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## **SEA Newsletter May 2022**

### **Turtle Bay Surplus Land Decision Postponed: It Will Require a Riverfront Specific Plan and CEQA Review**

As most of you know, those opposed to intensive development of the Redding riverfront at Turtle Bay won a victory at the April 19 Redding City Council meeting when the Council voted 4 to 1 to not list the public land as surplus. Instead, the Council voted on a motion by Council Member Erin Resner to first prepare a new Specific Plan for the area before making any decision on whether to list the land as Surplus Property. The process of developing a Specific Plan will take 18 to 24 months and SEA plans to be involved. This plan will be required to have a full environmental review under the California Environmental Protection Act (CEQA).

The Riverfront Specific Plan process will be explained to the public in two workshop sessions, then the City will hire an environmental consulting firm to draw up an updated Riverfront Specific Plan and they will accept input from the public before it is developed. SEA will be a part of the focus groups, according to City Manager Barry Tippin.

Everyone who spoke at the council meetings or sent in emails of opposition to the sale of land at Turtle Bay are to be commended as the opposition to selling the land to the D & D group was overwhelming. SEA, Wintu Audubon, and Sierra Club hired an attorney specializing in the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), who sent in a 11-page letter to the Council stating this would first require a CEQA review; this also had an effect on the Council decision.

Council Member Julie Winter was the only no vote, but she did propose that all natural areas to the east of the Sundial Bridge and riparian areas upstream of it be given permanent protection. This is something SEA will be working on in case the D & D group should later be able to purchase the property around the Civic and the rodeo grounds. During a meeting with SEA and Wintu Audubon, City Manager Barry Tippin said putting easements on the riparian areas and the undeveloped parcels is an option for the Council to consider.

Thanks again to all who sent in letters of opposition to the land sale or spoke in person. Your voices did make a difference in what was looking like the loss of public land to private developers. If you had not spoken out, developers would be deciding what happens at Turtle Bay.

## North State Climate Action Alert:

### Shasta County Planning to consider countywide ban on industrial wind farms

On April 14th, the Shasta County Planning Commission considered a resolution for ordinance changes prohibiting wind farms in all of unincorporated Shasta County, regardless of their potential merits.

Wind farms are a source of cheap, clean, renewable energy. They fight climate change, air pollution, and use much less water than fossil fuel power plants.

The Planning Commission continued the hearing until May 12th because they received a letter in opposition to the proposed changes from a clean energy sector attorney on the morning of the hearing stating that the County had not complied with CEQA (California Environmental Quality Act) by failing to perform an environmental review on this issue. This means that the comment period for this anti-wind farm ordinance will remain open until the Commission meets on May 12, 2022.

We urge you to email [scplanning@co.shasta.ca.us](mailto:scplanning@co.shasta.ca.us) or call the Planning Commission (530 225-5532) to let them know your position on this issue. Even more compelling is commenting in person at the upcoming Planning Commission meeting at 2 pm on May 12th in the Board of Supervisors Chambers.

Your comments do make a difference and are essential to informing the Commissioners about what the community values.

## Upcoming Field Trips

### Clear Creek Gorge Trail

**Wednesday, May 11** Shasta Chapter of California Native Plant Society and SEA will lead this Clear Creek Gorge Trail - easy, flat trail (2 - 3 miles), plenty of late flowering plants. An easy trail for all levels. Walk leader Chris Harvey will identify plants along the trail. Contact Chris at [cdharvey003@gmail.com](mailto:cdharvey003@gmail.com) for details. Well behaved dogs okay on this field trip.

### Birding Manzanita Lake Birding Outing

**May 14th @ 8:00 am**

Wintu Audubon will bird the 2 mile Manzanita Lake loop trail looking for mountain birds and early warblers. Likely suspects are Bald Eagle, American Dipper, Clark's Nutcracker, Bufflehead, White-headed Woodpecker, Brown Creeper and Mountain Chickadee. Meet at the Loomis Museum parking lot at 8:00am. Wear layers of clothes as it will most likely be pretty cool in the morning. Entrance fees are required. If you don't have a pass I suggest you arrange ahead of time to ride with someone that has a Golden Age pass. Covid-19 vaccinations and boosters are required to participate on field trips. Contact [Triciathebirdnerd@gmail.com](mailto:Triciathebirdnerd@gmail.com)

### East Weaver Creek

**Saturday, May 21** Shasta Chapter of CNPS will lead this East Weaver Creek plant walk near Weaverville. Beautiful hike in a mixed conifer forest and riparian area. Diverse plants on this moderately difficult field trip (3 - 4 miles) Contact walk leader Chris Harvey at [cdharvey003@gmail.com](mailto:cdharvey003@gmail.com) for details. Well behaved dogs okay on this field trip.

## **UPCOMING FIELD TRIPS FOR SHASTA ENVIRONMENTAL ALLIANCE**

### **Whiskeytown Hike**

**Wednesday, May 25:**

Shasta Chapter of CNPS Field trip: Hike up a steep ridge near the Visitors Center to a ridge that overlooks all of Whiskeytown Lake to the west and from Old Shasta to Mt. Lassen on the west. Also known as Steep As A Cow's Face hike (across from the Whiskeytown Visitors Center) -moderately difficult with steep sections (2.5 miles). Beautiful views above Whiskeytown Lake. Contact walk leader Chris Harvey at [cdharvey003@gmail.com](mailto:cdharvey003@gmail.com) for more information.

### **Conifer Walk at Lassen**

**Saturday, May 28, 9:30 am**, Mt. Lassen Volcanic National Park. This joint SEA- CNPS hike will be on the Lily Pond Trail, an easy one mile walk with 10 different conifers on the trail and two more on the drive to the Park for 12 in all. Walk leader David Ledger will identify plants and features of the different conifers and plants on the trail. Following this short walk you can explore the park on your own or drive with us to another area to identify and learn other high altitude plants in the Park. For more information and possible carpooling, email [david@ecoshasta.org](mailto:david@ecoshasta.org)

### **Redding Bike Ride**

**Saturday, June 11, 8 am**, Join the Trails and Bikeways Council of Redding and Shasta Environmental Alliance on a group bike ride on a new trail connecting Highway 299 with Hilltop Drive near the AAA Auto Club and will include a ride along Boulder Creek to the Boulder Creek School. This will be an easy bike ride on several short trails with stops for identifying a few native plants. For more information contact Chris Harvey at [cdharvey003@gmail.com](mailto:cdharvey003@gmail.com) or David Ledger at [david@ecoshasta.org](mailto:david@ecoshasta.org)

### **Tour of Redding Waste Water Treatment Plant**

**2200 Metz Road, Redding**

**Thursday, May 16, 9:45 am**

This field trip will be a tour of the City of Redding Churn Creek Waste Water Treatment Plant on the Sacramento River. City staff will start with a talk about the overall treatment of wastewater, then a walk through the treatment area and finally a look at the treatment ponds. This will be about a 90 minute tour. Meet at the treatment plant

at 2200 Metz Road which is off Eastside Road south of Win River Casino. Please let us know if you plan on attending at [david@ecoshasta.org](mailto:david@ecoshasta.org)