

Redwood Needles

Volume 50 Number 5

Newsletter of the Redwood Chapter of the Sierra Club

October/Nov. 2009

Water Agency Recognizes Limits to Water Supply

BY SUZANNE DOYLE, SONOMA GROUP

For the first time in its 60-year history, the Sonoma County Water Agency (SCWA) is not trying to pump more water out of the Russian River. The SCWA has asked the Board of Supervisors to scrap its expansion plan, the 'Water Project', and to drop its request to the state Water Board for an increased water allowance. The multi-year drought and endangered species protections for salmon make it almost impossible that the Water Board would have approved such a request, but SCWA's action may be a first sign of official recognition that resource use in Sonoma County is finite.

The 2004 Water Project proposed major expansions of the water distribution system and was dependent on a higher water allowance. The Water Project floated options such as tapping Lake Sonoma water by bringing more water either down Dry Creek to the SCWA pumps, or building a pipeline to do this that bypasses the creek. However, protections for endangered salmon limit the amount of summer flow that SCWA

is permitted to have in Dry Creek and the pipeline would be both very expensive and controversial. It's also become clear that a lot can be done by way of conservation to reduce the need for water and for the Water Project.

The SCWA carries out its mandated job of delivering a clean, reliable water supply to its contractor—most Sonoma County cities, two Marin water districts, and some agricultural users. But the way that it operates—by diverting a large flow of water into and out of the Russian River—has been in direct conflict with the needs of salmon and the health of not only the Russian, but also the Eel River.

Summer flow in the Russian River above Healdsburg is mostly artificial, made up primarily of water from the upper Eel River that is diverted through the Potter Valley hydroelectric plant and stored temporarily in Lake Mendocino. Between Healdsburg and the SCWA's pumps at Wohler Bridge additional water comes into the River from Lake Sonoma via Dry Creek. The natural trickle of stored winter water from uplands

and stream banks that would normally make up the River's summer flow is unmeasured, but it's likely that it is completely consumed by private water diversions, both legal and illegal, throughout the watershed. A lawsuit over Eel River water settled in 2003 means that the Potter Valley water will be reduced or even stopped in the future. This will leave Sonoma County critically dry during the summer.

For now the SCWA has dropped the idea of building a Dry Creek pipeline from Lake Sonoma and instead has a list of 12 strategies for new water supplies, including re-evaluating how the Russian River system is operated with respect to endangered species needs, flood control, reducing greenhouse gas emissions from operations, increasing efficiency and encouraging contractors to

conserve. No concrete details had been made public as this article went to press.

Future Water Supply?

The cities have been thrown into turmoil because their projections for future water supply (and in some cases, their General Plans) are now invalid and no details about what comes next have been offered by the SCWA. With a cool spring and increased water conservation efforts, present water use is about 53,000 acre-feet per year (afy), well under the 75,000 afy that the SCWA is permitted to draw from the river. It is not clear whether 75,000 afy could even be drawn from the watershed if needed. Elected officials for the SCWA contractors would like to know how the water pie will be sliced.

"Water Agency" cont. on page 3

Sierra Club "Call to Action on Global Warming and Energy"

We are at a historic crossroads in the fight against climate change. The Sierra Club is asking its activists and chapters to help in this critically important fight by committing to daily, weekly or monthly actions as a Sierra Club Climate Leader. Please go to: www.sierraclub.org/climateleaders and sign up.

Our top priority is an education campaign to encourage people to support the Obama Administration's use of rules and regulations by the EPA and other agencies to address climate change. We call this campaign "the Big Picture." Using a very successful online petition and massive phone call outreach, activists are asking Senators to urge President Obama to create rules as quickly as possible that will regulate coal ash, mercury, mining, soot, smog, and carbon pollution more effectively. Visit the Big Picture Campaign to learn more: www.sierraclub.org/bigpicture

Sierra Club Supports Pulp Mill

Recently, in a move that may surprise many on both sides of the political fence, the Redwood Chapter of the Sierra Club (comprising 10,000 members in northwestern California) issued a letter supporting CEO Bob Simpson's new business plan for the Freshwater Tissue Company (FTC) (formally the Samoa pulp mill). The mill is located on the Samoa Peninsula, near the picturesque Northern California city of Eureka.

The Club expressed conditional support of the goals of the Company's Business Plan, pending full environmental review of its operation. This is the first time that the Sierra Club (America's oldest organization dedicated to protecting the environment) has supported a venture of this sort. The Chapter—led by its North Group based in Humboldt, Del Norte, and Trinity Counties—felt that Freshwater Tissue's plan to produce "ecofriendly" toilet tissue would prove to be a model of good environmental stewardship for both the region and the industry.

The reasons Mr. Simpson won the support of the Sierra Club are listed below.

1. Under Mr. Simpson's previous guidance,

the mill (now closed) became the only totally chlorine-free (and thus dioxin free) pulp mill in the United States.

2. Mr. Simpson intends to provide financial incentives for landowners to obtain Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) certification by paying a higher price for FSC-certified pulp chips—pulp chips being a raw material of tissue. In addition, the Company would provide a market for tanoak, turning this currently noncommercial hardwood species into a valuable commodity while reducing the need for herbicide application.

3. In addition to complying with all state and federal waste-water discharge and clean air emission requirements, Mr. Simpson intends to eliminate odors and greenhouse gases from FTC's manufacturing processes and to return process water to the Pacific Ocean with no additional pollutants.

4. As part of his commitment to the environment, Mr. Simpson proposes to create a volunteer advisory board of environmental advocates that will focus on clean air and

"Pulp Mill Support" cont. on page 3

**A Yes We Can Series for Reducing our Carbon & Eco-Footprint
Series of presentations with Fun, Connecting & Effectiveness**

Sonoma County Climate Action & Be the Change

Saturday, October 24th, 2009

At Chops Teen Center

(509 Adams Street, corner of W. 6th near Railroad Square in Santa Rosa)

3 - 5 p.m.: Sonoma County Climate Action

5 - 6 p.m.: Panel/Group/Filming discussion on "Be the Change"

**See www.redwood.sierraclub.org/sonoma
for updates and additional info**

Information and a discussion presented by the Climate Protection Campaign and the Sierra Club. The October 24th International Day of Climate Action will be observed by the Sonoma Group at the CHOPS Teen Center on 509, Adams St (corner of W. Sixth St.) in Santa Rosa. The day's purpose is to create a sense of world-wide solidarity about the need to reduce greenhouse gas in the atmosphere to 350 parts-per-million. At present, the concentration is about 388 parts per million, and environmental damage is accumulating much more rapidly than expected. Humans must now stop adding to the problem. You can help by attending the event at CHOPS with your symbolic illustration of "350" such as a puzzle of 350 pieces, cookies with 350 nut-chips, or something more imaginative. The effort now involves more than 100 countries.

Please let us know if you are attending.

Email Veronica Jacobi at VJacobi@sonic.net or call Dan Kerbein at 535-0326 to RSVP and for information or to volunteer to help for an hour or two, or call the Sierra Club office at 544-7651.

Everyone is invited!

“Save Our Salmon” Campaign getting underway

In July, the Redwood Chapter held a planning retreat to discuss organizing our future campaigns. It was decided that as an organizing tool for focusing our work we would use a theme of ‘Save Our Salmon’, since much of the work which the Chapter and Groups do can be related to the health of our fish populations. Salmon are iconic images of Pacific Coast life and are a bellwether species of the health of our watersheds. Proper water quality and temperature are essential if the fish are to survive and thrive. The salmon decline is due to multiple impacts on our forests and our water quality and quantity: dams preventing fish migration; excessive logging and intensive agriculture causing sedimentation and habitat loss; deforestation and loss of carbon pools,

thus affecting the climate; poorly planned urban growth altering watersheds; water diversions (sometimes illegal) along with excessive and ill-timed seasonal water releases leading to insufficient water flows; chemically contaminated and warmed waterway intrusions damaging native spawning sites. Last year, salmon fishing, both commercial and recreational, was banned for the first time all along the West Coast. With the loss of the salmon also go thousands of jobs and hundreds of millions in income.

Habitat protection starts right in our own back yard, so our campaigning for the salmon is proceeding. Please consider

Chapter Chair Report

joining our efforts, either through your Group or in the Chapter. There will be many opportunities to help as this is a multi-faceted effort involving legislators and regulators on many levels: Federal, State, and County. For further information, contact Dan Kerbein, dkerbein@earthlink.net, 707-535-0326, or Jay Halcomb, halcomb@sonic.net, 707-869-3302..

As part of this effort, the Chapter Water Committee continues to engage water quality and quantity issues, including making comments on the Klamath TMDL and others which are in preparation, and upon other related issues. The Chapter has commented on the draft TMDL and Action Plan for the main stem of the Klamath River. The documents are to be reviewed and adopted by the end of next year under terms of a 1997 Consent Decree that resulted from a lawsuit to which the Club was a plaintiff. In addition to technical comments on the plan we have advocated that the plan must identify and quantify the additional personnel needs to address this major effort to implement and monitor the restorative work necessary for recovery. (See letter reproduced to the left.) We continue to pursue resolution for a timetable for the other watersheds, part of that same Consent Decree where the state has failed to meet its obligations.

Forest issues:

“To protect your rivers - protect your mountains.” -- Emperor Yu of China, 1600 B.C.

“Preservation” Ranch: The ill-named “Preservation” Ranch project is the 20,000 acre vineyard conversion project near Annapolis, in the Gualala watershed, Sonoma County. Among other environmental impacts, roughly 1700 acres of forest will be permanently converted to vineyards. Initial project materials have been submitted to Sonoma County Permits and Resource Management Department, and the DEIR phase is beginning at the Sonoma County Permit and Resource Management Department. The Redwood Chapter and Sonoma Group have been following the progress of this project for several years. This Premier Pacific Vineyards

investment in deforestation, funded by CalPERS, the California Public Employees’ Retirement System, is being made to support a non-essential agriculture, the production of luxury, high-end wines. Furthermore, the investment bodes to become an exemplar of how our over-logged forests are treated in the future; it is precedent-setting since it is the largest-scale attempted conversion of forest to such uses in Northern California. In the present political and financial times, when the public and the world are learning the ‘inconvenient truths’ about global warming as at the same time the world is threatened with grave financial collapses, we do not think CalPERS should be financing such work. In our last letter to the CalPERS Board we suggested that, rather than deforestation, there are other options for managing and restoring over-logged timberlands, such as those employed by the Nature Conservancy for their Garcia River Forest Climate Action Project. Redwood Chapter and Sonoma Group will be participating in the DEIR process along with other concerned activist groups. In the end, if a final EIR is submitted and approved, the Sonoma County Board of Supervisors will vote to approve, deny, or conditionally approve the project. This helps to underscore the importance of the next Supervisorial election to our environmental issues.

Bohemian Grove NTMP: The Bohemian Grove represents one of the most remarkable remnant stands of old-growth and late successional forest. This non-industrial timber management plan proposes to aggressively log some 2,000 acres of the Bohemian Grove property in Monte Rio, under the rubric of “a Healthy Forest Initiative” - ostensibly but dubiously in order to reduce fire danger. The first submission of this logging plan would have first doubled, then tripled, the historical rate under which the Grove has been logged until now. Some reduction in the originally proposed rate has now been achieved, but we are still awaiting preparation of CDF’s official responses, which may become the most extensive ever prepared for such a logging plan.

In another action, in August the Chapter pitched in with funds to help the Solano Group with landfill issues which it is working on.

—JAY HALCOMB,
REDWOOD CHAPTER CHAIR

Chapter Letter Sent to the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board

North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board
Santa Rosa, CA 95403

August 27, 2009

Re: Klamath River TMDLs

Members of the Board and Staff:

We support the proposed Klamath TMDLs and have offered technical comment under separate cover from our North Group. We believe however, that once approved, lack of staff resources will prevent the implementation and monitoring plans from being carried out. We believe those staff resources needed for an effective action plan must be quantified and spelled out **in the Implementation and Monitoring sections (Action Plan)**. This will connect the dots between the listed TMDLs---the implementation and monitoring plans---and the necessary staff resources, putting them all within the Basin Plan amendment.

John Corbett’s (then chairman) August 31, 2007 letter to the state legislature requested 13 more staff for this Klamath River Action Plan. His letter pointed out:

“However, at the present level of funding for the TMDL program, we will not be able to complete development of TMDL action plans for the entire basin...To implement action plans for the entire Klamath Basin will require an initial yearly commitment of about 12 PYs beyond currently available.”

The “currently available” staffing levels in that letter two years ago were about 20 staff members more than are presently on board due to staff cuts. We recommend the logic and wisdom of that letter (attached) should be a part of the Implementation and Monitoring sections and imbedded in the Action Plan.

It is apparent the Regional Board currently does not have the staff to carry out this Action Plan. The size, the importance and needs of the project are immense. The work on the initial Scott and Shasta TMDL action plans provide a preview of the growing personnel needs for this phase. In spite of the obvious need for more personnel, the Regional Board is now operating with staff levels of about half of those of eight years ago.

We propose that the Action Plan set out a ten-year schedule with the estimated number of staff required in each of those years. The Board’s adopted **Work Plan to Control Excess Sediment in Sediment Impaired Water Sheds** is an excellent example of this approach. This specific and detailed schedule of the necessary staffing should be incorporated to provide the foundation for the acquisition of the personnel. It is important that the personnel requirements be quantified.

Political support will be needed to acquire the necessary but missing staff resources to carry out the implementation and monitoring of the project. The Klamath River and its fishery have the attention of the public which will assist in addressing the problem. This is an opportunity to effectively communicate to the legislature the needed financial resources of the project.

The Clean Water Act and Porter Cologne Act mandate this project. It is not optional. Putting the price tag on the package communicates to the State Board and the legislature their responsibility for compliance with those laws.

Yours truly,

Daniel Myers
Water Committee Chair for
Redwood Chapter of the Sierra Club

“Water Agency”

continued from page 1

According to Glen Wright, Deputy Director of Water Resources for Santa Rosa, “Currently SCWA has water contract obligations of approximately 101,000 af. It is not known how SCWA will resolve this discrepancy between contractual obligations and their existing water rights.” The Water Agency’s plans for resolving the difference between their existing contract obligations and their actual water rights of 75,000 afy will require cooperation from all parties.

The first and obvious step is to use and waste a lot less water. The SCWA’s public reason for abandoning its efforts to get a higher water allowance is that water users are doing such a good job of conserving that the extra water is not needed. We have only begun to take advantage of water conservation and efficiency practices and there is great opportunity for more savings.

New Water Habits

We live in a Mediterranean climate— our winter rainfall needs to be stored somehow for use during the dry summer. The past storage practices of the SCWA— ‘big engineering’ methods using reservoirs, pipelines, flood control channels and controlled summer river flows are fundamentally incompatible with salmon, which need low summer water flows and deep cool pools to survive.

Alternative kinds of water storage will need to be considered and evaluated. Some proposals are large-scale, like huge tanks or direct water injection into aquifers, and may have environmental drawbacks of their own.

Small-scale water storage and reuse can also be a big part of the solution to county water problems. Indoor water use doesn’t vary much over the year— it’s outside irrigation that causes water use to peak in the summer, whether from agricultural use or yard-watering. Rainwater harvesting and greywater recycling for outdoor watering are being explored and put into practice all over the county. Off-stream water storage is an environmental-friendly option for agricultural users. Some kind of storage may be necessary even in the winter for vineyards, which use water for frost protection. This practice may have been dewatering creeks and killing salmon in some areas.

City programs are encouraging water conservation. Santa Rosa offers rebates for putting in low-flush toilets, replacing lawns or installing rainwater storage tanks. Windsor has had an aggressive water conservation program since the late 1980s, including low flush toilets and other fixtures, and irrigates 473 homes’ front and back yards with recycled water. Rohnert Park also irrigates with recycled water.

Water-saving appliances like low-flow toilets and front-loading washing machines cut indoor water use year-round. Water-saving gardening and landscaping is even more important since outdoor use peaks in the summer when river water is lowest. Xeriscape landscaping needs almost no irrigation, but installing drip systems, adding compost to soil, and mulching can greatly cut down on water use in conventional gardens. Using greywater systems has been simplified by a change in the state building code and they should become easier to install.

This proposed policy change by the SCWA is the most important in Sonoma County water history. It will hopefully point us towards a sustainable path rather than off a cliff. Planning that recognizes limits to what we can take from the environment and a conservation-based ethic will take us the rest of the way. Future growth needs to occur within a net water budget, and a comprehensive water management plan (used by many other counties) can balance water use with population.

Santa Rosa has filed suit to stop the County and the SCWA from abandoning the request for more water. Stay tuned.

Santa Rosa water conservation programs:

http://ci.santa-rosa.ca.us/environmental_stewardship/Water/Pages/

Sierra Club Volunteer/Activist Opportunities

“Life is not long, and too much of it must not pass in idle deliberation of how it shall be spent.”

—Samuel Johnson

Volunteer Activists Needed:

North Group Hike Leaders: North Group is desperately seeking hike leaders. Please contact Al Muelhoefer, the Outings Chair, at almuelhoefer@gmail.com; 707-482-0520.

Sonoma Group Environmental Forum Committee: Design programs and invite speakers. Create fliers. Meet exciting environmental advocates throughout our community. Help specifically needed for Transition Sonoma County and Citizen’s Climate Caucus forum segments. Help can be by email only and sporadic. Alternatively or additionally, if you are willing to make a few phone call a month to invite Sierra Club members to attend forums, that would be GREAT! Contact Veronica Jacobi VJacobi@sonic.net

Help the Sonoma Group Water Committee!: HELP SAVE WATER. Work with the Committee on water issues. Come to our meetings at 7:00 PM at the Environmental Center on September 2, October 7, November 4, and December 2. The Water Committee is working on issues related to our Water Shortage and Measures to Conserve, Save, and Reuse this valuable resource. Come to our meetings with your suggestions and to help in this enterprise. The Committee is continuing work on water related aspects of the Sonoma County Climate Action Plan. Suggestions related to water savings are welcome. Our trifold on Rainwater Harvesting and Water Reuse in our area are now available at the Environmental Center. Drop in for a copy or contact Len Holt or Tom Devlan. Help protect the quality of our water for people, wild life, fish and other aquatic life. Promote water conservation and intelligent reuse. Contact Len Holt at [<lholt@sonic.net>](mailto:lholt@sonic.net)

Chapter Secretary needed. Great for someone who wants to be instrumental, and influential. Organizational skills appreciated, but typing, emailing skills important. Commitment includes about 12-14 hours on even months. Systems already established - no reinventing the wheel - just step forward to learn all you can about environmental issues in Northern California. You will enjoy the tremendous appreciation you receive. Meetings are every other month in Willits with carpooling available. Call Marsha Taylor at [<taylorbright@comcast.net>](mailto:taylorbright@comcast.net) 546-9233.

The Climate & Energy Committee is embarking on exciting goals and strategies for getting members and the public taking personal and group action on Climate Change. We cannot get the level of impact we want without YOUR help! Please contact Jeff Shields at 707-293-7750 or JShields174@hotmail.com or Veronica Jacobi at VJacobi@sonic.net

“Pulp Mill Support”

continued from page 1

water and encourage sustainable logging in the region. This board would be able to review FTC’s monthly environmental performance reports and have access to all company environmental records.

5. Mr. Simpson claims the Company will directly create 425 family-wage jobs and would have a multiplier effect on the Humboldt economy. This is a different model from most American tissue producers, who have disposed of American pulp mill assets and are instead relying on pulp producers in developing countries (e.g., China), where inexpensive plantation timber is abundant, cheap labor is available, and pollution often goes unchecked.

For more information, contact North Group Executive Committee Chair Gregg Gold at 707-826-3740 or go to www.freshwaterpulp.com to view the business plan..

[NOTE: As of this writing, Mr. Simpson had not been able to obtain a loan guarantee to start up the mill. If this situation does not change, the facility will be broken down and its components sold off.]

Recent Legislative Victories

Sierra Club CA was heavily involved in the following recent legislative victories:

Parks – Approved two bills to prevent “non-park” uses (like toll roads) from being permitted in state parks. These bills also will make it more difficult to sell off state parks in these difficult economic times.

Offshore Drilling – Rejected efforts to allow new offshore drilling in the Santa Barbara Channel.

Renewable Energy - Approved legislation to increase (from 20% to 33%) the amount of energy in California that will be produced by “renewable” energy (by 2020). Note – The Governor is expected to veto the law but issue an Executive Order to achieve the same target.

Climate Change (Offsets) - Passed legislation to limit the ability of greenhouse gas polluters to reduce their emissions through the purchase of questionable “offsets” (e.g. planting trees in foreign countries instead of reducing their emissions in California. Offsets outside California are difficult to verify, and because GHG emissions usually are accompanied by other local air pollutants, out-of-state offsets don’t reduce air pollution or promote California green jobs

Water Conservation - A bill that Sierra Club sponsored, AB 975 (Fong), passed easily, thanks to Jim Metropulos’ stewardship.

Follow SC CA on Twitter

Sierra Club California is now on Twitter! Senior Advocate Jim Metropulos has been at the forefront with updates and comments throughout the final strenuous and exciting weeks of session on energy and water legislation. Jim’s real-time updates from Capitol hearing rooms have brought in followers at a rapid rate; fittingly, our 50th follower happened to be a man who identified himself as John Muir from Canada!

We hope to keep people updated on our work in Sacramento through this medium. You can follow us by going to www.Twitter.com/SierraClubCA and registering to be one of our followers.

Sierra Club Activists Swarm the Capitol to Boost Clean Energy and Parks Bills

Sierra Club California's 2009 Lobby Day was a smashing success! Dedicated volunteers from around the state travelled to Sacramento to urge their legislators to ramp up clean energy requirements and preserve our state parks.

On August 23, participants gathered in the Capitol for briefings on how to lobby on the four bills we focused on this year – SB 14 (Simitian) and AB 64 (Krekorian), both of which would require electric utilities to get 33% of their power from clean, renewable sources by 2020, and SB 372 (Kehoe) and SB 679 (Wolk), both of which would establish public processes to protect parks from inappropriate uses.

On August 24, the volunteer lobbyists kept a busy schedule of meetings with legislators and their staff, letting them know that their constituents support greening our electrical grid and protecting parks. Our participants reported very positive results from their meetings, with many saying they were impressed by how interested the legislators were in what Sierra Club California has to say.

Midway through the day, Sierra Club California presented our Byron Sher Award, which recognizes outstanding achievements in environmental protection by California public officials. This year's honorees are Senator Fran Pavley and Air Resources Board Chair Mary Nichols (ARB Legislative Director Rob Oglesby accepted the award on Nichols' behalf). We honored Senator Pavley and Chair Nichols for their pathbreaking work in passing and implementing California's major laws to curb greenhouse gas emissions. Senator Pavley addressed the very appreciative activist group.

It did not take long for our Lobby Day to bear fruit; on August 27 the Assembly Appropriations Committee passed SB 14 and SB 679, so they join SB 372 on the Assembly floor, and Senate Appropriations approved AB 64, which now moves to the Senate floor.

The Sierra Club California staff thanks everyone who participated in this year's Lobby Day, and we hope to see you again next year.

Supported by the Sierra Club, Climate Protection Campaign & Peace and Justice Center

A Yes We Can Series for Reducing Our Carbon & Eco-Footprint

Featuring

National Climate Leader Bill McKibben

Award-winning writer who has been a leading advocate for the planet since he published *The End of Nature* in 1989. McKibben is the source of inspiration and global organization for the upcoming International Day of Climate Action on October 24th.

Saturday, Oct. 2nd, 2009

Jackson Theater, Sonoma Country Day School

4400 Day School Place off of Aviation Blvd in Santa Rosa

Email Veronica Jacobi at VJacobi@sonic.net or call Dan Kerbein at 535-0326 to RSVP and for information or to volunteer to help for an hour or two, or call the Sierra Club office at 544-7651. Everyone is invited.

Halloween at Donner Summit

October 31/November 1 - Halloween/Day of the Dead Weekend (El Día de los Muertos). October 31 is on Saturday. We are planning a costume parade, games, pumpkin carving (bring your own pumpkin and tools) a piñata and other fun ghoulish activities that are not just for kids. Bring kids for a safe, sane and fun Halloween.

The Day of the Dead portion of the weekend on Sunday is an invitation to explore another cultural view of the passing of loved ones. You can bring memorabilia of someone in your life who has died. You are invited to make and bring an altar or some remembrance of someone in your past that you would like to honor. You can prepare it in advance or you can just bring a photo or some other reminder of your loved one to add to the "Ofrenda" (offering) Olivia Diaz, co-Chair of the Clair Tappaan Lodge Committee, will prepare. This Mexican celebration offers a different way to view our ancestors, a joyous way, not at all macabre.

Clair Tappaan Lodge is located at 19940 Donner Pass Road in Norden, CA. For information and reservations, call the lodge at 1800 679-6775 or click on ctl.sierraclub.org

Outings Chair Report

Clair Tappan's 75th and Hutchinson's 85th Gala Anniversary Celebration were a smashing success. The lodge committee and CTL staff worked extremely hard to ensure wonderful meals, and a great music festival. 15 hikes were offered; some led by Chip, Penny, and Isabelle, Napa Group leaders. Also from Napa Group, Nanette offered loom knitting and Diane supervised rock painting. Diane did decorations and Wally helped with Hutchinson events. The weekend was filled with music, activities, and food. I was working registration for the weekend so stayed at the lodge. I did make it up to the warming hut however to hear George Homsey, architect, who designed the hut, talk about how it was built. His daughter Diana was there and they both brought pictures of the construction. John Currie, who ran the original Signal Hill ski rope tow, was there to explain how that worked. Other old timers told stories. Another speaker at CTL was Milton Hildebrand who was 17 when he helped build the lodge. Allison Chin our Sierra Club president flew in from Virginia to be our keynote speaker on Saturday night. If you weren't there you missed a great event. To view some photos go to <http://motherlode.sierraclub.org/sierranevada/index.htm>

Fall seems to be arriving early. Will our drought end? Some say we are going to have an El Nino winter. Our climate change has impacted us on so many levels. I know I am seeing cloud formations that I have never seen before. Always check the weather reports before going on extended trips in the wilderness. Let's hope we make it through the Fall without major wildfires in Northern California.

Welcome to all the new leaders for our chapter.

—CAROL VELLUTINI, REDWOOD CHAPTER OUTINGS CHAIR

Redwood Chapter & Sonoma Group Office

Location: Environmental Center, 55A Ridgway Ave., Santa Rosa

The Office is staffed most weekday afternoons. Call ahead to confirm, 544-7651. The Office is also open during evening meetings (see listings on last page) and at other times when volunteers are present.

Redwood Chapter Online

Redwood Chapter Website: <http://www.redwood.sierraclub.org>
for Group Websites, add: /napa, /north, /sonoma, /lake, /mendocino, or /solano

Sequoia Paddlers: www.sequoiapc.org

Redwood-Sonoma-Alerts Listserve: Instructions at Sonoma Group Website

Gala Celebration Weekend a Slam-dunk Success!

BY ERNIE MALAMUD, CHAIR,
GALA CELEBRATION COMMITTEE, AND
OLIVIA DIAZ, CO-CHAIR,
CLAIR TAPPAAN LODGE COMMITTEE

What fun! The Gala Celebration of the Anniversaries of the two lodges at Donner Summit owned by the Sierra Club - Clair Tappaan Lodge - 75 years and Hutchinson Lodge - 85 years - was a great success. The weather was mild, as it usually is in August at Donner Summit in the Sierra Nevada, and there was music, music, and more music all weekend long. It began Friday night with Claudia Kirkpatrick and friends playing Celtic music in the Clair Tappaan Lodge (CTL) Living Room after dinner while others enjoyed s'mores and brandy around a campfire in the CTL meadow. CTL is at 19940 Donner Pass Road in Norden, CA.

There were many highlights to the August 14 -16 weekend. Saturday afternoon, the wine and cheese reception was at Hutchinson Lodge. Wine from the Muir-Hanna vineyard in Napa was donated by Bill Muir, great-grandson of John Muir. Steve Rasmussen of The Milk Pail donated the cheese. In the woods, the Lost Quartet, 16 and 17 year-old members of the Santa Rosa Youth Symphony, played. People sat around on tree stumps, benches, and chairs in the shade while the Sierra breezes caressed us. They played beautifully and professionally. Mozart and Schubert sound great in the woods and participants were totally charmed. The afternoon felt magical and blessed.

The 15 different hikes, all led by certified leaders and superbly organized by Rick Ramos, were highly popular.

A special guest was Melissa Hutchinson, a great grand niece of the Hutchinson brothers, Lincoln and James, who built the Lodge. She stayed at Hutchinson and was pleased, having grown up hearing about her great uncles and their adventures at Donner Summit.

Another highlight was a bag lunch at the Warming Hut where there was a reunion of old timers who built the Warming Hut and used or operated the Signal Hill rope tow. Some of the stories were hair-raising since those were "pre OSHA" days.

The President of the Sierra Club, Allison Chin, was our keynote speaker on Saturday night and she was present at the Warming Hut lunch. She was impressed and moved by the spirit of volunteerism. Also, Diana Vanderburg and her father George Homsey, well-known San Francisco architect who designed the Warming Hut, set up a magnificent photo display.

Other speakers were Milton Hildebrand, one of the builders of CTL, who was 17 at the time, and two young people, Christa Baker of Nevada City and Kevin Brown from Reno. The program emphasized the importance of preserving the history and tradition that make

the Sierra Club unique among environmental organizations, also emphasizing how the "Sierra Club at Donner Summit" through its expanding program of environmental education is nurturing the next generation of activists.

That night there was a sing-along in the living room while others star gazed outdoors.

The music festival on Sunday was a great success, too. The barbecue lunch and draft beer were delicious. The bands were good: blue grass, country and reggae. Many local people came to hear the music. It was truly a mellow scene.

Squads of volunteers ran the event; many of the key volunteers were from local Sierra Club groups, with others from North Carolina and Tennessee. Participants came from northern and southern California, Nevada, Virginia and Texas. Donations to the event will benefit the 501 c 3 CTL Account in the Sierra Club Foundation to help underwrite groups and schools to bring students to Clair Tappaan and Hutchinson lodges for environmental education programs.

Non-Sierra Club Outings and 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.

Saturday Saunters for Santa Rosa Area. Every Saturday. Meets 9am 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.

Sat., Oct. 3, 1-5 pm. 3rd Annual Spirit Creek Day. Free admission.

Enjoy hands-on eco-centric activities including creek clean-up, environmental education, making "creek prayer flags" and grounds care. The Creek Theater will come alive with Eco-Art featuring Sahar Pinkham conducting the Recycled Junk-estra, the Spirit Creek Singers, award-winning poet Amy Trussell and the Wellspring Aikido Dragon Dancers. Make instruments out of recycled materials or bring your own to play in the Junkestra. Please bring your own work gloves and water bottles. Free refreshments donated by local businesses. Location: Spirit Creek at

the Center for Spiritual Living, Santa Rosa, 2075 Occidental Road, Santa Rosa, 95401
Info: Michelle Keip Spirit Creek Stewardship 544-2673 creeks@wellspringai.com

Sat., Oct. 10, 9 a.m. - 12 noon: Cotati Creek Critters Open House.

including overview of CCC's urban stream restoration project, nursery tour, project site tour along Laguna de Santa Rosa in Cotati, and unveiling of new interpretive signs. For details and directions see www.CotatiCreekCritters.info or contact jenny@creeks.cotati.info or 792-4422.

Sun., Oct. 26, 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.: Trash PickUp along the Laguna de Santa Rosa in Cotati and a section of Rohnert Park.

Gloves and trash grabbers provided. For details and directions see www.CotatiCreekCritters.info or contact jenny@creeks.cotati.info or 792 4422.

Sat., Nov. 14, 9 a.m. - 12 noon and Sun., Nov. 29, 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. Creek Stewardship Days with Cotati Creek Critters.

See www.CotatiCreekCritters.info for details and directions and for information on our new Friday afternoon "Prep" Days, or contact jenny@creeks.cotati.info or 792 4422.

Tolay Fall Festival – October 8-11 & 15-18

More popular than ever in its 4th year, the Tolay Fall Festival attracts people from around the region for free family fun on a spectacular 1,737-acre ranch outside Petaluma. This year's festival will provide 8 days of fun, running October 8-11 and 15-18.

Over 15,000 people attended last year, delighting in the Native American Village with demonstrations, "From Earth to You" hands-on children's area, Kiddie Corral, Night Time Creatures Barn with Creep Crawly Critters room, live animals, nature hikes and giant straw maze, all returning this year. Take a free Ranger-led hayride that even those in wheelchairs can enjoy! Pick your own pumpkin in our huge pumpkin patch. Come watch our blacksmith in action as he crafts various iron pieces. The harvest of fall goodness includes colorful gourds, mini-pumpkins, unusual squash, multi-colored corn and more! Back for its second year – the World Record Pumpkin Seed-spitting Contest is open to all. Visitors can also sign up for an orientation to receive a Day Use Permit for the park.

Discover what's become the new favorite Fall Festival at Tolay Lake Regional Park. Festival hours are Thursday & Friday 9 am-3:30 pm, Saturday & Sunday 10 am-5 pm. The Festival has free admission and parking is only \$6 per car, or free with a Park Pass. For more information call (707) 565-2041 or visit sonomacountyparks.org. To schedule a school field trip log on to sonoma-county.org/parks/edc.

Redwood Needles
**December
Issue
Deadline:
Due Nov.
4th**

**Submit Articles/Reports/
Ad Copy via e-mail to:
odavison@prodigy.net
Ph 707-544-7651
Fax (707) 544-9861
Send Outings to Carol
Vellutini via e-mail:
carolvslr@sonic.net
Send Meetings to
Carl Inglin via e-mail:
chinglin@sonic.net**

Speaker Bass Appoints Two to Coastal Commission

“California’s coast is one of the state’s greatest environmental and economic treasures and its stewardship is one of our most important responsibilities,” Assembly Speaker Karen Bass (D-Los Angeles) said. “I have appointed Oceanside City Councilmember Esther Sanchez and Santa Cruz County Supervisor Mark Stone to the Coastal Commission because, as elected leaders of their own coastal communities, they have shown a deep appreciation of how maintaining the health, safety and beauty of the coast can be a catalyst for tourism, fishing, recreation and sustainable economic growth.”

Esther Sanchez has served as an Oceanside City Councilmember since 2000. She has served on the Multiple Habitat Conservation Plan Planning Group and supported various other regional environmental protection efforts. Sanchez has served as an attorney in both public and private practice.

“In ensuring development projects are consistent with the vision Californians have for their beloved coastline, the Coastal Commission should listen closely to, and be reflective of the communities it serves,” Sanchez said. “As a first generation Latina born and raised in Oceanside by working class parents, I will do my best to be a voice for all Californians in guiding responsible planning of our coast.”

Mark Stone has served as Santa Cruz County’s 5th District Supervisor since 2003, leading efforts to protect water quality and endangered species. Previously, he served on the Scotts Valley Unified School District Board of Trustees from 1998 to 2003 and has maintained a private law practice in Scotts Valley.

“The Coastal Act makes clear that appropriate ‘development’ can be permitted in the Coastal Zone, but only when that development is accomplished in a way that maintains long term protection for coastal resources,” Stone said. “We have learned, from more than 30 years experience with the Coastal Act, that following the resource protection and management policies spelled out in the Coastal Act not only protects the integrity of our natural environment, but helps ensure the economic health of coastal communities and the state as a whole.”

In 1972, California voters passed proposition 20 to establish the California Coastal Commission; it was made permanent by the Legislature’s passage of the California Coastal Act of 1976. The Commission, in partnership with local governments, helps plan and regulate development activities on a coastal zone that varies in length inland from several hundred feet to up to five miles, while stretching three miles into the Pacific Ocean; the zone does not include San Francisco Bay. Coastal zone activities generally requiring a permit from the Coastal Commission or a local government with a Commission-certified local coast program include building construction, land division and other activities that change land use intensity or public access. Website of the California Coastal Commission: <http://www.coastal.ca.gov/whoware.html>

North Group Report

- The North Group held a member picnic on August 9 at Patricks Point State Park in Trinidad. Approximately 20 people attended. There was lots of good food and conversation, and an informative plant walk led by Ned Forsyth with help from Barbara Kelly.

- The North Group sponsored four local children, age 10-12, to attend the Towering Trees and Tidepools camp this July in Redwood National Park. Two deserving girls (from Fortuna and Gasquet) and two boys (from Eureka and Weaverville) spent 5 days at the overnight camp, held under the auspices of the Oregon Museum of Science & Industry. The campers will be submitting essays about their experiences for excerpting in Needles.

- Again this year, the North Group financially supported the California Coastal Cleanup in mid-September, which started in Humboldt County and is now in its 25th year statewide.

- ExCom member Felice Pace submitted extensive comments on the proposed Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) of sediment for the Klamath River.

- Climate committee chair Jennifer Wood has been contacting people in New Mexico and Montana through the national Club’s new online phone bank tool for climate activists. She is urging them to contact their Senators on the Natural Resources Committee to support strong federal climate legislation.

—SUE LESKIW, NORTH GROUP

2009 Redwood Chapter and Group Elections Schedule

August 8, 2009:

Appointment of Chapter Nominating and Elections Committees

August 31, 2009 (no later than):

Appointment of NomComs by Groups

October 1, 2009:

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

October 7, 2009:

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

October 21, 2009:

Nominated candidates submit ballot statements to Election Committee

October 21, 2009:

Receipt of ballot issue petitions by Election Committee

October 29, 2009 (no later than):

Petition candidates submit signed petitions and ballot statements to Election Committee

December 2009:

Ballots distributed: December edition of Redwood Needles

December 31, 2009:

Ballots due in Chapter office in Santa Rosa

January 9, 2010:

Election Committee counts ballots

January 11, 2010:

Election Committee announces results to candidates and to Group and Chapter Chairs

Potential candidates for Chapter office, or those interested in Group information, are invited to contact the Nominating Committee Chair: Marsha Taylor, (707) 546-9233 or taylorbright@comcast.net

Lake Group Report

A bad year for “algae”

For the first time in about 20 years, a significant bloom of cyanobacteria (AKA “blue-green algae”) has infested Clear Lake this summer, with (as usual) the worst accumulations being on the South Shore. Although algae is a natural and important part of the lake ecosystem, a population explosion causes serious problems: when the algae dies and rises to the surface it looks and smells horrible, and can cause adverse health effects for people and animals. In bad years like this portions of the lake become in effect unusable for recreation, which in turn can be economically devastating for businesses and communities that depend on summer tourism.

To explore some of the complex causes for this predicament, the Lake Group is devoting our September 22 general membership meeting to a special forum titled “Stewards of the Lake.” An expert panel (Yuba College Professor Dr. Harry Lyons, County Water Resources Engineer Tom Smythe, and EPA Sulphur Bank Mercury Mine Superfund site Project Manager Rick Sugarek) will address questions such as: What does a healthy lake look like, and how can we get there? What information is available and what is being done to evaluate it? Where does algae infestation fit into the big picture? What is mercury pollution doing to the Lake? These questions and more will be on the agenda during this free-ranging panel discussion.

In the meantime, check out the new page on the Group website, “What’s Going on with Clear Lake? Some questions and answers” Follow the link at redwood.sierraclub.org/lake to take a look.

Konocti Purchase moves ahead

On September 15 the Lake County Board of Supervisors is expected to open escrow on the county’s historic purchase of more than 1500 acres of pristine land on the heights of Mt Konocti. Rising directly from the shores of Clear Lake, this long-dormant volcano is highly visible from much of the County, and both presides over and symbolizes our community. Needless to say the views from the heights are extraordinary, but few people have ever had a chance to marvel at them, since the privately-owned land has been closed to access.

Now all that will change. Along with an additional 150 acres that the county acquired last year, and 800 acres owned by the BLM, this purchase will be permanently preserved from development, and operated for low-impact public recreational enjoyment. Under terms of purchase that the County enthusiastically endorses, no motor vehicles will be allowed. A series of Master Plan Workshops throughout the spring and summer have begun to formulate a management plan, and it is anticipated that a few guided hikes may take place shortly after escrow closes in November, with the existing trails on the mountain opened to public entry in the spring—hikers only at first, with equestrians and perhaps mountain bikers possibly allowed later. From beginning to end, Lake Group has been strongly supportive of this visionary decision on the part of the Board of Supervisors, and we anticipate scheduling the first of many Konocti Outings with great pleasure.

—VICTORIA BRANDON, LAKE GROUP CHAIR

Housing co-op in Santa Rosa seeking members. Walk to transit cntr/creek/garden/ Marley @ 7075758946.

Solano Group WEB has updated local information, hikes, and events. Check this out often: <http://www.redwood.sierraclub.org/solano/>

E-mail updates or suggestions to our NEW email address: sierraclubsolanogroup@gmail.com

VALCORE Community Recycling

www.VALCORErecycling.org

VALCORE Recycling

38 Sheridan St. Vallejo

Monday through Saturday

Donation: 9am – 4:30pm,

CRV Buy Back: 10am – 4:30pm

Closed for Lunch 1pm - 2pm

Donate your CRV cans/bottles to Sierra Club during CRV Buy Back hours. Please also bring CRV #1 PET and glass bottles. This is how Solano Group raises money. Thanks to all who donate their CRV to Solano Group at VALCORE=s Buy Back operation: So don=t forget to come by at least once each year.

VALCORE also accepts household batteries, cell phone, ink jet cartridges, lap tops and PDAs for recycling. Drop them off the next time you are in town.

VALCORE Recycling WORKDAY: 2009 schedule: Sept 26, Nov 14, Dec 19. To volunteer: call 644-9183 or email sierraclubsolanogroup@gmail.com

We meet at VALCORE and work from 9 am to Noon. \$50 is offered to volunteer supervisors for their favorite classroom or environmental project.

Thanks to our August 1 volunteers: Sara Harmon and Jane Bogner

Solano Breeze Corner
Covering Benicia, Fairfield, Rio Vista, Suisun,
Vacaville and Vallejo
sierraclubsolanogroup@gmail.com 553-1653

Sierra Club worked a paper shredding event with help from Darryl Nystrom and Nancy McCoy.

Confidential Paper Shredding @ VALCORE on 3rd Sat of month starting on August 15 from 11am to 3 pm. Cost is \$5 per 20 pounds – 100 pounds max. OPEN to all

Needed: An E-mail person.

Do you have a little time to maintain our volunteer email lists? We send out alerts, hikes, meetings and VALCORE workday emails. More information: sierraclubsolanogroup@gmail.com

Potrero Hills Landfill Update

Another inadequate EIR was certified by a vote of 3-2 by the Solano County Board of Supervisors. Another lawsuit was filed against this EIR for inadequate answers.

We are going to Court:

In the meantime, We, Sierra Club, have filed a lawsuit which to challenge the county's grant of a use permit for the Potrero Hills Landfill as a violation of Measure E. that limits importation of garbage. In addition NCRRA (Northern CA Recycling and Resource Assoc) and SPRAWLDEF (Zero Waste Assoc) have brought a similar suit against Solano County to enforce Solano County Measure E.

History:

In the early 1980s, NorCal (a SFO garbage company), bought Lynch Canyon to turn it into a regional landfill. That was defeated by the voters of Solano County. Voters also passed Measure E which limited the importation of garbage into Solano County to 95,000 tons per year. Because there was not that much garbage coming in, the measure was ignored. When it did surface a few years ago, County council wrote that it was not legal. So it was shelved again.

Currently:

Now, there is a big importation of garbage into Potrero Hills Landfill (PHL). Locally owned PHL was sold to a big garbage company and they are accepting waste from as radius of 150 miles. They are the cheapest dump in the bay area accepting a million tons annually. Yes, that is 1,000,000 tons of garbage generated outside Solano County.

We are getting nothing from that importation except air pollution and highway destruction, not to mention the negative environmental effects documented by scientists hired by the Bay Conservation and Development Commission.

Bottom Line:

We have hired Shute, Milhaly and Weinberger and they have filed this lawsuit for Sierra Club (National, Redwood Chapter and Solano Group). Now we need to raise money for the legal expenses since National doesn't pay for lawsuits. Several ExCom member have pledge \$100 each for the cause and one generous supporter has donated over \$5000.

Watch your mail for more information about donating to this lawsuit.

-Jane Bogner

-GREG PETERSON, SOLANO GROUP

Sonoma Group Report

Climate Change

The October 24th International Day of Climate Action will be observed by the Sonoma Group at the CHOPS Teen Center on 6th Street in Santa Rosa. The day's purpose is to create a sense of world-wide solidarity about the need to reduce greenhouse gas in the atmosphere to 350 parts-per-million. At present, the concentration is about 387 parts per million, and environmental damage is accumulating much more rapidly than expected. Humans must now stop adding to the problem. You can help by attending the event at CHOPS with your symbolic illustration of "350" such as a puzzle of 350 pieces, cookies with 350 nut-chips, or something more imaginative. The effort now involves more than 100 countries. Author Bill McKibben will be promoting this event in a presentation at the Sonoma Country Day School at 7 p.m. on October 2d. He will offer insights into ways that people around the world are taking up the cause of reducing their carbon footprint. Check the Sonoma Group website for details: <http://redwood.sierraclub.org/Sonoma/>

Dutra Asphalt Plant

The Sonoma County Board Supervisors reversed their previous straw vote to allow the Dutra Group of San Rafael to revise its application to site a large asphalt plant on the Petaluma River in a community separator across from the Schollenberger Park restored wetlands. We continue to oppose this location for the asphalt plant.

Land Fill Divestiture

We are assessing the environmental effects of a proposal

to transfer ownership of the county waste disposal system to Republic Systems, Incorporated, of Arizona. The land-fill was closed by Water Quality Control Board orders in 2005. County staff has negotiated a contract with Republic based upon the idea that a well-funded national corporation could get the land-fill reopened. As this report goes to press, Republic appears resistant to the idea of allowing its profits to depend on achieving the recycling and greenhouse gas reduction goals of the County. Ken Wells, our representative on the local task force on solid waste recycling, is exploring the environmental benefits of having a public entity re-open and operate the land-fill instead of giving control of this important function to a private company.

Water Conservation & Re-use

The Water Agency has conceded to a more realistic appraisal of future water supply, and that is likely to create a wave of planning reassessments by cities and other water users. It is also likely to inspire more intensive conservation efforts, along with review of ongoing stream diversions and ground water extractions.

Holiday Celebration

We are again planning a Holiday Networking Party for Wednesday evening, December 2nd. We will gather at Omelette Express in Railroad Square to enjoy good fellowship, good food, local wine and refreshments, and make a small contribution to the costs of operating our Environmental Center on Ridgway Ave. This event has proved to be a welcome opportunity to share perspectives among the environmental community. RSVP to Portia Sinott, LITE@sonic.net (707)824-9931.

-STEVE BIRDLEBOURGH, SONOMA GROUP CHAIR

Napa Group Report

The Napa Group has concentrated efforts in the last few months to reaching out to the group's membership. One example took the form of a picnic organized with the Napa Democratic Central Committee with political guest speakers. In addition, the ExCom met to brainstorm ideas to reach out to new members and invited Victoria Brandon from the Lake Group to share her successful outreach to her members. We also staffed a table alongside Berryessa Trails at the Napa River Festival. We are pleased that member Charles Slutzkin has agreed to become the Napa Group representative to the Vine Trail coalition.

Upcoming projects for the group include looking closely

at expansion of surface mining at Syar Quarry, which is a growing community concern (see www.co.napa.ca.us/GOV/Departments/29000/Forms/SyarNapaQuarryNoticeOfPreInitialStudy20090616.pdf), plans for a resort and winery development at Stanly Ranch (see http://74.205.120.199/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=567&Itemid=681) and potential residential and commercial development at Napa Pipe. Anyone willing to work on any of these three projects is urged to contact efrater@gravettlaw.com. Other volunteer activities include assisting us by tabling at the St. Helena Hometown Harvest Festival on Oct. 17, 2009.

-ELISABETH FRATER, NAPA GROUP CHAIR

Mendocino Group Report

The General Plan and EIR have been adopted by the Mendocino County Board of Supervisors. The final version contained many of the improvements in the water sections for which we had advocated over the last several years— and there were some that did not make it. We can look forward to putting some of the positive policy statements into regulatory language such as: the protection of wildlife corridors and oak woodlands, riparian setback regulation, an ordinance for land clearing, ground water surveys and regulation and proof of available water resources prior to development

The Coastal Committee is again tracking the progress of the Jackson-Grube resort development at Kibesillah, 12 miles north of Fort Bragg. This is an historic inn set on a broad open marine terrace west of Highway 1. The owners want to redevelop the inn, a modest farmhouse with outbuildings, into a very large resort of ten units, each as big as the average single family house. The sheer magnitude of the development is more than any other ten-unit inn on the coast, and it is in a protected Highly Scenic area.

The Mendocino Group Coastal Committee opposed this at the county level, but it was approved as the LCP has no upper size limit for a "unit". Two of the original Planning Commissioners lead the way in appealing the project to the Coastal Commission, and Sierra Club, Friends of the Ten Mile (River) and several neighbors joined onto the appeal. It will be heard by the Coastal Commission in the coming months, with a very complicated staff report to be issued soon. We invite interested parties to watch the agendas of the Coastal Commission for this project, at <http://www.coastal.ca.gov/mtgcurr.html>

Mendocino Group has a number of individuals involved with the Ocean Protection Coalition (RCWA) in an effort to coordinate an environmental defense against industrialization, militarization and inconsistent application of the MLPA to our magnificent coast.

Several ExCom individuals are relating Public Health Care to Planetary Health Care and are supporting Single Payer Health Care to that end.

-BC MACDONALD, MENDOCINO GROUP