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.

Sonoma Group Presents
Water & Power: A California Heist

BY STEVE BIRDELBOWGH, SONOMA GROUP PRESENTATION CHAIR

Rising sea levels combined with king tides and rainfall storms 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 BIRDELBOWGH, 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 long 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

For more Redwood Chapter information: http://www.sierraclub.org/redwood
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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Victoria Brandon* 994-1911 vibrandon@lakesinfo.org

Vice Chair - Lake Group Delegate to Chapter
Ed Robey* 994-8304 edrosey@wildblue.net

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

Deadlines
Due July 8th

Redwood Needles
Newsletter of the Redwood Chapter, Sierra Club of California

Redwood Needles
publish six

Redwood Needles Subscriptions,

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Redwood Needles

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

Redwood Chapter Facebook: www.facebook.com/SierraClubRedwoodChapter/

Redwood Needles

August 2017 Deadline: Due July 8th
Submit Articles/Reports/Ad copy via e-mail to:

Send Outings to Carol Vellutini via email: carolvsr@sonic.net
Send Meetings to Carl Inglin: chinglin@sonic.net

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 466, Santa Rosa, CA 95402, Phone 544-7651, Fax 544-9861
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Redwood Chapter Sierra Club Directory

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Chair - Treasurer • Newsletter Editor • Membership - Chapter Delegate
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Responsibilities Include:

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 Spering JPSpering@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.

Sierra Club Volunteer/Activist Opportunities

Highlights: Transportation for Redwood Chapter

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

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

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.

“BSM on Trump’s Hit List” continued from page 1

“Vallejo Cement Plant Fight” continued from page 1

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Outings

Fri.-Sun. June 2-4 - Bright Star Wilderness Benson Hut Work Party
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 Enkine 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 along 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.Allers.kj.allers96@gmail. com, 661-948-6566. 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

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 1930s by the present 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 9a.m. Valley(Ray's) ShoppingCenter, 10:30a.m. Damnation Creek trailhead (3.3 mi. north of Wilson Creek bridge, west side Hwy. 101). Leader Ned nfredoryth84@gmail.com. 825-3652. Heavy rain cancel.

The first part of this 3.7 mile backpack covers 11 miles in Harris Wash, then 12 miles along the Escalante River, and finally 25 Mile Wash. The entry and exit washes have narrow, 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 wet feet - hiking may be easier if the banks are not obstructed. We should make our own car shuttle, high clearance vehicles best. Limit 10. David Hardy, 702-875-4826, hardykens@embarqmail.com. Email preferred. S. Nevada Group/CNRCC Desert Committee

Hike a fantastically grand section of Redwood's redwoods with twisting massive limbs and along bluffs with sweeping ocean views of the Lost Coast. Learn about the unique redwood, 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 Ulash 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@safer.net

Sat.-Mon. July 1 - 3 - Fourth of 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 radiod 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 and camp miles. On day 3 we do a 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, hardykens@embarqmail.com. Email preferred. Nevada Group/CNRCC Desert Committee

Benson Hut work party scheduled this summer for June to beat UF5 fire restrictions. Involves hiking 3 miles to the Benson Hut Saturday morning, hut night, then out of the hut and Sunday morning, then hiking back Sunday afternoon. Maintenance involves stock 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 signup or questions.

Take a scenic drive and hike with us in this wonderful natural wonderland highway 36. 14 clear 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. Reservations required. clockwise 707-832-2376, nednorforsyth48@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 on a beach, with campground facilities and features, and plenty of shade. We should have plenty of room for tents, and it will be a quiet and enjoyable place to camp. There are no port-a-potties but little else so bring water, food etc. The temperature will be comfortable. There’s usually a potluck/Dutch oven meal one night. UNT, dogs must be on leash and expect to pick up after them. David Book 775/843-6443 Great Basin Group Sun.-Thu. 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
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 & Foothill 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 87th 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 Outings Chair

Redwood Needles 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 signup 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. Snorkel 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; jholtzhln@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

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.

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.

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.

With your help we can protect the wolf. Wolves are vitally important to maintaining nature’s balance, culling out weak and sick animals to keep populations of elk and deer healthy and in check. The Sierra Club is working to defend wolf populations from continued threats from politicians. Lead the pack & JOIN Sierra Club.

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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 Heshbi 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 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 and heyday 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.sonomaoopenspace.org/projects/vital-lands-initiative/ Contact Sierra Club at 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.

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 Petaluma Valley Democrats. The Sierra Club’s Steve Birdlebough 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

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. Their 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 lakesides and mountain trails abundant with wildlife. 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 our cozy comfortable lakeside room or cottage, ending your day star gazing from your deck or meeting at others camping at the other cabins. We now offer some pet friendly cabins.

Kit Carson Lodge
call or visit online at:
(931) 250-8500
www.kitscarlonline.com
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 Anneti 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 for the macroinvertebrates upon which many creatures further up the food chain depend. Anneti 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 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.”

–SUSI LESKOA, NORTH GROUP TREASURER

Please join us!

The North Group 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 a new project seem worthwhile.”

–SUSI LESKOA, NORTH GROUP TREASURER

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.

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, Napaans 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

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 your site. Share your expertise or learn new skills by getting involved today! http://laguanofoundation.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 coast). Announcements will be made on www.npwards.org and on our Facebook page. Help beautify our local parks and open spaces.

–NANCY TAMARISK, NAPA GROUP VICE CHAIR

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

VALCOA 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

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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 Marine Lab’s beautiful coastal campus.

RSVPs are necessary. For details contact 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!1s0x0:0x50317ec01e2

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 at 5:30 pm - 6:30 p.m. Info: Suzanne Doyle carsort@gmail.com
Sonoma Group Executive Committee at 6:30 p.m. Info: Suzanne Doyle carsort@gmail.com

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

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@lakealive.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

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.

GSAs 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

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 our 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.sonomacountygroundwaters.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 adopt the following:

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/CivicAlerts.aspx?AID=1033