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Shasta Environmental Alliance Newsletter July 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.

The major 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 better than the City of Redding but needs to strengthen the mitigation fees and 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.

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 or less. Refer to the Tree Conservation Ordinance in the subject line and above your letter. Public comment period ends August 3. It is possible the meeting may be open for oral comments depending on the Coronavirus.

publiccomments@cityofshastalake.org

Petition Available to Oppose the Costco Project and Place on the Ballot

The Redding City Council recently approved the Final Environmental Impact Report and General Plan Amendment to construct a massive Costco and other stores at the intersection of Bechelli Lane and South Bonnyview Road adjacent to Interstate 5. This project has been fought over the past 3 years by many people including SEA, Sierra Club and many non-affiliated citizens over the removal of over 3000 trees, filling of wetlands, massive traffic congestion, lack of mitigation, and many other adverse impacts. This is a really bad project location for a large store. A group of concerned citizens is trying to get enough signatures to require a vote of the People of the City of Redding to reverse the City Council's decision. If successful the City Council would have to abide by the voters decision. The City has not suspended the signature gathering time period in spite of the COVID-19 restrictions on close contact. We therefore need all signatures by July 17. If you are a registered voter in Redding and wish to sign the petition, please contact John Livingston, 530-356-8847, email: Livingstonjohn@att.net before July 4th and I will arrange to meet you in Redding. There may be a signature table at the Grand Opening of the Save Mart store at the south end of Churn Creek Road next to the new In-Out Burger. Or you can call or email David Ledger at 530-355-8542 or dledger@gmail.com and he will arrange a place where multiple people can sign with social distancing.

This legal petition was paid for by the Bonnyview Bechelli Coalition composed of local residences and businesses opposed to the Costco Project. Submitted by John Livingston.

Battle Creek Alliance Sues CalFire

The industrial timberlands in the watersheds of northern, central, and coastal California have been being clearcut on a large scale since the late 1990s. For decades, the current Forest Practice Rules have set no thresholds or provided any definitions to prevent adverse effects from industrial logging and post-fire salvage logging, nor have the rules required real data to track what very real changes are occurring. CEQA does have rules about these issues, but they have continually been circumvented by various tricks and loopholes.

The failure of the State's publicly funded regulatory agencies to collect comprehensive data is why Battle Creek Alliance felt compelled to collect data ourselves. The years of data we have collected is now the first concrete evidence we have to challenge the system which has failed to protect watersheds. There has never been specific data evidence of significant impacts to a Sierra/Cascade watershed in the past. A lawsuit is a groundbreaking first to test the regulatory agencies' failure to uphold the CEQA rules and laws--the failure which has been occurring for 20 years.

Submitted by Marily Woodhouse, Director of Battle Creek Alliance and a longtime advocate of protecting California's forests and watersheds. Battle Creek Alliance is a SEA supporting organization.

WAIT...before you recycle that corrugated pizza box!!!

By Christina Piles

People eat a lot of pizza. I didn't realize just how much until I checked the contents of recycling carts in one neighborhood and saw all the pizza boxes people had placed in their cart. It's a confusing item - we know most cardboard can be recycled and most pizza boxes even the have the "chasing arrow" symbol on them, so why do they need to go into the trash?

When cardboard or paper is recycled, it is shredded and then mixed with water and chemicals to break down the fibers into a slurry, which is called pulping. The pulp is then screened to get rid of things such as tape and string. Plastic floats to the top and staples fall to the bottom. The problem with greasy pizza boxes (or any oily or greasy paper) is that the grease and oil float to the top of the slurry and coat the fibers which can ruin a whole batch.

The bottom line is that grease and oil are two of the worst contaminants in paper recycling, and greasy pizza boxes are one of the biggest culprits. Most pizza boxes have perforated seams at the lid. If the lid is clean, you can tear it off and recycle it in your blue cart, otherwise, please place pizza boxes in your trash.

Christina Piles 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 where there is also an illustrated chart of what and what not to recycle.

Oregon Gulch Update

SEA has applied for a grant to place fencing and a few concrete barriers around Oregon Gulch to keep out OHV's, primarily dirt bikes. We won't know until September, but if we get the grant, we will be seeking volunteers to help with the fencing barriers. We will also be putting in some wood barriers where gullies have developed to prevent further erosion.

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

Shasta County Westside Subdivision on Planning Agenda

A proposal to expand a westside subdivision in the City of Redding out to Placer Road near Powerline Road is on the July 9 agenda. This will expand housing developments west of Redding as the decision will allow a 36 acre parcel in unincorporated Shasta County to be incorporated into Redding City Limits. This is the Greenview Subdivision, basically an extension of Country Heights out to Placer. This will result in further early morning traffic jams on Placer Street and dangerous congestion during a wildland fire. This project was opposed many years ago by Friends of Canyon Creek due to environmental concerns. Combine urban sprawl along a salmon bearing creek, a potentially dangerous intersection and too much traffic emptying on to Placer makes a bad situation all around. It is near a wetland which could also be

damaged if previous safeguards are ignored. Then there is Redding's notorious Tree Management (Removal) Ordinance. To submit COVID-19 comments of 250 words send to clerkoftheboard@co.shasta.ca.us and they will be read to the Commission or you can go in person, but may have to wait outside if too many people are in the room. It will be held at the Board of Supervisors Chambers at 2 pm. The link to the agenda item is <https://www.co.shasta.ca.us/docs/libraries/resource-management-docs/staff-reports/2020/july/r3070920.pdf>

We Still Need Your Financial Support

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 You can donate to SEA by mail at PO Box 993777, Redding, CA 96099 or going to our website at www.ecoshasta.org.

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

\$25 to \$99

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, Jane Elmore, Buck and Sue Lang, Marti Weidert, Kris Bertelson-Williams,

\$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, Aileen Genoff, Ryan Henson, Randy Haynes.

\$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

Karen Little