



P.O. Box 993777 • Redding, CA 96099 • [ecoshasta.org](http://ecoshasta.org)

## **Shasta Environmental Alliance Newsletter August 2020**

### **Shasta Lake Tree Conservation Ordinance New Hearing August 6**

The City of Shasta Lake Planning Department will be presenting its revised Tree Preservation Ordinance to the Planning Commission on August 6 at 6 pm. The original Tree Ordinance was passed in about 2004 following the mass cutting of all native trees on the Deer Creek Manor subdivision. That ordinance required the planting of three trees in fifteen-gallon containers for every one tree over 10 inches in diameter that was cut down on a development project. The problem with this was that sometimes it was difficult to find room to plant the many trees that may need to be planted, plus the effort with a limited staff to verify the trees were planted and ensuring the trees lived at least five years.

One problem with the new proposed ordinance is that it doesn't distinguish between a 10 inch wide tree and a much larger tree. The proposed revised ordinance does allow the payment of a mitigation fee in lieu of planting trees in a 3 to 1 basis (2 to 1 in some cases). However, the major weakness of the ratio is that if you cut down either a 10 inch-wide tree or a 35 inch wide valley oak, you would only be required to plant three trees in both cases. It may take 100 years for three saplings to equal the shade and ecosystem value of a mature valley or blue oak. The ordinance does allow for the set aside of an equal number of trees in a parcel set aside as open space. While this is better than nothing, if 100 trees were cut down and another area with 100 trees were set aside as in a protected easement, Shasta Lake still has a net loss of 100 trees. This section needs to increase the number of replacement trees and mitigation fees based on the diameter of the tree.

Another problem with the proposed new ordinance is that the penalties for violating the ordinance are not strong enough. While the City could apply additional penalties, the highest fine amount is up to \$1000 for unauthorized removal of trees. This is woefully inadequate.

The proposed ordinance is definitely better than the City of Redding Tree Ordinance but needs to strengthen the mitigation fees and increase the minimum penalties for violations of the ordinance.

Shasta Lake is to be commended for protecting their trees, however as currently proposed the ordinance could result in a considerable loss of Shasta Lake's tree canopy over the years. Yet it is an effort to correct certain deficiencies in the current ordinance and it does provide for required mitigation, unlike the City of Redding's.

If you would like to see a stronger Shasta Lake Tree Conservation Ordinance, especially if you live or work in Shasta Lake, we urge you to send your comments to the Shasta Lake Planning Commission. Keep your comments to 250 words which will be read at the meeting and COVID restrictions permitting, you may be able to testify in person. Refer to the Tree Conservation Ordinance in the subject line and above your letter. This may also require a second Planning Commission Meeting

[publiccomments@cityofshastalake.org](mailto:publiccomments@cityofshastalake.org)

### **Petition Opposing the Costco Project Fails to Make the Ballot**

Regrettably, the petition to have the Costco Project placed on the ballot failed to capture the necessary 5000+ valid signatures. Expect chain saws to be cutting down another 20 acres of oak woodland without requiring the developer to pay mitigation fees. Thank you to all of you who signed the petition. See article on Shasta Lake Tree Conservation Ordinance.

Because of the many, over 70 letters submitted objecting to the removal of trees and lobbying the City Council and the Planning Department during the planning process, the project was setback an additional 10 feet further from the freeway than originally planned and 45 larger oak trees will be preserved. This is because of you letters to the City Council and several Council members contacting Planning. Not a lot, but better than the Churn Creek Market Place clearcut. Thank you for your efforts.

## Oak Tree Removal Near McConnell Foundation

On May 5, SEA reported a possible violation of the Redding Tree Management Ordinance on a private parcel near the McConnell Foundation trails parking lot off Tidmore Lane near Churn Creek. Planning Manager Lily Toy said no tree permit was issued for the tree removal and her staff would investigate. The latest news is that the property owner was notified and was supposed to apply for an after the fact tree removal permit but has not done so as yet. This appears to be further evidence of the weakness of the Redding Tree Ordinance.

## Wild and Scenic Film Festival -*Virtual* Friday, August 21, 7:30 pm to 9 pm Live Stream Event

The Whole Earth and Watershed Festival and Shasta Living Streets are excited to be bringing the **2nd Annual Wild & Scenic Film Festival** to you VIRTUALLY this year! The COVID-19 pandemic has moved WEFW to offer this important film festival as a virtual-live streamed event that also includes additional access to the films for 5 days afterwards!

This year's Film Festival will feature 14 inspiring films, (ranging from 1 minute to 20 minutes). We hope that this year's film selections will ignite your activism and create new partnerships for the work that lies ahead! *Stunning Films, Gorgeous Cinematography, & Fabulous Storytelling: Designed to Inspire Us to Act on Behalf of Our Community and Our Planet!* Please visit: [www.wholeearthandwatershedfestival.org](http://www.wholeearthandwatershedfestival.org) for tickets and more information!

## Free Mattress Recycling in Shasta County

People buy a lot of mattresses. In 2019, 12,407 mattresses were dropped off at the Transfer Station and 2,661 were dropped off at the West Central Landfill for recycling. Old mattresses and box springs can be taken to either the City of Redding Transfer Station or the West Central Landfill at no charge. Customers can drop-off up to six mattresses or box-springs at one time and this service is available to all residents.

Mattresses are recycled into a wide variety of materials. The foam padding is shredded, cleaned and glued together to make carpet pad and animal bedding. The fibers are used to make oil filters and other textiles, the steel springs are melted and recycled as scrap metal, finally the wood is shredded and used for landscaping

## Mattresses (Cont.)

mulch or burned for fuel. About 80% of a mattress can be recycled.

*Submitted by Christina Piles who was in charge of the recycling program at the City of Redding for many years. To see more of her articles on recycling, go to our website at [ecoshasta.org](http://ecoshasta.org) where there is also an illustrated chart of what and what not to recycle.*

## Blue Oak Acorns Needed for Replanting

SEA will be doing another acorn replanting walk this winter and we need acorns from blue oak trees now that acorns are starting to mature. Blue oaks have dull blue green leaves and the bark has shallow furrows and is usually white. This tree can grow in the worst soil and driest slopes Redding has to offer. We will continue planting in the area of the Westside Trail because these trees were severely burned, and few are rejuvenating. It is best if you pick them directly from the tree, but you can collect them from the ground, but not from a lawn or garden because horticultural plants sometimes carry diseases. When you have collected several pounds, contact SEA at [ecoshasta@gmail.com](mailto:ecoshasta@gmail.com) or 530-355-8542 and we will arrange for a COVID safe drop off point. Keep them in a clean container plastic or cloth bag and out of the sun until we can collect them from you.

## Shasta Regional Transportation Agency (SRTA) Survey

The Shasta Regional Areal Transportation Agency is conducting a survey of transportation needs and desires of the citizens of Shasta County. If you would like to participate and let your concerns be known, and online survey is available at the link below, which also has an explanation of the SRTA and how the survey will allow them to understand local transportation needs of all types. Last day to comment is August 5.

<https://www.srta.ca.gov/341/2040-Long-Range-Transit-Plan>

## Draft EIR on the Fountain Wind Project Now Available

The approximate 4,464-acre proposed project site is located within an approximately 29,500-acre consisting exclusively of private property operated as managed forest timberlands. The property is located approximately one mile west of the existing Hatchet

### **Fountain Wind Project (Cont.)**

Ridge Wind Project, 6 miles west of Burney, immediately north and south of California State Route 299 (SR 299). Nearby communities include Montgomery Creek, Round Mountain, and Big Bend. The proposed project site is also within a geographic area that is traditionally and culturally affiliated with the Pit River Tribe. Lassen National Forest lies to the southeast, and the Shasta-Trinity National Forest is to the north.

The applicant has applied for a use permit to construct, operate, maintain, and ultimately decommission up to 72 wind turbines and associated transformers together with associated infrastructure and ancillary facilities. Each turbine would be no more than 679 feet tall, as measured from ground level to vertical blade tip (total tip height) and would have a generating capacity of 3 to 5.7 megawatts (MW). The project would have a maximum total generating capacity of up to 216 MW. Copies of the Draft EIR are now available for public review at [www.co.shasta.ca.us/index/drm/planning/eir](http://www.co.shasta.ca.us/index/drm/planning/eir) or you can request a free thumb drive from Shasta County Planning Department. Public comment on this document is invited during a 45-day review period extending from Monday, August 3, 2020, through Friday, September 18, 2020, at 5:00 p.m.

There is a grassroots organization opposed to the Project: Citizens In Opposition to the Fountain Wind Project (CIO FWP) whose website is [www.stopfw.com](http://www.stopfw.com). Until COVID 19 they had been holding regular community meetings. They continue to speak out at Shasta County Supervisors and Planning Commission meetings.

### **Take a field trip without leaving home**

The Shasta Chapter of California Native Plant Society has a new website address for its newsletter: [www.shasta-cnps.org](http://www.shasta-cnps.org) which allows them to display many beautiful wildflower photos. With Covid-19 preventing regular field trips, individuals have been sending in photographs with descriptions of their solo or family hikes. Make sure you check out Don Burk's slide show of photos of the Cement Bluff Trail at <https://shasta-cnps.org/cement-bluff-june-28-2020/>

### **SEA is Seeking New Board Members!**

Shasta Environmental Alliance is looking to increase its board membership and is looking for persons concerned about our local environment. Meetings are once a month and currently are done by video conference. Previous environmental board or related volunteer or work experience and willingness to spend at least four to six hours of volunteer time per month in addition to board

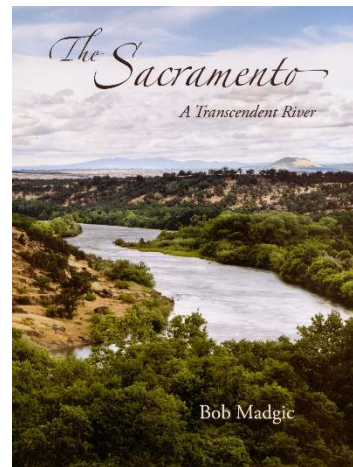
### **SEA Board (Cont.)**

meetings. We can use your enthusiasm and new ideas. We are seeking diversity on our board and people of color are encouraged to apply. An application is on our website [ecoshasta.org](http://ecoshasta.org), or you can email us at [ecoshasta@gmail.com](mailto:ecoshasta@gmail.com).

### **Shasta County Westside Subdivision**

The Shasta County Planning Commission approved the application for the City of Redding to annex 36 acres of land that will extend the Greenview Subdivision to Placer Street which is basically an extension of Country Heights out to Placer. This will result in further early morning traffic jams on Placer Street and extend a subdivision further west of Redding. The Planning Commission did require that a new EIR be required for the subdivision. This was a request made by both SEA and CDFW

### **The Sacramento, A Transcendent River** *By Bob Madgic*



Many of you may have read this important book on the Sacramento River. It explains the history of the river and its importance to the entire riparian ecosystem from Mt. Shasta to the San Francisco Bay and the ocean beyond. This fits in with the mission of SEA to protect and conserve the Sacramento River watershed. For an excellent overview of

the book, important for everyone who lives in this area, go to our website

<https://www.ecoshasta.org/sacramento-transcendent/>,

### **Global Warming: Causes, Effects and Solutions** **Shasta College Community Education Online** **October 8, 15 & 22**

This is a three-session course on the science of climate change and solution to combatting climate change. It will be in three 90-minute evening sessions starting at 6:30 pm with each session costing \$25 or \$60 for all three. It is taught by Pete Marsh a solar design contractor and Wintu Audubon President Dan Greany. Both are members of North State Climate Action. Classes are taught via Zoom. To sign up go to [www.shastacollege.edu/community/education](http://www.shastacollege.edu/community/education).

## We Still Need Your Financial Support

### SEA Tree Committee Update

The Shasta Environmental Alliance Tree Committee has submitted a list of recommendations for the official Redding Street Tree List to Joey Forseth, Parks and Facilities Manager, whose department oversees street tree maintenance and planting. The committee recommended removing a few trees from the list that don't adapt to our urban environment and added about 20 that can handle Redding's heat.

The Redding Planning Department also has a say in which trees are used as street trees. We only recommended one native tree, interior live oak to the list which already includes blue oak, a street tree which is found in many older Redding neighborhoods. Tree Committee members include Leimone Waite, Rico Montenegro, Doug Mandel, Mike Landers, Kirkwood Hale, John Alderson, Susan Gallagher, Don Owen, Aleta Carpenter and David Ledger. This committee has a lot of knowledge and I learned a lot from them. A big thank you from SEA for their dedication to this effort.  
*David Ledger*

### Face Masks Today and Yesteryear

*By David Ledger*

My hometown of Paso Robles in San Luis Obispo County has a very high rate of COVID-19 cases compared to the rest of the county: Currently 510 vs 256 in the county seat of San Luis Obispo, with a population 50 % higher than Paso Robles. A rally of 700 people opposed to the restrictions of mask wearing and business shutdowns was held in Paso on May 7. Except for the police chief and another officer, no one was wearing masks or social distancing which makes you wonder if this and the dismissive attitudes had anything to do with the high cases.

The Paso Robles Historical Society printed this short statement from a newspaper during the Spanish Flu epidemic

### From Paso Robles Leader November 1, 1918 p. 3

*Paso Robles is not the only place where the public is quarantined against the Flu. San Francisco and many eastern cities are shut in tight against the influenza and there is both a City and a County ordinance against appearing on the streets or in public places without a mask covering the nose and mouth. No one should object to doing so.*

**Please consider making a donation to Shasta Environmental Alliance, we can use your support for future actions. Go to our website at [www.ecoshasta.org](http://www.ecoshasta.org) You can donate to SEA by mail at PO Box 993777, Redding, CA 96099 or going to our website at [www.ecoshasta.org](http://www.ecoshasta.org).**

**Thank you to the following individuals who are helping us with our work!**

#### **\$25 to \$99**

Jim & Gayle Citta, John Livingston, John Springer, Steve and Cathy Callan, Gary Lauben, Ellen Suggs, Sharon Kennedy, Andrea Hughes, Janice Hunter, Jeff Morrow, John Deaton, Bob Madison, Daryl and Penny Harris, MaryAnn McCray, Belinda Higuera, Collette Streight, Tricia Hamelberg, Karen Hazeltine, John Livingston, Allen and Terry Craig, Kathy Grissom and Buck and Sue Lang,

#### **\$100 to \$249**

Connie Word, Aleta Carpenter, Anonymous, Karen Foss and Shelly Swanson, John Lefler, Doug Mandel, Dave Korman, Ron Dykstra, David Zoll, Bill Oliver, Doug Craig, David Ledger, George and Darlene Horn, Linda Materson, Mark and Molly Wood, Judy Salter, Bob and Diane Madgic, Shasta County Green Party, California Oak Coalition, Muffy Berryhill,

#### **\$250 to \$499**

Bea Currie, Lang Dayton, Bea Currie, Ray Pfister and Lisa Ross, Dave and Barb Klasson, Peter Waller

#### **\$500 to \$999**

Chris and Billie Harvey, Shasta Chapter, California Native Plant Society, Don and Laurie Burk, Shasta Group of Sierra Club, Wintu Audubon.

#### **\$1000 & Up**

Bob and Diane Madgic, Karen Little

Please send comments on newsletter to David Ledger at [ecoshasta@gmail.com](mailto:ecoshasta@gmail.com).