Voting Matters

By Victoria Brandon, Redwood Chapter Political Chair

As the November 6, 2018 election approaches it's becoming more and more obvious that we live in exciting times! Wearing my other hat as chair of the Club’s National Political Team I’ve been watching federal endorsement recommendations pour in from all over the country, many of them in districts where there had previously been no hope of victory for progressive, environmentally supportive candidates, and even a few from Chapters with no political programs until this year. This time around the main question seems to be whether the anticipated blue wave will turn into a blue tsunami.

Here in Redwood Chapter we’re fortunate enough to have many good representatives on both the state and federal level whose reelection seems assured, but there are still significant local contests in city council and other races. Activists in several of the Chapter’s Groups have been engaged in the painstaking task of identifying the best candidates in those races. 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 becoming 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 of our communities hangs in the balance this November, and action by Club members can potentially tip that balance.

The Club is also supporting candidates for several statewide offices, opposing two state propositions (Prop 3 and 6) and supporting others (Props 1, 10, and 12).

Other local endorsements were in progress as this issue of the Redwood Needles went to press. The names of additional endorsed candidates will be posted to sierraclub.org/redwood/endorsements as they are approved.

Rep. Huffman Moves to Protect Wilderness

By Sushma Hershel, Redwood Chapter Communications Coordinator

Every swing in one direction brings a counter swing in the other direction. And thankfully for conservationists, our local Congressman, Jared Huffman, has countered Trump administration’s campaign to destroy public lands with a sweeping bill to conserve and manage Northern California forests and wilderness.

At the end of July Huffman introduced HR 6596, the Northwest California Wilderness, Recreation and Working Forests Act, to protect and manage Northern California forests and wilderness.

The bill not only would create new trails and public access into the wilderness, it would coordinate cleanup of illegal marijuana grows on public land and bolster defenses against large wildfires. Huffman, who has worked on the bill since being elected to serve District 2 five years ago, said the bill is a “creative blend of old school wilderness protection with very innovative management strategies and I think should be supportable by a broader constituency than if it were a standard wildernesses bill.”

“Huffman Wilderness Bill” continued on page 3

Zero Waste Sonoma: Worthy Goals

By Theresa Ryan, Sonoma Group EdCom

As many of you are aware the Sonoma County Waste Management Agency decided in 9-1 vote to move forward with Renewable Sonoma in negotiating a new compost facility currently planned adjacent to the Waste Water Treatment Facility on Llano Road. At the same time Patrick Carte, the Agency’s Director, has stepped down to assume a position with the city of Petaluma.

Unfortunately, until a new Director is chosen there may not be many decisions made of great import to the development of the facility. Sonoma Group’s Facebook page or online newsletter will announce any Sonoma County Waste Management Agency meetings regarding this topic.

One group that has been very supportive in the process of selecting a local compost facility proposal is a Zero Waste Sonoma. Zero Waste Sonoma has developed a Zero Waste Resolution over the past year which is now under consideration for adoption by the Sonoma County Waste Management Agency and all its jurisdictions to use for creating zero waste ordinances. Among its many policy directions are following:

- Set a Zero Waste goal to divert 100% of waste from landfills by 2030 and commit to reducing the total pounds per person per day, currently 4.6, by at least 10% per year
- Institute and/or expand high diversion and Zero Waste goals and programs for all government facilities, events, and projects
- Educate the public by expanding the ongoing information on the environmental and community benefits of reducing wasteful consumption and increasing diversion through reuse, repair, composting, and recycling

“Zero Waste: Worthy Goals” continued on page 7

Museum Exhibit Highlights Lucille Vinyard’s Role in Founding of Redwood National Park

Recognizing Vinyard as Redwood Champion

By Sue Leskiw, North Group

Lucille Vinyard, North Group scion affectionately called “The Mother of Redwood National Park,” is one of the focal points in an exhibit on display at the Clarke Historical Museum in Eureka (www.clarkemuseum.org). Her journals, letters, and photos are part of “The Redwoods Provided [d] Stories from the Establishment of Redwood National and State Parks,” which runs through January 5, 2019. The display is part of series of art and cultural events at locations throughout Humboldt County to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the park’s creation in 1968.

The exhibit— curated by Katie Buesch and co-sponsored by Save the Redwoods League and Green Diamond Resource Company— explores how loggers and conservationists were both united and divided by redwoods. Its goal is to “investigate the different views and reasoning in people’s support or opposition to the establishment of Redwood National Park and its later expansion.”

The arrangement flows to tell a story. The right-hand side of the show explores the history of how those iconic trees were cut down and used, the center section takes the visitor through the conflict and resolution over preserving some in a national park, and the left-hand part introduces the major environmental players in the process.

The first section the visitors sees includes cases full of early logging tools, iconic photos such as nine loggers sitting in an undercut giant, and products made from redwoods.

“Recognizing Vinyard as Redwood Champion” continued on page 3

Sierra Club California Publishes New Report Calling for More Affordable Housing

A new report from Sierra Club California outlines the factors that have led to our state’s housing crisis and its effects on California’s population and economy. The report summarizes recent housing studies and legislation that motivates housing development. It also offers recommendations to further reform state housing laws that can contribute to a comprehensive solution to California’s housing crisis.

The Sierra Club has been active in housing and related growth issues for several decades. The paper describes our long-standing policies that strongly support infill development and higher housing densities, social justice, reducing pollution, and preserving the natural environment. This report was written by Sierra Club California volunteer leaders who have expertise in planning and housing.

Katherine Phillips, director of Sierra Club California, said in a statement: “Building enough affordable housing for California’s families and workers is one of the most important challenges facing California. State and local officials and elected officials need to work together to spur development of affordable and infill housing while upholding tenants’ rights, reducing emissions and protecting wildlife. It’s possible to achieve these goals, but it will require collaboration.”

The paper includes the following recommendations for policies that could and should be considered to help theable our communities:

- Mandate that cities that fall behind in their state-mandated Regional Housing Needs Assessment (RHNA) goals must reduce “VCC Calls for More Affordable Housing” continued on page 3
Redwood Chapter
The Redwood Chapter is governed by an executive committee, with one (1) member delegated by each of six (6) regional groups and six (6) members elected at large. Each group elects its own executive committee.

Chair • At Large – Political Chair • RCC Delegate • Wilderness Chair
Victoria Brandon* 994-1951    svbradon@sdkai.org

Vice Chair • Solano Group Delegate to Chapter
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At Large • Delegate to Club of Leaders Alternate
Napavalleysierraclub@gmail.com

At Large – Conservation Chair • Club of Leaders Delegate
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At Large – Energy and Climate Chair
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Transportation Chair
Steve Birdlebough 576-6312 affriendshouse.org

Grading Chair
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Forestry Chair
Jason Grant                                    536-5983   jason@seacountryconsulting.com

Lake Group Delegate to Chapter
Carolyn Rutten*                                     295-0333   carolyn.rutan@lakemc.org

Lake Group Delegate Alternate
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Mendocino Group Delegate to Chapter
Mary Walsh*                                         907-0974

Mendocino Group Delegate Alternate
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North Group Delegate to Chapter
Nancy Tamarisk*                                     257-3121

North Group Delegate Alternate
Joyce Method*                                        510-916-6875

Sonoma Group Delegate to Chapter
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Sonoma Group Delegate Alternate
Vacant

South Group Delegate to Chapter
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South Group Delegate Alternate
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Webmaster
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Redwood Needles
Newsletter of the Redwood Chapter, Sierra Club of California

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Redwood Chapter
Sierra Club Directory

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 466, Santa Rosa, CA 95402, Phone 544-7651, Fax 544-9861

Office Address: Environmental Center, 55A Ridgway Avenue, Santa Rosa (West of off of Cleveland Ave., to the west of Hwy 101)

Redwood Chapter Online
Redwood Chapter Website: http://www.sierraclub.org/redwood

For Group Websites, use www.redwood.sierrclub.org and add: /napa, /north, /sonoma, /lake, /mendocino, or /solano

Redwood Chapter Facebook: www.facebook.com/SierraClubRedwoodChapter

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

The office is usually staffed Monday and Thursday from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. 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 Needles

October 1, 2018 Redwood Needles
“Recognizing Vinyard as Redwood Champion” continued from page 1

redwood burls (among them bowls, boxes, a chess set, postcards, and even a phonograph record that bears “Beautiful Dreamers” on one side and a spoken history of the redwoods on the other). In Humboldt County in the late 1960s, 70 percent of local industry was tied to lumber.

The middle part deals with running points in the debate over creating the park, mainly through media clippings such as a March 1966 newspaper article that quotes Del Norte, a Eureka stockbroker and chair of the Redwoods Committee, a timber industry-financed group that opposed federal Redwood National Park plans for Humboldt and Del Norte counties. “Every time I mention a redwood tree, the extremists go into a spiritual fit,” a Senate hearing held in Del Norte County in June 1966 attracted 117 witnesses. Manuscripts face off representing an eco-protester holding a sign reading “Better Redwood Than Dead Wood.” A legislator with an “angry logger” poster that was part of the “Talk to America” convoy of 26 trucks that drove from Washington, DC in 1978 to protest the park expansion. The last portion focuses on the Save the Redwoods League, the Sierra Club in general, and the late Lucille Vinyard in particular. Her glass case includes one of her many handwritten daily journals, which are being digitized by Humboldt State University student interns under the direction of special collections librarian Carly Marinos. Eighteen students have been funded by project underwrite Redwood National and State Parks, with the results posted at www.rnp.orneca.net. “Journal entries have ranged from the mundane ‘I played golf today’ to the consequential ‘Today I attended a Senate subcommittee hearing on establishing a national park,’ states Marinos. The students are attempting to match up photographs with the journal entries. Lucille’s case also includes her original typed open letter to President Johnson on the last chance to really save the redwoods.” that was published in newspapers such as the New York Times, Washington Post, Los Angeles Times, San Francisco Chronicle, and Sacramento Bee plus her scrapbook of clippings between November 1964 and January 1966 with subject matter pertinent to establishment of a Redwood National Park, lumber industry, state parks, conservation, natural beauty, tourism, and county politics.

Attendees at the July 7 exhibit opening and the Eureka Street Art Fair/Augusture were given a sheet of colored paper and a marker to write their personal redwoods story. The comments were then pasted to the wall in the alley that runs along the Clarke Museum. While many are one sentence long, others are a drawing, poem, or story. “Some people were nearly crying because of how the redwoods speak to them,” notes Buesch.

Redwood National Park was the most expensive U.S. national park to establish, since most of the land and timber had to be purchased from private owners at what courts determined to be fair market value. The exhibit includes a deposit receipt for $111 million from the U.S. Government to Simpson Timber Company, which was the smallest of the three owner companies. $59 million represented the value of the land and $52 million was interest that accrued in the eight to nine years it took to determine the land’s value! Money was also set aside to rehabilitate logged-over land and to help those who lost their jobs due to reduced logging. The 1978 park expansion cost an additional $350 million. Read more about their redwoods experience with the Museum by using the hashtag #theredwoodspplied.

“SCC Calls for More Affordable Housing” continued from page 1

lands around transit stations.
• Reform the RHFA process by transforming it into a state planning board.
• Re-establish a more narrowly defined redevelopment-like program that focuses on creating affordable housing.
• Allow local affordable housing bonds to be passed by the voters by a simple majority, rather than a two-thirds majority.
• Mandate that local agencies reduce building and development fees for qualifying affordable housing projects.
• Develop incentive programs that encourage local agencies to adopt inclusionary housing ordinances that require housing projects to include affordable units.
• Plug the SB 375 loophole by requiring a direct link (and a finding of consistency) between the new smart growth principles of adopted Sustainable Community Strategy Plans and the local General Plans that guide all local growth decisions.
• Identify ways to help ensure local planning departments are adequately staffed and trained to implement existing measures that can accelerate housing production.
You can read and download the whole paper online at bit.ly/SCC-Housing-Report.

Sierra Club California is the legislative and regulatory advocacy arm for Sierra Club chapters in California. This article originally appeared in the Sierra Club Bay Chapter’s Yedeler.

2018 Redwood Chapter and Group Elections Schedule

Friday, October 5th: Receipt of all your Group’s candidates’ applications (statement of intent to run) due to the Group NomCom Chair
Friday, October 12th: Group NomCom Chair informs all potential candidates of their status and submits list of candidates (with contact information) to their respective ExCom and Chapter Election Chair (Joan Dambros)
Friday, October 26th: Candidates submit ballot statement to Election Committee Chair.
Friday, November 2nd: Receipt of any ballot petitions are due to the Election Committee Chair. Approved statements sent for publication in December/Jan. Redwood Needles.
Monday, December 31st: Voting completed and all ballots due.
NomCom Chairs
Redwood Chapter
Joan Dambros: joandambros@earthlink.net
Sonoma Group
Suzanne Doyle: carsort@gmail.com
Lake Group
Victoria Brandon: vbranchon@lalkevile.info
North Group
Ned Forsyth: eaf@humboldt.edu
Solano Group
Joe Feller: joe56feller@gmail.com
Mendocino Group
Mary Wild: maryw@mcn.org
Napa Group
Christina Benz: christinaben@gmail.com

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

“Huffman Wilderness Bill” continued from page 1

Highlights of the bill include:

• Protection of 317,000 acres of federal public lands as “wilderness.” Wilderness is the strongest protection available for certain areas of public land available under federal law.
• Designation of 379 miles of new “wild and scenic rivers” and authorizes federal agencies to create management plans for 101 miles of existing wild and scenic rivers providing critical habitat for threatened and endangered salmon and steelhead. This would create more than 20 million acres of national forests, parks, wildlife refuges, and public lands.
• District for federal agencies to explore ways to improve motorized and non-motorized recreation trails opportunities, including mountain biking, on national forest and adjacent Bureau of Land Management lands in Del Norte, Humboldt, Trinity, and Mendocino Counties.
• Restoration of public lands affected by illegal trespass marijuana grows.
• Authorization of the construction of two public visitor centers in Trinity and Del Norte counties.
• Conducting a study on the establishment of the “Bigfoot National Recreation Trail” from Crescent City to the southern Yolla Bolly-Middle Eel Wilderness boundary that will highlight the immense ecological diversity of northern California’s ancient forests and other unique landscapes.
• Restoration of about 730,000 acres of forest to reduce danger of wildfires, which would include creation of roadside shaded fuel breaks and projects to thin overcrowded second-growth plantations.
• The bill will not expand federal lands, will not limit existing hunting and fishing rights, will not close any legal roads or trails, and will not affect how private property is accessed and used.

Although the Sierra Club has not yet taken a position on this legislation, Redwood Chapter has been watching Huffman’s efforts closely for several years, and will continue to monitor the bill as it evolves. We’re also looking forward to leading outings into these diverse areas.

Redwood Needles October 1, 2018 3
Outings

Two loop trails, each just over 2 miles, mostly on dirt roads: one to the west of our parking area, past the old “Ski Chalet” site, with views of the King Range, the Siskiyous, and the coast, and another loop to the north and east among several kinds of pines, red rocks, and a short stretch of cobblestone-strewn single track, looking at the Trinity Alps, the Yolla Bollys, and maybe a peak at Mt. Lassen. Bring lunch, water and good boots. No dogs. M-S-A. Carpools 9 AM Valley West (Ray’s) Shopping Center, 10 AM Horse Mountain parking area. Leader Ned, nedforsyth48@gmail.com or (707) 825-3652. Bad weather cancels.
Sun. Nov. 11 – North Group, Lacks Creek/Pine Ridge Prairies Hike.
Come and explore this nearby Bureau of Land Management area off Highway 299, on new and old trails created by BLM, Humboldt Trails Council, and Redwood Coast Mountain Bike Association. We will see a mix of oak savannas, tranquil old-growth conifers, and actively managed hardwoods. Humboldt Bay and ocean views a possibility. Bring lunch and water, and dress for a full day at 3,600 feet elevation. Class M-S-A. Medium difficulty, about 5 miles, less than 1,000 feet elevation gain/loss. Carpools Meet 9 a.m. Ray’s Market in Valley West. Leader Ned, nedforsyth48@gmail.com, (707) 825-3652. Bad weather cancels.

Instructions to Hikers
Outings will start no later than 15 minutes after scheduled meeting time. The leader is in charge of the trip and is responsible for your welfare and the good name of the Club. He/she must have your cooperation to make the trip safe, pleasant and rewarding. Never change ahead of the leader and keep within sight or shouting distance of the person ahead of you so you do not miss an interesting trail. Do not lag behind rear leader. If you need help, the rear leader will remain to assist you. Do not leave the group without the leader’s permission. Be adequately equipped and prepared. You should carry lunch and liquids. Wear footwear appropriate for the outing. In most cases that would be hiking boots.

Guard against fire. Do not smoke on Sierra Club outings. Build fires only with the leader’s permission, and extinguish them completely. Guns or radios are not to be brought on hikes.
The Sierra Club does not have insurance for carpooling arrangements and assumes no liability for them. Participants assume the risks associated with travel. Reimburse the carpool driver. Carpools are not part of the outing but a means of conserving natural resources.

All participants on Sierra Club outings are required to sign a standard liability waiver. If you would like to read the liability waiver please go to: http://www.sierreclub.org/outings/chapter/forms/, or contact the Outings Department at (415) 977-5528 for a printed version.

Visitors are welcome
All Sierra Club trips are open to the public unless otherwise announced. You are free to bring all members of your family and guests.
Children are usually welcome, but please call the leader to make sure it is an appropriate hike.

DIFFICULTY MILEAGE ELEVATION GAIN
E - Easy Actual A - Less than 1,000
M - Moderate Mileage B - 1,000 to 2,000
H - Harst C - 2,000 to 3,000
S - Strenuous D - over 3,000
V - Very Strenuous

The actual mileage will be listed for each trip. Elevation gain will reflect the gain from the start of the hike to the highest point. If you need to know the cumulative gain, please contact the leader.

To submit outings write-ups
Send all outings write-ups to: Louis Vac, Outings Chair, [lva@sonic.net] by the 8th of the month. All leaders must coordinate their outings with their Group Outings Chair.

Help Wanted: Redwood Chapter Seeks Chapter Director
Redwood Chapter is looking for a half-time Chapter Director to strengthen our conservation programs, fundraising, volunteer development and member services.

Working closely with volunteer leaders, this talented individual will identify chapter needs and recruit volunteers to fill them. train and oversee membership coordinators at the chapter and group level who can welcome new members and work with the Chapter Treasurer on fundraising strategy, including efforts to bring fundraising components to events and outreach
efforts. Strong communications and computer skills are essential, and a passion for protecting the planet.

This half-time job will be based in Sonoma County though some telecommuting may be possible, and is expected to last about six months, with an extension also possible.

A full job description and link to the application form is available on the Club Careers website at https://www.sierreclub.org/careers. Chapter Chair Victoria Brandon is also glad to answer questions: feel free to call her at 707-994-1931 or to send an email to vbrandon@lakelive.info.

Rateings for Outings Leaders:
How fast or slow do you go?
Wonder if an outing leader walks fast or slow? Keep in mind that the leader’s speed is but one part of hiking. How high up a mountain the hike starts, the total mileage and elevation gain (up hill and down hill) greatly affect the difficulty of a hike, regardless of how fast or slow you walk. If you have any doubts about being able to do a hike or have other questions, please call the leader to discuss your concerns. These ratings only serve as a guide and are not a substitute for you being in appropriate physical condition before participating in an outing.

Leaders are grouped according to how fast they normally hike. Please keep in mind that this info is to help you decide if a hike is right for you. The outing rating instructions to hikers is also important for participants to read. Look at the difficulty of the hike. If the rating is moderate with few or more frequent stops a fast pace hiker must hike slower to accommodate that rating.

V - Very slow: Leaders will hike slower than moderate pace.
Moderate pace with few stops: Leaders will hike moderate pace.
Moderate pace with more frequent stops: Leaders will hike moderate pace with frequent stops.
Slow pace: Leaders will hike very slow pace.

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Sierra Club California has taken an oppose position on two bad ballot measures on the November ballot, Proposition 3 and Proposition 6.

Proposition 3 is a poorly developed water bond that was crafted via a “pay-to-play” method. That means that the proponents negotiated with various special interests to include pet projects in the bill in exchange for supporting—including with campaign funds—the bond measure.

As a result, the proposition would create a nearly $8.9 billion bond that would be continuously appropriated, without regard for the state of the state's treasury. And a lot of the projects in the bond, including dams, do not deserve the taxpayer funding that would pay for them. You can see our factsheet on the bond here: bit.ly/NoProp3CA-FactSheet. You can see a more detailed FAQ here: bit.ly/NoProp3CA-FAQ.

Proposition 6 is a cynical effort by political operatives to draw conservative voters to the polls in November. The measure would rescind a gas tax passed by the legislature in 2017, through Senate Bill 1, to fund a range of transportation projects. Transit funding, repairing local roads and bridges, and improving bicycle and pedestrian access are among the projects that would be funded over time as a result of the tax. You can learn more about that bad ballot measure's impacts at http://www.noprop6.com.

So, remember, vote NO on Proposition 3 and Proposition 6 in November.

Sierra Club recommends a NO vote!

NO on Prop 3:
$8.9 billion Water Bond

This proposed Water Bond:
• Sidesteps Oversight
• Removes Accountability
• Robs Californians
• Raids Climate Funds

See NoProp3CA.com for more information.

Strengthen Salmon

Wild salmon and steelhead of the northwest coast are a treasure to our nation. In the early 19th century, salmon were so abundant that the Columbia River system saw 16 million salmon returning each year alone. Habitat destruction, dams, over-fishing and pollution are threatening the survival of the salmon. Only one percent of wild salmon return to these vulnerable waters today. Help Sierra Club fight to protect wild salmon.

Swim Up & JOIN Sierra Club

Vote Yes on Prop. 12!

Proposition 2 was passed in California a decade ago, and went into effect in 2015. This law banned confinement of pregnant pigs, calves raised for veal and egg-laying hens in a manner that didn't allow them to turn around, lie down, stand up and fully extend their limbs. Unfortunately, the law didn't provide specific minimal cage measurements.

Now we have an opportunity to rectify that omission: Proposition 12, the “Farm Animal Confinement Initiative,” includes size restrictions. Beginning in 2020, the proposal would ban the sale of veal from a calf confined to 43 square feet; pork from a breeding pig confined to 24 square feet; and eggs from egg-laying hens confined to an area less than 1 square foot. Beginning in 2021, producers would be required to confine egg-laying hens in cage-free housing systems based on the United Egg Producers’ 2017 cage-free guidelines.

Prevent Cruelty California is leading the campaign in support of this ballot initiative. It’s supported by dozens of groups, including Sierra Club, ASPCA, HSUS, Mercy for Animals, Animal Legal Defense Fund, and the Center for Food Safety.

Animals raised closely in cages are a recipe for disaster. Diseases spread and the animals are treated with antibiotics. It’s no wonder we are going back to the pre-penicillin era as common antibiotics are no longer working. Families can become sickened from drinking water contaminated with harmful bacteria because of manure runoff. It’s an injustice for families living near animal factories to suffer from stench, air pollution and fly infestation.

That’s not all! Sierra Club Agriculture policy recognizes “Negative impacts (of CAFOs) include chronic inhumane treatment of animals.”

In November, 2018, please vote YES on Proposition 12!
Lake Group Report

Annual BBQ at Dancing Tree People Farm, Upper Lake
Lake Group's annual potluck BBQ at the home of Group Chair Denise Rushing on July 27 was well-attended and very enjoyable despite being held just a few miles from the Mendocino Complex fires as they were beginning. Little did we know that just a few days later Denise and her Dancing Tree People partners would have to evacuate from the path of the Ranch Fire—a fire that soon thereafter became California's largest to date. We enjoyed a hearty meal while learning more about Denise's permaculture lifestyle.

Clear Lake Blue Ribbon Committee
Last year many Clear Lake County residents applauded legislation to form a special Blue Ribbon Committee dedicated to improving Clear Lake water quality, with $2 million in initial funding. Ever since we’ve been expecting to hear more— who the members would be, when meetings would be held, what would be the opportunities for public engagement? The first hint of action came from a brief mention in the county Farm Bureau July newsletter about a stakeholder meeting to be held in Lakewood on August 14, location and time unspecified. The invitation came from Bernadette Austin, Associate Director of the UC Davis Center for Regional Change. We then found out that formal invitations to the Board of Supervisors and several high level county staffers had been made—but apparently to no one else. The meeting was later canceled due to the fires and has not yet been rescheduled, but in the meantime we have gotten in touch with Bernadette to make sure that when it does take place Sierra Club will have a chance to participate.

Climate Action Retreat
On August 27 the Group held our first ever climate action summit to investigate the most promising local strategies for combating climate disruption. This very stimulating retreat began with an introduction to Drawdown, Paul Hawken’s plan to reverse global warming, followed by a brainstorming session to devise an inventory of interests with respect to climate change. These interests were categorized into four areas:

- Forest Regeneration and Management Project
- Community Choice Energy Project
- Intriguing Tech
- Public Education

We looked in a bit more detail at the Forest Regeneration and Management Project as an example of next steps, and assigned leads and actions to each of the four interest areas. Denise has set up a Google Docs site as a repository for each interest area to keep us organized as we move forward.

~CAROLYN RUTTAN, LAKE GROUP EXCOM

Redwood Needles
December 2018 Deadline: Due Nov. 4th
Submit Articles/Reports/Ad Copy via e-mail to: odavison@sonic.net
Send Outings to Louis Vas: lvas75@sonic.net and Meetings to Carl Inglin: chinling@sonic.net

North Group Underwrites Three Campers
This summer, North Group sponsored three campers: a 10-year-old girl from Eureka, a 11-year-old girl from McKinleyville, and an 8-year-old boy from Loleta— to attend a week-long session at Lost Coast Camp near Petrolia. (A fourth child had been selected but cancelled at the last minute.)

This is the second year that campers sponsored through donations to the Luscile Vinyard and Robert Shapiro Environmental Education Fund have gone to overnight camp at this venue in the Mattole Valley. The facility's mission is to "provide youth with a dynamic summer camp experience, which promotes building self-esteem and positive friendships, individual expression, and fostering an appreciation for the natural world.”

In exchange for their tuition, the campers agreed to submit an essay to North Group about their experience. Below are excerpts:

Camper 1: "I had a great experience at Lost Coast Camp. Some of my favorite activities were art, swimming in the river, and archery. I also really enjoyed making new friends, the amazing food, and playing capture the flag in the forest. I love art, so it was great to make lanyards, bracelets, and masks, as well as draw and paint. There were many art supplies to be creative with, such as feathers, googly eyes, and ribbons. Art gave me a chance to relax and catch up with the busy day. The river was fairly warm and it was great to jump in after a long day of hiking and walking around camp and the farm. The river was a refreshing friend in the middle of the day, which sometimes got very hot. I think archery was my favorite activity. Instructors taught us how to safely use, aim, and shoot the bow. I loved having the opportunity to do this camp and am thankful for the scholarship that enabled me to attend.”

Camper 2: “Every day we hiked down to the river and had a lot of fun. The river was big and we played in it every day. The ranch was so fun. We hung out in the garden, then picked squash and apples and climbed on the hay. We saw the cows that were so cute and I liked throwing them apples and squash to eat. We also had a lot of fun with pranks. If you’re looking for a fun summer thing to do, you just found it!”

Camper 3: “I really feel lucky to have gone to Lost Coast Camp. I made a lot of friends and learned all kinds of fun stuff. I love swimming and we got to do it every day. I also liked that we got to do arts projects such as making masks. I made lots of memories at camp but the most important one is having fun. Signed, Happy Camper.”

~SUE LESKIN, NORTH GROUP TREASURER

Napa Group Report
Raise your Voice in the Napa County Strategic Plan
Napa County is inviting citizen participation in a comprehensive Strategic Planning process which will outline guide policies and priorities for the next three years. Over 20 meetings are scheduled to get public input on topics including the environment, tourism, social services, health care, housing, and many more. Check out the schedule at www.countyofnapa.org/2414/Napa-County-Strategic-Plan.

Please consider attending one or more of these meetings to voice your concerns about water, watershed protection, traffic, winery development, housing, environmental sustainability, and other concerns you may have. Business interests will be well represented at these meetings so we hope many private citizens will be in attendance to provide a balanced perspective. At the last Strategic Planning input meeting, making the Community Survey, available at the above link.

The Napa Sierra Club is represented on the Strategic Plan Committee, and will be closely watching to determine if any input by the Board of Supervisors is open to the voices of ordinary citizens, or if the Strategic Planning effort is an empty exercise designed to appease the widespread discontent over the Board’s perceived lack of responsiveness to Napa residents who don’t wield clout in the wine industry.

Did you miss the chance to test-drive an electric car or bike?
Sierra Club hosted a Drive Electric Week at Napa Valley College on Sept. 16th. Visitors got the chance to check out vehicles provided by dealers and their own.

Please do you know that buying an electric vehicle is supported by thousands of dollars of rebates at the State and Federal levels! For a ton of helpful information, including comparison of dozens of EV models, and lots of incentives, check out this great website: pluginamerica.org.

Keep Informed on Napa Environmental Activities!
Get our monthly e-newsletter, by contacting us at scnapapam@gmail.com, and follow Napa Group on Facebook.

~NANCY TAMARISK, NAPA GROUP VICE CHAIR
Zero Waste: Worthy Goals

- Encourage all residents, businesses, and agencies to participate in composting and recycling programs while also encouraging them to reduce and reuse
- Update and Expand the Green Purchasing, Environmentally Preferable Procurement (EPP) and Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) policies
- Create a countryside Construction and Demolition Reuse and Recycling Ordinance
- Empower jurisdictions and consumers to use their buying power to demand less toxic, easily reused, fully compostable or recyclable products, utilizing recycled materials whenever possible
- Encourage manufacturers to produce and market less toxic and more durable, repairable, reusable, compostable and recyclable products and/or recycled products
- Lobby regional, state, and federal legislators to implement laws, policies, and regulations that promote Zero Waste, Manufacturer Responsibility, and Environmentally Preferable Procurement
- Inspire and incentivize service providers to embrace and collaborate in these efforts
- Support equitable pay and safe working conditions for material management workers
- Ensure fiscal sustainability by developing a sound financial model that can sustain high diversion and Zero Waste programs and enable long term delivery of quality
- Representatives of CAFÉ, the Compost Coalition, Utilities Commission that it was perfectly safe as proposed.

Zero Waste

Theresa Ryan announced that The Sonoma County Waste Management Agency (now called Zero Waste Sonoma) voted to negotiate with Renewable Sonoma to develop a compost facility on Llano Road. After several years of outreach all green waste out of the county, it looks like a local compost facility is finally in the works. Stay tuned.

In addition, Zero Waste Sonoma is working toward making all centers in Sonoma County new waste and urban polystyrene is moving ahead.

Petaluma Safeway Gas Station

Richard Sachen took the lead on a Zero Waste Sonoma letter urging the City of Petaluma to stop the construction of a larger gas station near a school and crosstown intersection at E. Washington St. and S. McDowell Blvd. It outlined several reasons why this proposed gas station is a bad idea, including increased air and water pollution, traffic, and the potential for leaks of toxic chemicals into the ground.

“Common sense dictates that putting a large pump gas station filled with cancer causing benzene next to a school would be contrary to the public and community’s interests,” said Sachen, who is coordinating with local residents and school associates. Zero Waste Sonoma suggested installing electric vehicle charging station at the site would be a more progressive and less polluting solution for the area.

Climate Action

Climate and Energy Co-Chair Tom Gordon joined the coalition-wide campaign to keep 30,000 people in the area from the climate march on Saturday, September 8. Hundreds of Sierra Club members were involved in the mass mobilization.

He noted that greenhouse gas emissions for the Sonoma County area have increased since the California Climate Action Plan and stated that with the Napa climate action plan out and Tom C. is coordinating a review. Tom also detailed information about a software tool for individual energy conservation being used by the “Fremont Green Challenge” program.

Sonoma County Parks for All – Measure M

Sierra Club endorsed Sonoma County’s Parks for All Measure M to provide a critical new source of funding for county and city parks. If passed by a two-thirds majority, the $1.8 cent sales tax will maintain parks, trails and open spaces, help protect water quality, reduce future wildfire risk, and protect wildlife habitats and fisheries.

If passed, two-thirds of the funds raised would go county regional parks and one-third would go to the nine cities for neighborhood parks. Measure M will generate about $11.5 million per year for 10 years, adding three cents to the cost of a $25 purchase.

Learn more about the measure here https://www.sonomacountyparksfforall.org

Sonoma Group Report

Political Committee and Candidate Endorsements

Get ready for an exciting election season ahead! The candidate endorsements are among the most important and effective actions of the Sonoma Group every election cycle. The Political Committee of the Sonoma Group interviewed 15 candidates for State Assembly along with Sonoma, Petaluma and a larger field than we’ve seen in years. Each candidate was questioned on multiple issues and new faces competing with incumbents. (See http://www.sieracleub.org/redwood for a full list of endorsements.)

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Sierra Club Recommends NIX on SIX!

No on Prop 6 – Gas Tax Repeal Proposition 6 STRIKES OUT $5.4 billion dollars each year for:
> Highway and road maintenance
> Bridge safety and pothole repair
> Transit operations and pedestrian safety

Source: Legislative Analyst’s Office - Senate Bill 1; California Transit Association

Redwood Needles October 1, 2018

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Sierra Club Endorsements

State Propositions
✓ YES on Prop 1
  Affordable housing bond measure
✘ No on Prop 3
  Flawed water bond
✘ No on Prop 6
  Gas tax repeal
✓ YES on Prop 10
  Rent control
✓ YES on Prop 12
  Humane treatment for farm animals

Local Measures:
Sonoma County:
✓ YES on Measure M

See Page 5 for Articles about Propositions.
Please Vote on November 6th.
Visit http://www.sierraclub.org/redwood for a complete list of Sierra Club endorsements