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July 2024 Newsletter

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Thank you to our donors!

Donate

UPCOMING SEA EVENTS



Cold Boiling Lake/Flowing Meadows (Lassen NP)

Monday, July 8th, 8 am

Sign up here

Echo Lake Hike (Lassen NP)

Saturday, July 13, 2024, 8 am

Sign up here

Redding Storm Drains Meeting

Tuesday, Aug. 20th, 11:30 am-12:30 pm.

20055 Viking Way, Bldg 3, Redding

For more information about SEA-hosted events, email david@ecoshasta.org

New SEA Oak-Themed Tiers for Donors!



We have new names for our different donation tiers, dedicated to the beautiful oak trees we have in our area! Acorn, Seedling, Young Oak, Oak Tree, Oak Woodland! We would love to hear your feedback if you feel like the naming of these tiers feels right to YOU, our supporters! Please email Shannon with SEA at shannon@ecoshasta.org with any feedback. If you'd like to **donate**, [please click here!](#)

Intention to Sue USFS for Sake of Saving Northern Spotted Owls

Photo by Sounds Wild on Wikimedia Commons

Mt. Shasta area groups and others intend to sue the USFS because a planned "forest thinning and restoration project" in the South Fork of the Sacramento River area violates the Endangered Species Act according to We Advocate Through Environmental Review (W.A.T.E.R.) in their recent newsletter. This proposed plan encompasses 16,000 acres of



forested land three miles west of Mt. Shasta, with populations of the Northern Spotted Owl, a protected species under the Endangered Species Act.

For more information [click to read this excellent article by W.A.T.E.R.](#)

Take Action: Redding Riverfront Specific Plan

The City of Redding had two community meetings with consulting firm MIG to obtain more input from the public on the Riverfront Specific Plan which will determine how the east side of the Sacramento River from the Cypress Street bridge to the Redding Rodeo Grounds and boat ramp will be developed.



It is important for those of you who care about our local environment to write to the city to let them know you want to preserve the riparian areas along the Sacramento River and have all buildings set back from the river. It doesn't have to be an eloquent letter, just that you enjoy walking along the river to enjoy the trees and wildlife. If enough people write it will make a difference. It can be 200 words or 600, just emphasize that you want to preserve the natural areas of the river.

You can email the Redding City Council at council@cityofredding.org, planning@cityofredding.org, and Development Services Director, Jeremy Pagan, at jpagan@cityofredding.org.

****A sample letter may go something like this, however, write what is personal to you****

I am concerned that the Riverfront Specific Plan will not protect the riparian areas along the river which is so important to wildlife. I have walked the Turtle Bay area often and feel that putting up any apartments, stores, restaurants, or other buildings in this area would detract from the beauty of the place. An improved rodeo grounds might be ok, however not a huge stadium that would require multilevel parking structures and would be detrimental to the area. This is public land and it should not be sold to private developers and taken away from the citizens of Redding.

These are just ideas but getting some of the issues across that are important to many people in Redding regardless of their political outlook is important. The most important issue, however, is that the city council hear from YOU!

Join Us in August:

Redding Storm Drains Meeting



Part of the mission of Shasta Environmental Alliance (SEA) is to protect the water of the Sacramento River watershed and an important part of that is making sure water and debris going into the river are free of pollution. One important part of protecting the river water is working to prevent contaminated water and associated items from entering the Sacramento River, which requires public education and the work of the Storm

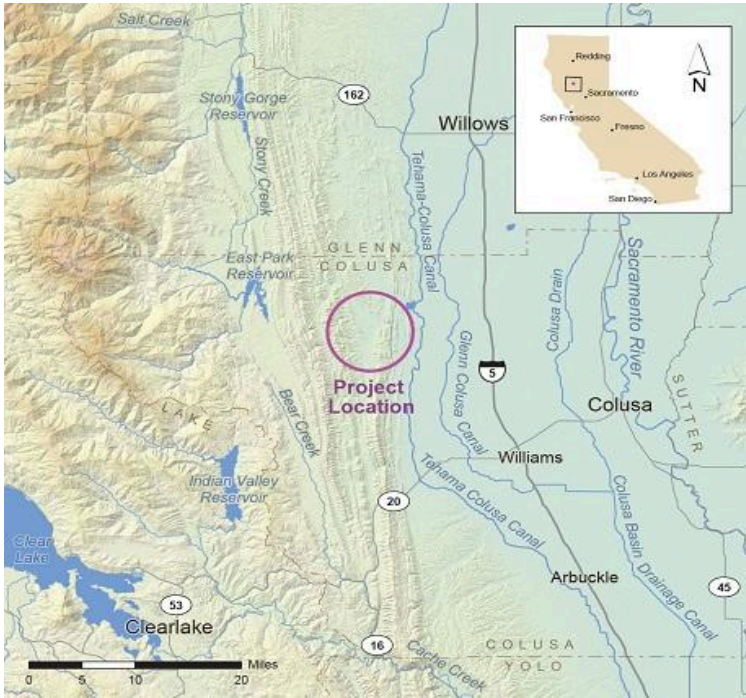
Water Division of Public Works.

In a SEA-arranged meeting, the Storm Water Management division of the City of Redding Public Works Department oversees the vast storm drain system in Redding and will be explaining everything that goes into the storm drain system and new stringent state laws that will be taking effect in 2025 which will help to keep a lot of plastic and other debris out. After explaining this important but often overlooked utility in the city, staff will present and demonstrate the equipment they use to keep the system operating effectively.

Previously, SEA arranged a tour of the Wastewater Treatment Plant on Clear Creek and the Buckeye Water Treatment Plant processing water from Whiskeytown Lake. At this meeting, we will learn another important part of what water actually goes into the Sacramento River through storm drains, how it gets there, and how we can work to make it cleaner.

This will be a brown bag meeting from 11:30 am to 12:30 pm at the City Corp Yard at 20055 Viking Way, Bldg. 3, Redding, on Tuesday, August 20, 2024. If you would like to attend, please email david@ecoshasta.org or sign up on our Meetup.com website [here](#) so we know how many to expect.

Sites Reservoir Gets Green Light



In early June, a California court ruled against a petition by environmental groups Friends of the River, Defenders of Wildlife, and others, claiming the EIR on the dam did not follow the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) allowing the building of the huge reservoir to go forward unless the decision is appealed. Besides the detrimental effects on the Sacramento River fishery, the groups said it would emit approximately 36.2 million metric tons of CO₂e or 362,000 metric tons of CO₂e/year, primarily methane, over the 100-year life of the dam.

Proponents of the dam claim high water flows in winter are just being “wasted” because the water just runs into the San Francisco Bay. Actually the high water in winter is important for depositing sediments and nutrients in the flood plains, clearing out small side channels in the river, and importantly bringing a load of nutrients into the Delta and the San Francisco Bay for the food web there. Channeling and pumping water into the Sites Reservoir will increase river temperatures as it is heated up during the summer when water levels are low, and some will be released into the Sacramento River. Over half of the water will flow to Big Ag and smaller farms downstream at a subsidized cost to the taxpayer of over one billion dollars - the subsidies to this project have only gone up since it was first proposed. Other water will go to various water districts in the Bay Area.

To read an excellent commentary, critical of the Sites Reservoir project in the San Jose Mercury News, click [here](#).

Matson-Mowder-Howe Gardens: A Historical Remembrance

*Photo of Doug Mandel outside the
Matson-Mowder-Howe Celebration Garden*

The City of Redding recently published a long history about the Matson-Mowder-Howe Community Gardens next to the Diestlehorst Bridge, and the Matson-Mowder-Howe Celebration Garden next to the North Valley Art League in Caldwell Park in Redding.



We want to give our readers a brief overview of the gardens and people involved. Gary Matson, his partner Winfield Mowder, and Matson's former wife, Marcia Howe, were Redding community activists involved in many organizations including founding the precursor to Turtle Bay Exploration Park and McConnell Arboretum. Matson was very active in the Shasta Chapter of California Native Plant as well as a founding member of Horsetown Clear Creek Preserve. Matson and Mowder were killed by two religious fanatics in 1999.

Currently, the Celebration Garden at the North Valley Art League building is being kept up largely by Doug Mandel and his wife Susan with considerable help from Shasta County Master Gardeners and the Shasta Chapter of CNPS. With this help, by late spring, the garden is annually aglow with many flowering native plants and a few horticultural varieties. Previously the garden was kept up by Michele Driggs with help from CNPS.

For a more in-depth dive into this important history of Redding, [read the full article here.](#)

Thank You to Our Donors!

Acorn tier (\$25 to \$99)

Kris Bertleson-Williams, Dawn Bieser, Laura and Mike Bradley, Sandra Cameron, Miki'ala Catalfano, John Deaton, Barbara Dorris, Tammi Douse, Ailene Genoff, Lyra Gray, Kathy Grissom, Penelope Harris, Diane Hawthorne, Robert Hixon, Janice Hunter, Kay Johnson, Kay Kosko, Michael Koturba, Suzzie Lang, John Livingston, Lee Macey, Diane Madgic, Robert Madison, Victoria McArthur, Jim Milestone, James Nelson, Doug O'Brien, Geneva M Omann, Viktoria Peterson, Cathy Reisfelt, Brigitte Robertson, Linda Samuels, Cathy Scott, Laura Shaw, Casandra Simmons, Alexa Singer-Telles, Jamie Spielmann, John Springer, Max Walter, Marti Weidert, Jaclyn White, John Winchell

Seedling tier (\$100 to \$249)

Muffy Berryhill, Laura Bradley, Steven and Kathleen Callan, Aleta Carpenter, Linda Castagnoli, Lang M. Dayton, Allan Craig, Paula Dulak, Mari Ennis-Applegate, Karen Foss, Derle Gilliam, Kathleen Gilman, Green Party of Shasta County, Karen Hazeltine, George Horn, Jim and Sharon Jerge, John Lefler, Doug Mandel, Donald Owen, Kristen Schreder, Sierra Club, Siskiyou Land Trust, John Springer, Connie Word

Young Oak tier (\$250 to \$499)

Barbara Featherstone, Ryan Henson, Cathy Lefler, Peter Waller, Shasta Chapter of the California Native Plant Society

Oak Tree tier (\$500 to \$999)

Mary Belkin, Ray Pfister & Lisa Ross

Oak Woodland tier (\$1000 & Up)

Don and Laurie Burk, Lang Dayton, Chris Harvey

Please consider a donation to SEA!

You can go to ecoshasta.org to donate!

If you prefer to send a check, our mailing address is:

Shasta Environmental Alliance

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