



**Shasta
Environmental
Alliance**

P.O. Box 993777 • Redding, CA 96099 • ecoshasta.org

March 2023 Newsletter

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Thank you to our donors!

Contact David Ledger at David@ecoshasta.org for more information or to sign up

Photo by Terry Swanson

Thursday, March 9 - [Iron Mountain Mines Superfund Site Update](#)

Saturday, March 18 - [Post-Carr Fire Restoration Hike \(rescheduled from February 25\)](#)

Saturday, March 25 - [Nomlaki Trail Field Trip \(Mendocino National Forest\)](#)

Saturday, March 25 - [Wild and Scenic Film Festival \(Tehama Conservation Fund\)](#)

Sunday, April 2 - [Millville Plains Field Trip](#)

Monday, April 29 - [McClure Trial Field Trip \(Lassen National Forest\)](#)

Plus more! [Check out all other April Events from other organizations for Earth Day!](#)



Redding Tree Committee Update

The Redding Tree Committee had a meeting on Monday, February 27 where there were four speakers presenting their views on a new tree ordinance.

Those who spoke presenting views of the development community were Tim McLean or SHS Development and Rocky Slaughter representing K2 Development a company that is developing mixed commercial and residential buildings in downtown Redding.

Kent Manuel a retired planner who has worked for the Redding Planning Department for about 30 years spoke as did David Ledger representing SEA and the environmental community. This gave the committee a variety of views on a new tree ordinance.

This was the first meeting where pro-development supporters were in the audience, so for future meetings, hopefully, those who care about Redding tree canopy will come to future meetings to speak during the 3-minute public participation allowed at the end. Local arborist and SEA member Rico Montenegro spoke for the trees at the meeting.

The next meeting will be Monday, March 20, 2023 at 5:30 pm. At the next meeting, the committee will start going over the ordinance section by section.

Earth Day Festival + Other Earth Month Events

SEA will be hosting the Earth Day Redding Festival, on Saturday, April 22 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Caldwell Park but many other organizations will also be having events all April long in celebration of our earth!

Check out the Earth Month events listed on our event website by clicking below!

We're still seeking exhibitors so if you would like to have a booth at this event, please fill out our [exhibitor's form here](#). We also are in need of volunteers! If you would like to help organize or volunteer for the event, please reach out to David Ledger at david@ecoshasta.org



Still Taking Applications for our Free Shade Tree Project!

We're continuing to take applications for free front yard shade trees!

If you'd like a free shade tree to be planted in your front yard, you live in Redding and own your home (or you know someone who would like one and meets this criterion), please fill out the interest form. Click the link below for more information and to apply!

We would also love it if you would help spread the word about this project!

Trip Report: Crystal Creek Ditch Trail Hike



Photo by Terry Swanson

Several people joined SEA for our field trip to the Crystal Creek Ditch Trail at Whiskeytown National Recreation Area on February 11th! It was still a little early in the season to find many flowering plants but we were able to identify most of the shrubs and trees by their leaves. This is a beautiful trail following an old water ditch that was used to irrigate the pastures and orchards of a nearly gold rush-era hotel. The water ditch also continued a short distance upstream towards French Gulch.

The restored water ditch, which has a significant section with a catwalk, has a great diversity of plants ranging from the coffee fern, bird's foot fern, and chain fern to western azaleas, California hazel, thimbleberry, and ocean spray to name a few.

This is an easy level walk of about two miles out and back. Most plants should be blooming by late March!

REU's Integrated Resource Plan

By David Ledger

Redding Electric Utility (REU) is now developing its state-mandated Integrated Resource Plan (IRP). An IRP is a plan that maps out how utilities, both public and private, will meet the state requirements of 60% renewable energy by 2030 and 0% zero carbon by 2045. With the help of electricity from Shasta Dam, REU is well on its way to meeting these goals.

Unfortunately, there will be some big obstacles in the way. With the increased use of electric vehicles and the phasing out of natural gas in homes and industry, electricity usage will be accelerated as California reaches its goal of banning the sale of internal combustion engines in California in 2035. This will bring a need for electricity from large-scale solar power and wind energy projects. As diesel trucks are phased out, the demand will increase even more.

REU faces a few problems on the way to zero-carbon energy, one of which is its efficient yet CO₂-producing power plant on Clear Creek Road. To guarantee REU has backup electricity for inevitable short-term power shortages in peak summer months, they have to keep the plant operating due to long-term contracts for both natural gas and maintenance support for their plant. Without this, they could be left with very high natural gas prices and/or long-term equipment breakdown due to being last in line for repairs without a contract. They need the backup for voltage support for REU's grid although that need will lessen as they approach full carbon-free energy in 2045. The state may reduce the 100% requirement to 95 or 98% due to the need for emergency immediate power generation at a few times of the year.

SEA President David Ledger is a member of the REU stakeholder committee for the IRP representing the environmental community. REU management is to be commended for the presentations they gave to the stakeholder committee, having clarified what is a complicated process, making it easy to understand current California laws, benchmarks for reaching zero carbon, and the obstacles REU faces. California is the leader in the nation in reducing greenhouse gases and has passed several laws shortening the period of time for utilities to lower their GHG emissions.

Thus far, REU has been successful in meeting these goals. In 2021, REU's power mix was 43.8% eligible for renewable energy, which does not include Shasta Dam electricity. The statewide eligible renewable energy mix of utilities was 33.8%. If you include Shasta Dam, REU's power mix was 80% carbon-free in 2021.

Ongoing Volunteer Opportunities with SEA

If interested in any of these opportunities, please contact David Ledger at david@ecoshasta.org

Field Trip Leaders

SEA needs volunteers to lead some of our field trips! This requires a responsible and reliable person with considerable hiking experience, who can judge the abilities of the participants on the field trips. Most hikes would be in the 3 to 7-mile range. Having knowledge of local plants is helpful!

SEA Board Members:

Shasta Environmental Alliance is looking for a new board member! We are looking for someone who is dedicated to preserving and protecting our natural environment and has the willingness to volunteer to actively work on SEA issues.

Earth Day Volunteers:

SEA is organizing Earth Day Redding Festival on April 22 and needs volunteers to help with the setup and running of the event on April 22!

Thank you to our donors!

\$25 to \$99

James Aven, Margaret Beck, Muffy Berryhill, Becky Bestwick, Dawn Bieser, Brady Family, Melinda Brown, Steve and Cathleen Callan, Richard Christoph, Jim & Gayle Citta, Allan Craig, Lang Dayton, John Deaton, Shirley Flynn, Carol Forester, Jonathan Foster, Kathy Grissom, Penny Harris, Sandy Harrison, Diane Hawthorne, Jose Hernandez, Belinda Higuera, Bruce Hillman, Robert Hixon, Sabrina Hofkin, George Horn, Janice Hunter, Larry Jordan, Sharon Kennedy, Buzz & Jennifer Knight, Buck & Sue Lang, Alan Lefler, John Livingston, Bob Madison, Lee Macey, Catherine McKnight, Linda Miller, Tom Morehouse, Mary Mitchell, Geneva Omann & Dan Axelrod, Cathy Reisfelt, Brigitte Robertson, Carolyn Salus-Singh, Jamie Spielman, Linda Samuels, Rick Ramos, Cathy Resfelt, Cathy Scott, Carolyn Salus-Singh, Jamie Spielmann, Hugh & Denise Williams, Julie Winter, Vickie Hall, Robert Winter, Kris Bertelson Williams, John Winchell

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\$500 to \$999

Becky Bestwick, Mark Martinek, Karen Little

\$1000 & Up

Chris Harvey, Bob and Diane Madgic

**We couldn't do this work without your support!
Please consider donating to SEA today!**

You can go to ecoshasta.org to donate!

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

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