



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

## **Shasta Environmental Alliance Newsletter June 2020**

### **Shasta Lake Tree Ordinance Goes to Planning Commission June 4**

The City of Shasta Lake Planning Department will be presenting its revised Tree Preservation Ordinance to the Planning Commission on June 4 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 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). It would allow the City to plant and upkeep the newly planted trees and also encourage developers to save as many trees as possible. The weakness in ratio is that if you cut down one 10 inch-wide tree or a 35 inch wide valley oak, you would only be required to plant three trees in both cases. Furthermore, how many decades would it take for three saplings to equal the shade and ecosystem value of a mature valley 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.

Among other issues 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 (plural). 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 gradual loss of Shasta Lake's tree canopy.

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.

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

## **Honoring the Sacred Earth Movie Night**

**1905 Hartnell Ave.**

**Saturday, June 6, 7 pm.**

Coronavirus lockdown permitting, the Center for Spiritual Living will have an Honoring the Sacred Earth Movie Night on Saturday, June 6 from 7-8:30 PM. It will be two shorter movies. The first is by Bioneers Co-Founder, Nina Simons called "As We Open Our Hearts. The second is by Michael Pollan, also with Bioneers, called "How We Change Our Minds." This is offered on a donation basis. Everyone is welcome! For more information or to see if it is rescheduled, call 221-4849.

## **Defiance Canyon Raptor Rescue on KRCR-TV**

Defiance Canyon Raptor Rescue and founder Marily Woodhouse was featured on KRCR recently regarding sick Bald Eagle found near I-5. Marily rescued the bird and took it to her rehab facility near Manton. She said it mostly likely had eaten an animal that itself had eaten rat poison based on the symptoms. This is one of the problems of poisons recycling through the food web. The bird did die in the morning was sent to a lab to determine the definite cause of death. You can go to her website on Facebook where she has posted some pictures of the hemorrhaging of the dead bird to educate people about the results careless use of poisons. Defiance Canyon Raptor Rescue is a SEA supporting organization. You can copy and paste the link to the story on KRCR below.

<https://krcrtv.com/news/local/bald-eagle-rescued-by-chp-officers-in-redding-now-fighting-to-survive>

## **Illegal Tree Removal Near McConnell Trails?**

Shasta Environmental Alliance received several complaints about the removal of about 20 trees on a private parcel of land near the parking lot to the McConnell Foundation Trails at the end of Tidmore Lane. Following a complaint, Redding Planning Department Lily Toy responded that the City has no record for a tree removal permit on the parcel and assigned it to one of her staff. At his date we have not received an answer as to the result of that investigation if this was a violation of the tree ordinance despite a follow up email for information. If you regularly walk this area, it is directly south of the parking lot off Tidmore Lane. If you have a concern about this, email Planning Manager Lily Toy at [ltoy@cityofredding.org](mailto:ltoy@cityofredding.org). Squeaky wheel gets the grease.

## **Oregon Gulch Update**

Last month we reported problems with OHV's in Oregon Gulch recently. Since then, we have contacted Redding Police Department and two Redding City Council members about the problem. Since then RPD contacted SEA to tell us they had sent a dirt bike patrol there but did not find any violations and they have since run a second patrol up there.

After finding a lock on a cable across a WAPA access road, we contacted Redding Community Services and Travis Menne installed a new lock and connected the cable. He said RCS is considering constructing a large steel gate at a Chaparral Dr. access point. SEA President David Ledger and board member Jim Milestone walked a ridge in the area with retired BLM trail specialist Bill Kuntz and found a place where it appeared someone from Country Heights may be entering the area from their backyard in Country Heights. We plan to leave flyers at homes in the immediate area.

You can help too and keep social distance at the same time during the COVID-19 outbreak by walking in the Oregon Gulch area. The more people on foot, the less likely OHV riders will openly break the law. If you do see someone riding in the area, call CDFW at CalTIP at 888-334-2258 or call the Redding Police Department at 225-4200. Usually when you walk in the area, you won't see anyone walking or riding and will have the area to yourself. To reach the area go to the end of Kenyon Dr. and park to the side of the road at the big yellow gate. Let SEA know what you find and if it is your first visit!

## **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. An application is on our website [ecoshasta.org](http://ecoshasta.org), or you can email us at [ecoshasta@gmail.com](mailto:ecoshasta@gmail.com).

## **Costco Project Approved by Redding City Council**

The Redding City Council approved the zoning change and the final EIR for the Costco project. While this is a disappointment for many people, about 70 of the letters of comment on the first draft EIR were related to the removal of trees. This is important as that was about two thirds of the comments submitted. In response, the City did widen the setback from the freeway about 10 more feet and Costco agree to save 45 oak trees on the site. This is not much to cheer about, but had many of you not written letters, the site would have looked like the clear cut across the freeway on Churn Creek Road. Unfortunately, the City wants the money from sales tax so bad, they are willing to destroy the beauty of this area of Redding.

We have collected about 950 signatures for a new Tree Ordinance in Redding and are waiting for Shasta Lake to finish their revised Tree Conservation Ordinance. Then we have to contend with the disruption of the Coronavirus on the economy and in public vs virtual City Council meetings. A note of contrast: Shasta Lake calls their ordinance the Tree Conservation Ordinance, while Redding's is named a Tree Management Ordinance and would more aptly be called a Tree Removal Ordinance.

## **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](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**

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, Peter Waller, 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**

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

**\$500 to \$1000**

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