to be elected to the Mendocino Group's Executive Committee.

During my service on the committee so far, I have helped improve our Group's e-mail outreach to hundreds of Club members in our county. I hope to encourage more members to be active in our Group, particularly young people. There are important local issues we need help working on and lots of wonderful locations in Mendocino County to explore and enjoy through Club outings.

I also serve on the Redwood Chapter’s Executive Committee as an appointed member, and I chair the chapter’s Climate and Energy Committee. Working with my Group and our Chapter has been very fulfilling, and I look forward to becoming even more effective in my Club work at both levels.

I hope you’ll vote to elect me to the Mendocino Group’s Executive Committee. Thank you!

Robin Leler

I would welcome the opportunity to serve with the Mendocino Group of the Sierra Club. I live in Willits and have been attending regular meetings of the Mendocino Group and the Redwood Chapter ExCom for over a year. Mendocino Group is currently most active on the coast, working on coastal protections from oil drilling and conservation of the mature pygmy cypress foreststands. There is a need for a more active voice for inland Mendocino County. I would like to see two inland subgroups, one for Willits/Laytonville/Covelo and one for Ukiah/Hopland/Potter Valley.

My interest in environmental issues dates back to the 1970’s when I started work with Ecology Action in Palo Alto, an organization known for establishing one of the first recycling centers, advocating for bicycle lanes, exploring and encouraging good solar home design, and researching sustainable organic food production. Forty-six years later my core values still revolve around healthy soil, clean water, gardening, passive home design for heating and cooling, and pollution-free transportation. I’ve added a passion for outdoor education and learning all I can about the Wild and Scenic Eel River, and the majestic redwood forests, the great gems that define the region. I’ve called home since 1982, when I moved here to help establish Ecology Action’s biointensive research mini-farm.

I am now a retired educator with over 25 years experience teaching high school English Language Arts, Spanish and mathematics in Mendocino County. I look forward to a new chapter of my life with more involvement in the Sierra Club, the organization that I believe has the best chance of slowing, mitigating, and reversing the self-destructive course we seem to be on.

SOLANO COUNTY GROUP

Greg Peterson

I have served on the Solano Group ExCom for many years and I’ve served as editor of the Solano Breeze Corner of the Redwood Needles. I’ve been a member of Sierra Club since the 1970’s. I would like to continue to serve.

Amy Hartman

I am excited for the opportunity to again run for the Executive Committee of the Solano Co. Sierra Club. The group has done tremendous work over the past year on opposing a toxic cement factory in Vallejo, supporting our regional park district efforts, and encouraging open space protection and smart growth in Solano Co. I am looking forward to continuing to be a part of that work.

Joe Feller

I have served on the Excom for more than 6 years and have been chair for the last 2 years. I would be honored to serve again.

NORTH GROUP

(Humboldt, Del Norte, Trinity, and W. Siskiyou Counties)

Richard Kreis

It has been my pleasure to serve this group since I arrived on the stage from LA in 2011. In that time, I have served as SCNG representative to the Northeast Environmental Center. I have also served as Climate & Energy chair, and as part of that responsibility I have been involved in significant ways in developing the public programs presented by this group.

It would be my pleasure to continue to serve Sierra Club North Group in these ways. I respectfully seek your vote of support.

Members should receive their ballots in the mail, if they do not receive a copy of this newsletter in the mail. If you are a member who receives the e-newsletter, and haven’t received a ballot in the mail by December 5th, please call the Sierra Club office at 544-7651 and leave a message with your name, phone number and address to request one. Your ballot will include information about how to vote.
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2018 Redwood Chapter and Group Executive Committee Election

NAPA COUNTY GROUP

Annette Krammer
Our local environmental and political issues provide us with an opportunity to make changes that will protect our natural resources into the future. I am committed to preserving Napa’s wild lands, our watersheds and our wildlife, and am involved in efforts to keep these from being overrun by development. We face acute environmental problems as a county and I want to work on solving them. We have to do this together, as a community, and I recognize that many different concerns must be taken into account.

As a project manager, I pull lots of different people together to work on complex projects. As a consultant, I managed a data system for Napa County HHS. As a designer, I’ve built websites for and have client relationships with the Napa RCD, Solano County Water Agency, and LandSmart. I have been a Land Trust volunteer for many years and chaired its Foote Preserve management committee. I worked on the Chicago Botanic Garden and did field research for the Chicago Field Museum. I’ve been a Master Gardener in both Chicago and Napa. My husband Peter and I have lived in Napa for 17 years.

Xulio Sorianio
I am Executive Director of Movimiento Cultural de la Unión Indígena (MCUI), a small but mighty non-profit that advocates for and serves indigenous immigrants throughout the North Bay. Locally, MCUI has supported local indigenous dance groups in St. Helena and Napa with funding or other resources to preserve their cultural dances. I graduated from Leadership Napa Valley, Class 27. I was also honored by the Napa County Hispanic Network with a Friends of the Network award for outstanding community service.

I am a co-founder and a board member of multiple local grassroots and non-profit organizations. In early 2018 I co-presented at the United Nations in New York City on the conditions of Indigenous farmworker women in rural areas of Napa Valley and California and the effects that climate change has had on them. I was part of the 2018 Napa County Measure C team to outreach to Latino and Indigenous communities.

SONOMA COUNTY GROUP

Richard Sachen
Our accomplishments over the years are a source of pride, including the extension of the laws to protect the rural nature of our county through community separators and urban growth boundaries, opening of SMART Rail, and recent passage of bills at the state level to clean our air with less pollution in electricity generation and further adoption of clean-air vehicles. I have been honored to work on the Sonoma Executive Committee these last four years and will continue to support and guide the good work that the club does.

Each of us joins the Sierra Club for different, personal reasons, but we all share a desire to protect and preserve our environment. Whether our focus is on reducing pollution—saving the trees, preventing fracking or preserving our rivers and streams—we all share a love for the planet. In the last few years we’ve had challenges we never thought we would face, from fire recovery to a national government hostile to environmental concerns.

As an Executive Committee member, I’ll continue use my experience to help the Sonoma Group accomplish our objectives, promote cleaner air and water, and work to prevent degradation of our environment.

Shirley Johnson
I have a long history with Sierra Club. I would like to keep on working on issues. I’m asking for re-election to the Sonoma Group ExCom, as the climate and energy co-chair. Around 2006, I first visited the environmental center on Mendocino Ave., while finishing my undergrad at Sonoma State. In 2009, I was invited to attend Sonoma Group Climate and Energy workshop at the environmental center, at its current location. I will never forget the encouragement that Jay Holcomb gave towards being part of the Redwood Chapter ExCom.

Sadly, he passed away before I could thank him for his guidance. In 2011, I was part of the California Coast Resilient Habitats education committee, we developed literature that later was used for the campaign. Since then, I’ve been involved in most things climate with Sierra Club. The planet is being stressed beyond its capacity on all fronts. Climate covers a wide breadth and depth of social and environmental issues, it can be mind-boggling. Luckily we have many devoted members in Sierra Club to take on the challenge. I would like to continue my work with the Sonoma Group Excom, and also attend the Redwood Chapter meetings as a delegate.

Theresa Ryan
No Statement Submitted.

LAKE COUNTY GROUP

Carolyn E. Ruttan
Carolyn is a scientist and Director of the Clear Lake Environmental Research Center (CLERC). CLERC’s mission is to bring permanent science to the shores of Clear Lake in Lake County for scientific education and discovery, and solution to our water challenges. Since moving to Lake County in 2000, she has developed a love for one of the most ecologically diverse counties in the state, and in particular Clear Lake, a seriously forgotten national treasure due to its age and size.

Having worked for Lake County Water Resources for nine years looking after the health of Clear Lake, she now helps members of the public, business, agencies and nonprofits realize their goals for environmental sustainability. She is a Board member of the Western Aquatic Plant Management Society, and has been a member of the Lake Group executive committee for a number of years.

Carolyn was educated in England and the USA, obtaining BS Degrees in Biology and Manufacturing Engineering and MS Degrees in Technology of Crop Protection and Viticulture.

Ed Robey
No Statement Submitted.

Cheri Kessner
It has been so rewarding to continue my environmental activism work in my association with our Sierra Club Lake Group. This year we have doubled down on our commitment to community as we face the challenges of a post-wildfire environment. Some projects include “Re-our Lake County” collecting, sorting, etc. local acorns and working with the Native American Society to replant. Drawdown has inspired us and we are hosting several study groups around the drawdown concept. We are gaining new community organizations and enjoying strengthening our abilities that working together brings. Additionally, we have broadened our community outreach capabilities. As a member of the Sierra Club Lake Group executive committee, I look forward to continuing this important work.

Please Vote in this Sierra Club Election