Stornetta Public Lands: a Pacific Coast Jewel

BY VICTORIA BRANDON, REDWOOD CHAPTER POLITICAL CHAIR

The Stornetta Public Lands, consisting of 1,132 acres located along Mendocino County’s south coast, adjacent to Manchester State Beach and the Point Arena Lighthouse, includes more than two miles of Pacific coastline with natural bridges, tide pools, waterfalls, sinkholes and blowholes, as well as two miles of the Garcia River, the Garcia estuary, a quarter-mile of beach adjacent to Manchester State Park, and a five-acre island called Sea Island Rocks. The area is recognized not only for breathtaking scenic values, but also for outstanding natural resources that encompass riparian corridors, extensive coastal wetlands, wind-sculptured stands of cypress, wildflower-strewn meadows, and shifting sand dunes, a varied ecosystem which taken as a whole provides significant wildlife habitat. Otters and seals gambol in the surf, brown pelicans sail by in characteristic single file, and countless gulls and shorebirds call the area home.

Stornetta was acquired by the federal government in 2004, on terms including a grazing lease that will expire in 2014, and has been managed since then by the Ukiah Field Office of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). Aside from the usual considerations applicable to any coastal area, management responsibilities have been greatly complicated because Stornetta is considered an abalone “hotspot,” with intense seasonal use by recreational abalone divers, and thus requires substantial oversight by BLM staff and Department of Fish and Game wardens. Especially before the implementation of the Marine Life Protection Act two years ago, rangers and BLM supervisory staff had to patrol every minus tide weekend—watching for poachers, keeping daredevils from rapelling down the cliffs, and stopping people from breaking down fences and driving all over the ranch. Subsequently a working Gateway partnership with the community of Point Arena and much local citizen involvement has helped a great deal, but the BLM’s scarce financial and personnel resources are still overstrained by the special demands of this special place.

Fortunately help may be on the way. Congressman Mike Thompson, who has represented the area since 1998, has introduced legislation (H.R. 4969) adding this land to the California Coastal National Monument, comprised of more than 20,000 small islands, rocks, exposed reefs and pinnacles along 1,100 miles of coast between Mexico and Oregon. National Monument status carries a higher standard of care for public land than that provided by federal ownership alone, and designation would also automatically add Stornetta to the National Landscape Conservation System, thus making it eligible for additional funding.

By permanently protecting this important segment of the California Coast, and potentially offering the additional resources needed for more effective management, H.R. 4969 provides significant conservation benefits, with no negative consequences.

November Election: The Choice is Clear

BY VICTORIA BRANDON, REDWOOD CHAPTER POLITICAL CHAIR

As the November 6, 2012 election approaches, Sierra Club activists have been engaged in the painstaking task of identifying the best candidates in local races such as county supervisor and city councilor. The results of these grassroots contests often have momentous consequences, with the question coming down to this: do we want to foster the best qualities of the North Coast—abundant open space, towering forests, free-running rivers, charming, friendly small towns with a rural atmosphere—or do we want to become like the rest of California?

We think the choices are clear, and that the election of candidates endorsed by the Sierra Club offers the best hope of making those choices wisely. So please examine the endorsement list on the back page of this newsletter, and give your vote to the individuals named there that appear on your ballot. Please also consider making a personal endorsement, volunteering a few hours of time, or donating money: the future of all our communities hangs in the balance this November, and action by Club members can potentially tip that balance.

Please also check out the Club’s position list on the back page of this newsletter, and give your vote to the individuals named there that appear on your ballot. Please also consider making a personal endorsement, volunteering a few hours of time, or donating money: the future of all our communities hangs in the balance this November, and action by Club members can potentially tip that balance.

Other local endorsements were in progress as this issue of the Needles went to press. The names of endorsed candidates will be posted to redwood.sierraclub.org/Committees/Political as they are approved.
Ralph Knight, Supervisor of Transportation for the Napa Valley Unified School District voices a clear idea of his mission: to provide a safe ride to school for every student in the district who rides the bus. Since the 1990’s he’s also directed a shift away from fossil fuels, by incorporating hybrid, natural gas, electric, and biofuel vehicles into the fleet. NVUSD no longer runs any pure diesel buses. Aside from improving air quality and reducing carbon footprint, Knight has saved the district thousands of dollars via improved mileage, lower fuel and maintenance costs, and acquisition of grant money for the purchase of new vehicles through the Bay Area Air Quality Management District.

Yet Knight is now wondering whether, in the department’s efforts to be cost-effective and environmentally responsible, safety might be compromised. His nightmare scenario is a serious bus accident in which first responders, thinking that they are dealing with a typical diesel bus, take potentially fatal measures at the crash scene. Fire fighters could, for example, cut into a 300 volt electrical line on a hybrid bus. Or sparks from tools could ignite an explosion from leaking natural gas cylinders.

Knight believes there is a simple solution to this dilemma, one which could potentially save lives. A host of fire marshalls and police chiefs have supported his solution with official comment letters. But the Commissioner of the California Highway Patrol is blocking this easy fix.

The simple solution is to paint the normally black “rails” (stripes) on the new buses bright green, under the premise that even in the rush and confusion of a major accident, first responders would immediately be keyed in to the fact that this bus is different. Assessing the situation, the responders’ would reach for the proper tools to safely evacuate the vehicle and secure the accident scene.

In California, the Highway Patrol regulates school bus design, even down to the allowed colors of paint. The rules state that the buses must be yellow, with black stripes. Exemptions to the bus regulations can be granted, but the CHP Commissioner denied the district’s application for an exemption, citing “national standards”. But the national standards are voluntary. Two other states, Colorado and Nevada, are already allowing green stripes for their non-traditionally fueled buses, and a third, Kentucky, is considering the move. CHP has also demanded that the district down-size the large lettering on the sides of the buses identifying their alternative fuel sources– while allowing multiple large multi-colored company logos.

Knight will not be deterred. While asking the Highway Patrol to reconsider, district officials are also approaching state legislators to craft a bill to allow the green stripes. This bulldozer-to-kill-an-ant approach, while no doubt effective, will take several years to implement.

CHP’s obstinacy in the face of a safety threat to school children and first responders seems to be one of those unfortunate examples of governmental red tape blocking local innovation.

Reverence for Redwoods

Sun filtered through trees
Ancient Warriors standing tall
“Wolf Tree” born with Christ
Bark twelve inches thick
Shields from lightning storm and fire
Lives through nature’s wrath
Redwood trees endure
Free from human’s grasping hands
Guardians of earth
Spirits live through time
Silent harbingers of peace
Hope for humankind

“Wolf Tree” is the name of an ancient redwood tree that lives in the Mendocino Forest

California Highway Patrol
Values Red Tape over Children’s Safety

Built by Sierra Club members in 1934, this rustic, hostel-style lodge stands atop historic Donner Pass, just an hour and a half from Sacramento. Clair Tappaan Lodge is the perfect summer base camp for anyone who enjoys the wide variety of activities offered by the Tahoe area. Explore wildflower gardens and expansive views while hiking the nearby Pacific Crest Trail. Short hikes to secluded mountain lakes begin at the Lodge and are perfect for introducing the family to the mountains. Donner Lake offers great kayaking, swimming, and fishing while Donner Summit has long been a destination for rock climbers and mountain bikers.

Guests enjoy excellent family style meals, a friendly staff and a casual and communal atmosphere.

See you on Donner Summit...

For more information about our special programs or to receive a full schedule and description of Clair Tappaan programs please visit our website at www.ctf.sierraclub.org or call (800) 679-6775.
My vision of Sonoma County is a pristine and protected environment AND a vibrant local economy with green jobs at a living wage.

I’m honored to be the only candidate for First District Supervisor who has the endorsement of both the Sierra Club and Sonoma County Conservation Action. As your Supervisor, I’ll bring decades of experienced leadership to protect our environment, revitalize our economy and demand pension reform.

I’ll fight for protection of our agricultural lands, mountaintops and open spaces and open and accessible parks.

I support CSA’s and farmer’s markets, community gardens, appropriate use of open space land for farming, and hubs for distribution and sale of locally grown products. I strongly support the state ballot measure to label GMO food.

I would be honored to have your support and vote. www.SusanGorin.com.

Santa Rosa City Council

Susan Gorin

I am honored to have the endorsement of the Sierra Club. For the last 10 years I have worked as a volunteer for the City of Santa Rosa on various boards and commissions; for the last four as a Planning Commissioner. In this capacity, I have strived to ensure that proper environmental review is done on projects that come before the City of Santa Rosa. I will continue to do the same as your Council Member. My career has spanned everything from government service, small businesses, and work in the vital, nonprofit sector. This extensive experience, coupled with my commitment to protecting the environment, prepares me for the challenges Santa Rosa faces now and in the future.

Rebuilding our local economy; protecting our magnificent environment; promoting inclusion of the public in the political process; and addressing the balance between the need to control our City’s budget while providing essential public services are my greatest priorities. Being accessible, listening to your concerns and doing what is best for all involved will be my approach. As your Council member, I will fight for a better quality of life for all the residents of Santa Rosa.

I respectfully ask for your vote.

www.carolinebanuelos.com

Caroline Bañuelos

Santa Rosa City Council

I am a small business owner, I know the challenges small businesses face, but I also support CEQA and green jobs that pay a living wage.

As a former city Planning Commissioner, I believe we must re-emphasize our commitment to our natural resources by enforcing CEQA and our bicycle and pedestrian plans, invigorating and supporting the planning for SMART and protecting our clean water.

I am gratified to have the support of the Sierra Club, Sonoma County Conservation Action, Senator Noreen Evans, Assembly members Wesley Chesbro and Michael Allen, Councilwomen Susan Gorin and Marsha Vas Dupre, and many other environmental leaders in our community.

I would be honored to have your support and vote.

www.CarolineBanuelos.com

Erin Carlstrom

Santa Rosa is an amazing and beautiful place to live and work. This is in large part because of the efforts of past and current leaders who have protected our open spaces and natural resources. Everything from urban growth boundaries and community separators, to the Prince Memorial Greenway and Howarth Park, make Santa Rosa a beautifully unique and environmentally-conscious community.

As a councilwoman, I will honor this legacy by pursuing good environmental policies. I will work to create good job opportunities by supporting local businesses, reduce crime by improving our gang prevention and youth programming, and ensure adequate funding to our parks, pools and community services.

As a former city Planning Commissioner, I believe we must re-emphasize our commitment to our natural resources by enforcing CEQA and our bicycle and pedestrian plans, invigorating and supporting the planning for SMART and protecting our clean water.

I am gratified to have the support of the Sierra Club, Sonoma County Conservation Action, Senator Noreen Evans, Assembly members Wesley Chesbro and Michael Allen, Councilwomen Susan Gorin and Marsha Vas Dupre, and many other environmental leaders in our community.

I would be honored to have your support and vote.

www.ErinCarlstrom.com

Julie Combs

Our City can do better. As co-founder of the Southeast Greenway Campaign, I know our quality of life and economy require effective stewardship of our environment. While our residents have voted to support the environment, their concerns are ignored. I’ll continue to work to protect our city’s natural resources.

As a Community Advisory Board member, I have listened. I’ve pushed for greater neighborhood inclusion by our City Council. Despite sales tax increases, parks, streetlights and roads are still neglected. To give all neighborhoods a voice, I also helped lead the effort to place District Elections on our ballot.

As a wife and mother, I want a fair, balanced budget that brings public safety pay and pensions to levels we can afford – without sacrificing our safety or our parks.

As a small business owner, I know the challenges businesses face, but I also support CEQA and green jobs that pay a living wage.

With degrees in engineering and psychology, and having worked as an urban plans reviewer, I know how to get things done. That’s why Councilmembers Susan Gorin and Gary Wysocky, Sonoma County’s Democratic Party, and Sonoma County Conservation Action have also endorsed me.

I’m honored to receive Sierra Club’s endorsement. I ask for your vote.

www.CombsForCouncil.com

Julie Combs

Santa Rosa City Council

Erin Carlstrom

Caroline Bañuelos
2012 Sierra Club Endorsed Measures

Vote No on Proposition 32, the Billionaires’ Bill of Rights

Once again, big corporations and multimillionaire right wing extremists are attempting to corrupt the electoral process by promoting a ballot measure that goes beyond mere deceptiveness to verge on the fraudulent.

Officially designated the “Stop Special Interest Money Now Act” and widely touted as the “Paycheck Protection Act,” Prop 32 masquerades as campaign finance reform. The measure bans direct contributions to California candidates by both corporations and labor unions, and prohibits both corporations and unions from using payroll deductions to collect “political funds” even from employees or members who approve in advance. This apparently even-handed restriction is actually grossly discriminatory, since as the measure’s authors know full well, unions get almost all of their funds through payroll deductions, and businesses almost none.

Prop 32 also contains enormous loopholes designed for the benefit of large corporations and the wealthy. Many common organizational structures such as LLCs, partnerships and real estate trusts are exempt. If you’re a venture capitalist, land developer or law firm—exempt. Corporate executives—exempt. And as provided in the infamous “Citizens United” decision, corporations and billionaires can still give unlimited political contributions to anonymous, unaccountable “Super PACs.”

This already sounds pretty bad, but it gets worse. Prop 32 also defines public employee unions as “government contractors,” and would forbid them from attempting to influence any government agency with which they have dealings. That restriction would also cover political action committees established by any membership organization, or “any agency or employee representation committee or plan,” seeking stronger civil rights or environmental protections, such as the Sierra Club. It’s no wonder the measure is actively opposed, not only by organized labor, but also by the country’s leading government groups, such as Common Cause and the League of Women Voters.

In the words of Los Angeles Times columnist Michael Hiltzik, “In this state, we’ve come to expect ballot initiatives sponsored by business interests to be, essentially, frauds. But it’s hard to conceive how one could be more fraudulent than Proposition 32. If there was any doubt left that the initiative process has been totally corrupted by big business and the wealthy, this should put it to rest for all time.”

If Proposition 32 passes it would effectively end organized labor’s ability to influence the political process in California, and cripple the Sierra Club’s ability to protect the environment. We urge our members to vote No on Proposition 32.

—Victoria Brandon, Redwood Chapter

Vote Yes on Prop. 37
Mandatory Labeling for Genetically Engineered Foods

Sierra Club California endorses Proposition 37, the California Right to Know Genetically Engineered Food Act, because it mandates the labeling of genetically modified organisms (GMOs). Polls show that more than 90 percent of California voters want to know if their food was produced by genetic engineering – a process that has nothing to do with traditional breeding and hybridization and which breaches species barriers to produce potatoes altered with bacteria genes, corn altered to produce pesticide, “super” pigs altered with human growth genes, tomatoes altered with fish genes, fish altered with cattle growth genes, etc.

The initiative gives Californians the right to choose what we put in our bodies and feed to our children. Fifty countries, including China, Japan and the European Union, require the labeling of genetically engineered food. The United States continues to allow GMOs to be sold unlabeled, with no requirement that companies prove their safety before putting them on the market—essentially the largest ongoing science experiment in history, conducted without the consent of the experimental subjects and no way to track possible health effects. Concerns are growing about the dramatic increase in pesticide use, impacts on soil fertility and the creation of super-weeds as a result of GMO cultivation. Cross-contamination by genetically engineered pollen is a direct threat to organic farming.

The lobbying power of the biotech industry has killed every federal GMO labeling bill introduced in Congress since 1999 and every GMO labeling bill attempted in Sacramento and fourteen other states. The California ballot initiative process gives voters a way to go around entrenched economic interests that have paralyzed our legislature and implement the will of the people. This is an opportunity to lead the way for the nation on this critical environmental and human health issue.

Yes on Measure U
Protecting Agriculture and Open Space in Angwin

The Napa Sierra Club has endorsed Measure U, a ballot measure that would protect agricultural and open space land in the rural mountain community of Angwin.

The latest General Plan update shrunk what are referred to as “urban bubbles”, areas where development was anticipated by the county decades ago. Crudely drawn with little regard for actual parcel lines, these areas no longer reflected where development was either anticipated or wanted today, particularly in the remote, rural reaches of the county.

Because there was at the time an active residential and commercial development proposal by Pacific Union College for some of the land within the Angwin urban bubble, consideration to eliminate some land was postponed for several parcels. The proposal was very controversial because of the intention to dramatically increase the population in this remote area, inconsistent with policies intended to discourage sprawl in the unincorporated county.

With the development proposal withdrawn, Measure U now proposes to complete the task by eliminating open space and agricultural land from the Angwin urban bubble, while also designating some land as Public Institutional to ensure that PUC can fully utilize the land for its educational mission.

Eliminating this land from the urban bubble will protect agricultural watershed and open space land in this rural community, consistent with county policies, while still allowing land zoned for affordable housing in the Angwin area to be developed as such.

We encourage voters to say yes to Measure U.

—Carol A. Kunze, Napa Group

Obama for President

“...the Sierra Club and our 1.4 million members and supporters share the same vision for America as the President for a prosperous and innovative economy that protects the air we breathe, the water we drink, and the health of our families. Together, we can build upon the historic successes of the last four years, including landmark fuel efficiency standards and the first-ever protections against toxic mercury pollution, to build a clean energy economy that creates thousands of new jobs and works for every American.”

—Michael Brune, Sierra Club Executive Director

President Obama’s
Major Achievements on Environmental Issues:

• New fuel efficiency standards are the most significant action taken by any president in history to move our country off our dependence on oil and mitigate climate disruption (a 10% reduction in greenhouse gases) and will create more than half a million American jobs manufacturing market-leading fuel efficient vehicles. Sales of fuel efficient vehicles are skyrocketing, adding jobs in Michigan and Ohio, cutting pollution, cutting our use of fossil fuels—and helping to rebuild the US manufacturing sector.

• The Recovery Act (aka Stimulus) is the single largest investment in clean and renewable energy in our nation’s history. With green investments of close to $100 billion the Recovery Act created good jobs for Americans, reduced dependence on dirtier energy sources, and promoted wind and solar power, high energy performance, low carbon cars and buildings, mass transit, and a modernized water transportation infrastructure.

• Wind and solar installations have doubled since the President took office – one in five homes in Iowa are now powered by wind energy. Solar installations have increased by a factor of five. And the US again leads the world in clean energy investment.

• Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009 was the most important lands protection legislation in decades, safeguarding millions of acres of new wilderness, protecting hundreds of miles of rivers, and expanding trails.

• Ft. Monroe & Ft. Ord have designated National Monuments. 1 million acres around Grand Canyon are protected from Uranium mining.

• EPA released new protections for toxic mercury from power plants.

• Established new safeguards under the Clean Air Act to protect Americans from dangerous carbon pollution. These first-ever carbon pollution standards for new power plants mean that business as usual for the nation’s biggest sources of carbon pollution, dirty coal-burning utilities, is over. Cleaning up dangerous carbon pollution from new power plants and modernizing the way we power our nation will help secure America’s health and future, and prevent against life-threatening air pollutants like dirty soot, toxic mercury and smog.

Redwood Needles
October 1, 2012

5
Outings

Sat. Oct. 6 - Mendo Group-Montgomery Woods State Park Naturalists. Naturalist Kate Marianchild will lead a walk among the virgin redwoods, discussing the biology and ecology of Coast Redwoods—what allows them to grow so tall, and the unique role they play in their ecosystem, the astonishing ecosystems in their canopies, the role of mycorrhizal fungi and the fungii loria, and the adaptations of some of the understory plants. She will tell the story of how the old road was abandoned and climb into the canopy of a 300-foot tree. Warning: participants may be asked to hug a tree. Bring water, snacks, lunch, binoculars, layered clothing. Return to Ukiah about 3 p.m. Heavy rain cancels. Class E-3-A Carpools: Meet at Mendo Mill parking lot, Ukiah at 9:30 am. RSVP leader Yvonne Kramer (707) 463-0342 or kramer@saber.net

Sat. Oct. 7 - Lake Group Turk's Head on Mt. St. Helena. Moderate hike on Mt. St. Helena to Turk's Head on Sun. Oct. 7 - Lake Group Turk's Head (707) 463-0342 or kramer@saber.net RSVP leader Yvonne Kramer (707) 463-0342. E-3-A Carpools: Meet at Mendocino at 3 p.m. Heavy rain cancels. Class M-9-A. Carpool: Meet 8:30 a.m. Perry's Deli Middletown or the east parking lot of RLS Park 9 am. By reservation only. Leader Pete McGee at 942-1372 or montso@hughes.net or else a tour of popular viewing spot. Group size strictly limited. Send $8 per person (Lygeia Gerard), large SASE, HWP phones, or mail to Carol Vellutini, 15406 Norco, Cotati, CA 94931. Info. Karen before 8:30 pm. 664-1448.

Sun. Oct. 7 - Lake Group Table Rock on Mt. St. Helena. This is a moderate hike to Table Rock from Robert Louis Stevenson Park. Enjoy spectacular views to the north and, from Table Rock, of the Napa Valley wine country. Class M-5-A. Carpools: Meet 8:30 a.m. Perry's Deli Middletown or the east parking lot of RLS Park 9 a.m. By reservation only. Leader Pete McGee at 942-1372 or montso@hughes.net or else a tour of popular viewing spot. Group size strictly limited. Send $8 per person (Lygeia Gerard), large SASE, HWP phones.

Sun. Oct. 21 - Lake Group Table Rock on Mt. St. Helena. This is a moderate hike to Table Rock from Robert Louis Stevenson Park. Enjoy spectacular views to the north and, from Table Rock, of the Napa Valley wine country. Class M-5-A. Carpools: Meet 8:30 a.m. Perry's Deli Middletown or the east parking lot of RLS Park 9 a.m. By reservation only. Leader Pete McGee at 942-1372 or montso@hughes.net or else a tour of popular viewing spot. Group size strictly limited. Send $8 per person (Lygeia Gerard), large SASE, HWP phones.
Outings Chair Report

The Sonoma Group has a new leader. Tiffany MacNeil has been hiking in Sonoma and Napa Counties for 13 years as a hike leader, trail builder and volunteer. She loves to share her enthusiasm for the enduring lessons and healing power of nature, as well as the history of Northern California and how different peoples have shaped the land. She spent her childhood in upstate New York, mostly barefoot and climbing trees, and returned to the woods after a corporate career in NYC and LA. Her next adventure will be to hike the Chilko Trail in the Yukon Territory of Alaska. Welcome Tiffany.

I have been attending Brian’s walks on Mare Island in Solano County. Each time I come away with so much historical information. The views are fantastic. There are so many volunteers clearing trails, taking out invasive plants, greeting visitors, doing BBQs, raising money and helping with the transition from military to recreational. Local honey and pollen are sold. I tasted fennel popcorn. Seeing the raptors nesting is a treat. Going into bomb shelters is a reminder of our past. So many buildings are in transition. Thank you Brian for continuing to drive from Sacramento to do the walks.

There are five Sierra Club huts in the Sierra. Each needs maintenance and volunteers to do the work. The Redwood Chapter maintains Benson Hut. I was concerned about the hanta virus since the Yosemite outbreak. When I was in charge of Benson I would sweep & clean with dust flying around. There would be rodent urine

Sacramento Lobby Day

The Sierra Club sponsored a Citizen Lobby Day for members at the capitol on August 20 & 21. Volunteers from all chapters in California were trained one day and met the next with legislators and staff to promote environmental legislation supported by the Club, to oppose possible changes to California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), and discuss issues around increased clear cutting on private lands. The bills dealt with toxic waste and extended support for solar energy as well as the State Park Stewardship Act (AB 1589). SB 843 by Senator Wolk (D–Davis) allows households and businesses to buy up to 100% renewable power from a shared facility in the utility district and receive a credit on their utility bill. AB1990 by Senator Fong (D–Cupertino) expands the existing Feed-in Tariff program to disadvantaged communities bringing green jobs into those communities. SB 1222 by Senator Leno (D–San Francisco) sets a $500 permit fee cap for residential rooftop energy systems. SB 568(Lowenthal) bans Styrofoam in restaurants after January 1, 2016. SB 298 (Brownley) bans single use plastic bags by grocery stores after 2014. I represented the Redwood Chapter & was supported by two members from Alviso and the Foothill Chapter, both veterans of last year’s Lobby Day. We met with staff from the following representatives: Sen. Noreen Evans (D–Santa Rosa), Assembly Member Michael Allen (D–Santa Rosa), Assembly Member Mariko Yamada (D–Davis) and Assembly Member Wesly Cheso (D–Eureka). We found support for all the bills and had receptive talks on the other issues. I highly recommend attending Lobby Day next year to gain a deeper appreciation for the environmental work the Club does on the state level and to gain some experience as a volunteer lobbyist.

–YVONNE KRAMER, UKIAH, MENDO GROUP HIKE LEADER
Now is the Time....

Are you concerned about protecting open spaces and agricultural land, worried about depleting ground water and leveling mountain tops and wanting to preserve clean rushing rivers and majestic forests? All of us can join together to keep Northern California the beautiful place it is. It takes just a little of your time, working with a group of like minded people.

We are looking for some new faces to be members of our Executive Committees and to lend a hand in accomplishing our goals. Every Sierra Club Group has openings. If you think you might be interested in helping in some way, please call your local Sierra Club office and find out your Group’s needs. They need you!

2012 Redwood Chapter and Group Elections Schedule

Sept. 10, 2012
Appointment of Chapter Nominating and Election Committees.

September 17, 2012
Appointment of Nominating Committee by Groups.

October 15, 2012
Receipt of candidates’ applications (statement of intent to run), with contact information, by Nominating Committees for consideration.

October 31, 2012
Nominating Committee inform all potential candidates (those nominated and not) of their status and submit lists of nominated candidates, with contact information, to respective ExComs and to Election Committee.

November 1, 2012
Nominated candidates submit ballot statements to Election Committee.

November 1, 2012
Nominated candidates submit ballot statements to Election Committee.

November 5, 2012 (no later than)
Petition candidates send ballot statements to Election Committee. Election committee sends statements for December Needles.

December 2012
Ballots distributed in December edition of Redwood Needles.

December 30, 2012
Ballots due in chapter office in Santa Rosa.

January 3, 2013
Count ballots.

January 5, 2013
Election Committee announces results to candidates and to Group and Chapter chairs. Election results sent to editor of Needles.

A Redwood Area Master’s Program for Practical Idealists

In my role as a professor at Humboldt State University (HSU), I frequently have discussions with idealistic young (and not so young) students regarding how they can make a positive difference in the world. At HSU (part of the Cal State System), these kinds of students are not unusual, in fact they tend to be the norm. This is why the Peace Corps rates Humboldt among its “Top Colleges and Universities”, while the Princeton Review has named Humboldt one of the most environmentally responsible colleges in the U.S.A. and Canada. These are the students who, for example, voted to raise their own fees to install solar panels on classrooms, increase recycling on campus, and provide all students with unlimited bus passes to reduce greenhouse gases. These students give me hope for the future of the environmental movement, our country, and our planet.

Thus, it is common for me to meet with students who want to do more to help make the world a better place. Sure, I recommend joining the Sierra Club, and talk up the wonderful things that the club does. Often though, these students want their careers to reflect their idealism; they want a grounded practical (and paying) approach to changing the world. I am proud to say that HSU offers a number of outstanding opportunities to achieve these goals. One such opportunity is a program that focuses on the intersection between the environment and community. This is the aptly named Environment and Community (E & C) Master’s program, and I am deeply involved with it.

The E & C program is unique with its focus on the social sciences. For example, E & C students don’t just look at issues of consumption, but also how consumption affects equity on a local, and international level. Because of its broad and strong interdisciplinary nature, no other program like this exists within the Cal State system. Why interdisciplinary? Because today’s challenges are interdisciplinary. In the program, students learn how such topics as race, class, gender, and place affect environmental justice. Professors come from such fields as Wildland Resource Science, Energy and Resources Engineering, Ecology, Economics, Political Science, Sociology, Psychology, and other fields. Once enrolled, students almost immediately become engaged in applied research resulting in a Master’s degree that is directly related to the field of employment in which they hope to engage.

Regarding employment, this diverse and applied degree has resulted in students finding jobs in such fields as natural resource management, sustainable food and agriculture, sustainability, transportation and land use planning, water conservation, affordable housing, teaching, research, and other areas. The program is demanding, the work is hard, but the benefits for the students and the planet are tangible. I find it a perfect complement to my volunteer work with the Sierra Club. You can learn more by Googling “Environment and Community Humboldt”.

~GREGG J. GOLD, PH.D., NORTH GROUP CHAIR, AND REDWOOD CHAPTER GLOBAL WARMING CHAIR

The Eco Kid

As a child, a boy named Nolan, wearing an old baseball cap, a pair of hiking boots and carrying a plastic bag, handed a letter over to the desk of the local postmaster. The letter was written in crooked handwriting and was stuffed with crumpled newspaper, bits of dandelion and shelf life tea. It appeared as if he had spent some time working on it. The letter was addressed to the President of the United States of America. He handed it to the postmaster and said, “This is for my President.”

The postmaster read the letter. He was a little surprised. It said: “I’m six years old. My name is Nolan. I’m writing to the President because I want to help the environment. I’m going to do things to help the environment, and I’m going to tell people to do things to help the environment, too.”

The postmaster sat back, amused and a little taken aback at the unusual message he had received from a boy. He asked if Nolan was willing to wait and have the letter opened for him to give it to the President. Nolan said he didn’t care whether the President got it open or not. He just wanted to be sure that it got there.

Oregon Senator Jeff Merkley decided to read the letter aloud to the Senate. Senator Merkley read the letter aloud, and the U.S. Senate adopted Nolan’s ideas as its own. The Senate passed a motion that read, “The Senate acknowledges the words of a young Oregon boy, Nolan...”

The letter actually landed on the desk of President Obama. The President is said to have been touched by Nolan’s sincerity. The very next day, the President asked the Chief of Staff, Rahm Emanuel, to get back in touch with Nolan. That was nearly five years ago. The President has not yet made an appearance before the Senate again. Nolan has continued to try to work on ways to make the United States a better place for the environment, but he has not yet met the President.

The young boy named Nolan is a Redwood Sierra Club member. He is active and vocal about his beliefs. He has been with the Sierra Club since he was three years old. He is proud to say that HSU offers a number of outstanding opportunities to achieve these goals. One such opportunity is a program that focuses on the intersection between the environment and community. This is the aptly named Environment and Community (E & C) Master’s program, and I am deeply involved with it.

The E & C program is unique with its focus on the social sciences. For example, E & C students don’t just look at issues of consumption, but also how consumption affects equity on a local, and international level. Because of its broad and strong interdisciplinary nature, no other program like this exists within the Cal State system. Why interdisciplinary? Because today’s challenges are interdisciplinary. In the program, students learn how such topics as race, class, gender, and place affect environmental justice. Professors come from such fields as Wildland Resource Science, Energy and Resources Engineering, Ecology, Economics, Political Science, Sociology, Psychology,...

~GREGG J. GOLD, PH.D., NORTH GROUP CHAIR, AND REDWOOD CHAPTER GLOBAL WARMING CHAIR

The Eco Kid by Bill Nellor

Bike Partners.net

Redwood Needles

December Deadline: Due Nov. 4th

Submit Articles/Reports/Ad Copy via e-mail to: odavison@comcast.net
Send Outings to Carol Vellutini via e-mail: carolvsr@sonic.net
Send Meetings to Carl Inglin via e-mail: chinglin@sonic.net

The Eco Kid by Bill Nellor
Non-Sierra Club Outings

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.

Saturday Saunters for Santa Rosa Area.
Every Saturday. Meets 9 am and usually ends around 11:30. These walks are moderate. Fun way to exercise with friends. For info call Bob Martin 707-539-6300.

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

Milo Baker Chapter

California Native Plant Society
41st Annual Plant Sale
October 13, 2012
Saturday 9 am-1 pm
Santa Rosa Veteran’s Memorial Hall
www.cnpsmmb.org

The Milo Baker Chapter is entirely self-supporting. Our main source of revenue is the plant sale, which is held on the second Saturday in October each year. Expert gardeners are on hand to answer questions. Books, note cards, plant posters and t-shirts are also for sale.

Discounted prices available for purchase and pick up of 2013 calendars at the Environmental Center on 55 Ridgeway, Santa Rosa. Wilderness (wall): $12, Engagement (desk): $13, both prices include sales tax. Call for hours: 544-7651.

Meetings

Send all Meeting events by the 8th of the month to Carl Inglis: chinglin@sonic.net Sierra Club meetings are open to all members. You are welcome to participate or observe as often as you wish. Meetings are located in Sonoma County unless otherwise noted. Visitors should call the committee chair to verify time and place. The Sonoma County Environmental Center is located at 55A Ridgeway 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 Coddingtown).

Santa Rosa Environmental Center, 55A Ridgeway is the site of three related meetings:
- The Climate & Energy Committee meets at 4:30. Info: contact Shirley, shirlgirl707@yahoo.com, 206-1138.
- Sonoma Group Conservation Committee at 5:30 p.m. Info: Dan Kerbein, dkerbein@sonic.net
- Sonoma Group Executive Committee at 6:30 p.m. Info: Info: Dan Kerbein, dkerbein@sonic.net.

Thurs. Oct. 4 - Solano Group ExCom.
Join us for our monthly meetings which rotate between Vallejo, Fairfield and Vacaville. We are making a positive impact on our county and need a few more people to help carry the load. Call Jane for information. (707)319-6398.
Tues., Oct. 9 - North Group Executive Committee Meeting.
All are invited to the Adorni Center conference room, Eureka waterfront, on, to attend the ExCom meeting 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. Nov. 5 - Sonoma Group.
Santa Rosa Environmental Center, 55A Ridgeway is the site of three related meetings:
- The Climate & Energy Committee meets at 4:30. Info: contact Shirley, shirlgirl707@yahoo.com, 206-1138.
- Sonoma Group Conservation Committee at 5:30 p.m. Info: Info: Dan Kerbein, dkerbein@sonic.net
- Sonoma Group Executive Committee at 6:30 p.m. Info: Info: Dan Kerbein, dkerbein@sonic.net.

Sat., Nov. 4 - Redwood Chapter ExCom.
Location: Willits at the Environmental Center. Conservation Committee meets at 10 a.m., ExCom meets 1–3 p.m. Info: Victoria, vbrandon@lakelive.net
Tues. Nov. 13 - North Group ExCom.
Monthly North Group Sierra Club Executive Committee meeting. See Aug. 14 for details.
Wed. Nov. 21 - The Sonoma Group Water Committee.
7:00 PM in the back room of the Environmental Center, 55A Ridgeway, Santa Rosa. Contact Len Holt: 707-527-7516 or hlolt@sonic.net.

Sierra Club Volunteer/Activist Opportunities

Sonoma Group Hike Leaders: Sonoma Group outings leaders training. Always a need for more leaders for outings. If you would like a training, please email Carol carolvusz@sonic.net or call 546-6308 for info. People are requesting families with children, camping and easy hikes.

North Group Hike Leaders: North Group is desperately seeking hike leaders. Please contact Bill Knight, the Outings Chair, at bill.knight.email@gmail.com.

Open Seat on ExCom. The Sonoma Group ExCom has an opening to fill! Folks who like fun and who are interested in being Sierra Club policy wonks should contact Dan Kerbein at dkerbein@sonic.net or come to an Executive Committee meeting on the first Mondays of the month, 6:30, at 55A Ridgeway Ave, Santa Rosa.

Help the Sonoma Group Water Committee! Come to our meetings at 7:00 PM at the Environmental Center held on the third Wednesday of most months. The Water Committee is working on issues related to measures to conserve, save, and reuse this valuable resource. Our goal is to preserve and improve the natural water environment, the responsible use of water by people, and the safe reuse or disposal of our wastewaters. Help protect the quality of our water for people, wildlife, fish and other aquatic life, promote water conservation and intelligent reuse. We are currently discussing Water Fluoridation, the water related problems for the Graton Rancheria Casino, Russian River Estuary, Wastewater Nutrient Offsets, and The Santa Rosa Plain Groundwater Plan. Come to our meetings with your suggestions and to help in this enterprise. To confirm meeting dates or if you are not able to attend our meetings, you may e-mail Len Holt at hlolt@sonic.net.

The Climate & Energy Committee is getting Amped Up! Join our discussion on the 1st Monday/Month at 4:30-5:30 p.m. at the Environmental Center in Santa Rosa, get Charged about community renewable energy programs. Contact Shirley Johnson-Feell Climate & Energy Committee Forum-Chair. Email: shirlgirl707@yahoo.com, home 206-1138, or call the office 544-7651.
Lake Group Report

Watch out for Walmart

Rumors have been circulating for at least the past year that Walmart is contemplating the construction of a Lakeport branch, either to supplement or to replace its existing outlet in Clearlake. Given the small size of the local market and the inevitability of taking business away from the Ukiah branch, this prospect seemed like little more than a bargaining chip in the megamart’s effort to persuade the Clearlake City Council to approve a proposed expansion of the existing store, which has been stalled for nearly two years now.

But lately the Lakeport proposal has resurfaced with a specific address, and a formal application to the City of Lakeport is expected soon. The consequences to the downtown business district, to the character of the community, and to the prospects of long term prosperity built on thriving local enterprises are all too predictable.

Of course this application will require review under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), with abundant opportunities for public involvement, but in the meantime Lake County residents are invited to register their disapproval by signing an online petition — to access it, follow the link from the Lake Group website, www.redwood.sieracalub.org/lake. Petitions are also available at Watershed Books, 305 N Main St in Lakeport.

General Meeting: what’s really going on with Clear Lake

As this issue of the Redwood Needles was going to press, Lake Group was looking forward to our first general membership meeting of the fall season, to be held at the Lower Lake Methodist Church on September 19. Dr. Harry Lyons, Professor of Biology and Ecology at Yuba College, was planning a talk about “Recent and Future Reports on Clear Lake.” University of California investigators are unearthing details of Clear Lake’s biology and geology; Cecile Mioni and Raphael Kudela (UC Santa Cruz) have prepared a report on harmful cyanobacteria and their toxins. Cindy Looby and Roger Byrne (UC Berkeley) have collected sediment cores to determine the ecosystem’s biotic response to past climate change. From the view point of a community college professor who carefully reads and lectures on university research, how will recent and future findings fit with what we already know about Clear Lake? This is a rare opportunity to get accurate, comprehensible, up to date information from a master of communications, and to learn what is really going on with the lake.

You’re Welcome!

Two very good causes recently acknowledged Lake Group financial contributions: at Anderson Marsh’s recent 30th anniversary celebration I had the honor of accepting a certificate of appreciation from AMIA Secretary Gae Henry on behalf of the Club, which contributed $500 towards keeping the Park open (photo on the Group website). And more recently GE Free Lake County, which is the local committee working for the passage of Proposition 37 (requiring labeling of foods containing genetically engineered ingredients) submitted a letter of thanks to local papers acknowledging Lake Group’s donation. The Group is very glad to say “you’re welcome,” and — perhaps more tangibly — to encourage our members to add their own monetary support to that of the Club.

—Victoria Brandon, Lake Group

Sonoma Group Report

Readers of Redwood Needles in Sonoma County can take an active part in protecting our forests and local habitat. The Sierra Club Sonoma Group has 2 openings on our Executive Committee for people who want to take their environmental interest to a pro-active level. ExCom members are the Sierra Club’s voice for local transit and conservation. We also vote to endorse candidates for public office in Sonoma County.

The deadline to get your application in to us is Oct. 15. As the Needles goes to press, we are still in the process of recruiting our Nominating Committee and naming a committee chair. Meanwhile please call our office at Dan Kerbein, Sonoma Group Chair, at 707-535-0326.

Since July, we endorsed the following candidates and initiatives:

- De Beugle for Windsor Town Council;
- Gary Wysocky, Julie Combs, Caroline Banelous, and Erin Carlstrom for Santa Rosa City Council. We voted to oppose Measure “U” in Cotati (which prohibits roundabouts) and support the Healdsburg measure re-authorizing that city’s Urban Growth Boundary, with no changes.

Endorsements of city council candidates in the cities of Cotati, Petaluma, Sebastopol, and Sonoma are elsewhere in this issue, as they are still being processed at the deadline for submission of this report.

Our current ExCom Chair, Len Holt, has attended public sessions of the Sonoma County Board of Supervisors pertaining to the Carneros Ranch project EIR, and made comments to the Supervisors and county staff regarding state CEQA laws and procedures pertaining to the process. Several months ago the Sonoma Group and community groups in Marin demanded an EIR for the project, which would involve dredging, large traffic and alteration of an area vulnerable to sea level rise. The county did vote to require the EIR, and in July approved a consultant to prepare it.

ExCom member Steve Birdleghous has participated with representatives of the Bay Chapter and Loma Prieta Chapter to develop recommendations to the Metropolitan Transit Commission and Association of Bay Area Governments, on a 30-year plan for regional development and transit guidelines. The plan will designate desired transit and highway routes, as well as planning concerns such as housing densities and preferred locations for various types of development. One element of the plan is the SMART train that will serve cities between Larkspur and Cloverdale.

We hosted our first Environmental Forum of the year at the Environmental Center on August 16, devoted to new member orientation. It was well attended by new members, and by members of the ExCom and some of our committees. We plan a post-election Environmental Forum in November, to roll out environmental action strategies based on the results of ballot initiatives, and positions of newly elected government officials. Another new member forum is planned for December.

—Dan Kerbein, Sonoma Group Chair

Napa Group Report

Housing and Napa Environmentalism

Transportation produces more greenhouse gases than any other activity in Napa County. With tens of thousands of people commuting into- and out of– Napa for work, and limited public transit options, providing adequate numbers of homes, and situating them in “walkable” neighborhoods is key to fighting climate change. We expect housing to be a dominant theme in Napa’s environmental discussions over the coming years.

Yes on Napa’s Measure U in November

Sierra Club supports Measure U on Napa County’s November Ballot. The measure would zone land near Angwin as agricultural and institutional parcels. See Carol Kunze’s article in this paper to learn why we think these rural lands should be protected from large-scale housing development.

Outings Committee Charting New Paths

Since our Outings Committee Chair has recently moved to Sonoma, the Committee is seizing the opportunity to reorganize and brainstorm creative trip ideas. Traditional outings have included snow trips, paddles and hikes, and joint trips with the Napa Land Trust. What offerings should continue, and what could be added? A warm invitation is extended to join the committee, or to suggest your ideas for outings. Help create the future of the Napa Outings, by contacting Isabelle St. Guily at izstguily@gmail.com

Napa Pipe Hearing Date Set

After intense public opposition, the Napa Pipe development team withdrew their initial project proposal. As expected, they are back with a modified plan. This proposal would put 700 – 900 housing units in Napa Pipe, and would add a Costco store. The first planning commission hearing is set for Wednesday, October 3rd.

Details have not yet been released, and the Sierra Club does not have a position on the new plan. Water supply remains a big question mark. The plan will require City of Napa water, and the city as thus far not been inclined to deliver water to the project. The housing development proposal remains west of the railroad tracks, and will require installation and maintenance of gates to protect from access road flooding at high tide. Earthquake safety, traffic issues and governance are other troubling issues.

Adopt-A-Park

Join our work parties to cultivate the native plants at Trancas Crossing Park in Napa. We usually work for just a couple of hours, weeding and mulching. Contact Nancy Tamarsik at nancy@ya.yale.edu.

Green School Buses and Safety

Hats off to Ralph Knight, and his team at the Napa Valley Unified School District’s Transportation Department for developing a fleet of greener school buses. However, they have been frustrated by the Highway Patrol in their attempts to mark the buses with green stripes, to alert first responders during major accidents. See my article in this issue of the Needles for the whole scoop.

—Nancy Tamarsik, Napa Group Chair

The Leaves are Turning, but You can still Go Green this Fall!

Reduce your carbon footprint!

To receive future copies of the Redwood Needles via email send a message to: RedwoodNeedles@gmail.com with your name and address, and “newsletter by email” in the subject line; or to receive notification that the current newsletter is available online and a link to it, please specify: “Notification newsletter is online”.

October 1, 2012

Redwood Needles
Our Volunteers:
Thanks to Nancy McCoy, Matt and Brian Hoffman, and Adam Mangosing for staffing the July 21 paper shredding at Valcore.
Thanks to Adam Mangosing for helping at the August 2 Benicia Farmers Market, where we gave out information on www.checkyournumber.org. Thanks to Jady Montgomery for helping on August 30 for this event. You may be changing your oil too often, so check out this site to see the recommended mileage for your vehicle. Some cars can wait 7500 miles to change oil.

VALCORE Recycling and Confidential Paper Shredding in 2012

Solan Group will be working every 3rd Saturday at 38 Sheridan Street, Vallejo from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. (Oct 20, Nov 17, and Dec 15). There is a charge of $10 per twenty pounds of paper shredded. (maximum: 100 pounds). We need help tending the money and directing traffic. Once a year in all we ask and you only need work an hour or so.
Composting classes @ VALCORE will be Saturdays Oct 6, Nov 3 @ 10am to noon.
Benicia Composting Class is scheduled on Thursday Sept 27 at 5 pm at the Avant Garden on First Street just north of the farmers market. All classes free and discounted bins offered to residents.

Don’t forget Coastal Cleanup – various locations around Solano County on Saturday Sept 15 from 9am to noon, check out www.carb101.com or www.recycle.solanocounty.com for details.

Call Jane ASAP if you’re available at (707) 319-6398

We continually work at Lori’s Native Plant Garden located at 225 Amador St, Vallejo. We weed, plant, prune and mulch year round. If you have an hour, call Jane and she’ll work with you to get you started. (707) 319-6398. We need Sierra Club supervisors to help other groups tend the garden on October 27, 9am to noon.

The Jepson CA Native Plant Society will have a fall plant sale on Saturday, October 28 from 9 am to 3 p.m. at First and K Street in the park. They will also be celebrating Arbor Day.
For sale info please call Sue at (707)747-5815.

North Group Report

This summer the North Group continued to support the development of future Sierra Club activists. Contributions to the Lucille Vinyard/Susie Van Kirk Environmental Education Fund – now in its 18th year – provided a camping experience for four deserving children within our membership area. Two 4th-grade girls – one from Crescent City and one from Redcrest – were sent to a 5-day “Towering Trees & Tidepools” overnight camp near Orick operated by the Oregon Museum of Science & Industry (OMSI), while two 6th graders – a boy from Crescent City and a girl from Redcrest – attended OMSI’s 6-day Redwood Field Study session at Wolf Creek Education Center, Redwoods State and National Parks.
Here are excerpts from essays the young people wrote about their experiences: “We went tidepooling, dissected a squid, looked to the sky to test the pH of water, played games, sat around the campfire, sang, danced, and told jokes...” “I kissed a banana slug and it made my lips go numb...” “The counselors and instructors seemed to have as much fun as the campers. Maybe I’ll be an instructor when I get older...” “My time spent at camp was totally awesome; the time to go home came way too soon!” The camp was beautiful, the food was great, and the counselors were really nice and a lot of fun.

The North Group plans to continue and hopes to expand our support for activities in which young people learn about and bond with the natural world. Research has discovered that our support for activities in which young people learn about and bond with the natural world is important in their youth bonding them with wild nature. You can support and bond with the natural world. Research has discovered that our support for activities in which young people learn about and the counselors were really nice and a lot of fun.”

Here are just a few:
Membership Co-chair Sue Leskiw oversees an e-mail distribution group of people who included e-mail addresses on their club renewal. If you would like to join this list serve to receive information on events of interest to North Group members (we promise to use it only occasionally and not share it with anyone), send a message to suelleskiw@ suddenlink.net.
The North Group Executive Committee is looking for new members. ExCom members carry on the work of the Group including work on conservation issues, developing outings, writing for our ECONEWS page and the Redwood Needles, tabling at community events, etc. Currently we are looking for a volunteer to coordinate our work on Climate Change issues as part of Sierra Club’s Resilient Habitats Campaign. If you want to consider joining the ExCom or volunteering in one of our ongoing projects come to an ExCom meeting at Eureka’s Adorni Center on the second Tuesday of each month beginning at 6:45 PM.
North Group members are constantly working on one or another conservation issue. One issue we are working on currently is the Agricultural Lands Discharge Program being developed by the North Coast Water Quality Board. The Clean Water Act is well over 30 years old so it is high time regulation came to the agricultural industry. To learn more about this work contact North Group Water Chair Felice Pace who is listed in the chapter directory.
You can view the current issue of North Group News as well as listings of upcoming outings and meetings on the Chapter website at www.redwood.sierraclub.org/north.
–FELICE PACE, NORTH GROUP

Mendocino Group Report

For the first time ever the Coastal Commission is meeting in Mendocino County. The Mendocino Group, along with the Coast Botanical Gardens, the Noyo Headlands Unified Design Group, and the Mendocino Land Trust is hosting a reception for the Commission on Wed. Sept 12 at the Botanical Gardens.
The Marr house at Salmon Creek decision, which has been appealed to the Coastal Commission by the Mendocino Group on the grounds that it is too large for a highly scenic area, has been postponed and will not be heard before the Commission at this venue.
Mendocino Group will address the Commission on the issue of the proposed CalTrans road widening at Seaside Park. The work is outsized for the highly scenic area and is a million dollar project that is likely to be undermined by storm and water action.
Mendocino Group has written a letter to State Parks in support of the Ten Mile Dune Project and sent the same to the local newspaper, our various concerns regarding the use of pesticides and the possibility of using the funds for a more pressing issue having been satisfied.
The Farm Bureau has intervened on behalf of the Sierra Club, Mendocino Group, et al. in the lawsuit against CalTrans and the Willits Bypass. DeSilva /Flatirion from Colorado, the low bidder, has been awarded the contract for the work on the Willits Bypass by CalTrans despite the lawsuit. A motion was filed in Federal Court seeking a preliminary injunction to halt imminent construction of the Willits Bypass.
–MARY WALSH, MENDOCINO GROUP CHAIR

Giant Sequoias – Safe at Last?

The U.S. Forest Service has released a long-awaited new management plan for Giant Sequoia National Monument in California’s Sierra Nevada. President Clinton created the monument to protect groves of giant sequoia located outside of national parks.
But unlike most national monuments, which are managed by the National Park Service, Giant Sequoia is overseen by the Forest Service, which proposed to cut 7.5 million board foot of timber a year in the monument.
After years of grassroots pressure, including more than 350,000 comments submitted by Sierra Club members and supporters, the Forest Service has finally released a management plan that doesn’t default to cutting down trees.
Is it perfect? No. There’s still the possibility that some exemptions and loopholes could allow too much logging in the wrong places in the name of fire prevention. We look forward to working with our members, volunteers, scientists, and the Forest Service to address those concerns.
But under this plan for the Giant Sequoia National Monument, it’s at least possible that the U.S. Forest Service will finally treat the surviving giant sequoia like the irreplaceable treasures they are – using the same tools for ecological restoration that have worked so well in the neighboring national parks. We will remain vigilant to assure that this possibility becomes a reality and that these mighty forests are finally restored to health.
–MICHAEL BRUNE, SIERRA CLUB EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Redwood Needles
October 1, 2012
11
Sierra Club Endorsements

National Candidates:
✓ Barack Obama
  President of the United States
✓ Jared Huffman
  Congress, District 2
✓ John Garamendi
  Congress, District 3
✓ Mike Thompson
  Congress, District 5

California Legislature:
✓ Lois Wolk
  Senate, District 3
✓ Wes Chesbro
  Assembly, District 2
✓ Mariko Yamada
  Assembly, District 4
✓ Michael Allen
  Assembly, District 10
✓ Jim Frazier
  Assembly, District 11
✓ Susan Bonilla
  Assembly, District 14

California Propositions:
✘ No on Prop. 31
  Two-year state budget cycle
✘ NO on Prop. 32
  Billionaires Bill of Rights
✓ Yes on Prop. 37
  Mandatory Labeling for Genetically Engineered Foods
✓ Yes on Prop. 39
  Clean Energy and Energy Efficiency Funding

See pages 4 and 5 for Candidate and Measure Statements

Local Candidates and Measures:
Sonoma County:
✓ Susan Gorin
  Supervisor, District 1
✓ Gary Wysocky
  Santa Rosa City Council
✓ Julie Combs
  Santa Rosa City Council
✓ Caroline Bañuelos
  Santa Rosa City Council
✓ Erin Carlstrom
  Santa Rosa City Council
✓ John Del Osso
  Cotati City Council
✓ Susan Harvey
  Cotati City Council
✓ Wendy Skillman
  Cotati City Council
✓ Laurie Gallian
  Sonoma City Council

✓ Jason Davies
  Petaluma City Council
✓ Alicia Kae Herries
  Petaluma City Council
✓ Tiffany Renee
  Petaluma City Council
✓ John Eder
  Sebastopol City Council
✓ Robert Jacob
  Sebastopol City Council
✓ Yes on Measure W
  Extend Healdsburg Urban Growth Boundaries to 2030
✘ NO on Measure U
  Cotati: Prohibits Roundabouts

Lake County:
✓ Yes on Measure E
  1/2 Cent Sales Tax for Clear Lake