



**Shasta
Environmental
Alliance**

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

SEA Newsletter April 2022

Mt. Shasta W.A.T.E.R. Victory Crystal Geyser Property Sold

We Advocate Thorough Environmental Review (W.A.T.E.R.) reports that the Crystal Geyser property they have fought for many years has sold with this important proviso on the grant deed: “No portion of the property may be used for the manufacture, assembly, distribution, sale and/or transportation of water beverage products.”

Even though Crystal Geyser has pulled out, WATER is still going forward with its appeal of Siskiyou County’s approved EIR of the project. If they win their appeal, they could be awarded their attorney fees and it will make the decision case law under CEQA. This will also make the County more likely to ensure future EIRs follow CEQA regulations. This is a “David beats Goliath” victory for this small local group to defeat an international corporation. For further information, go to WATER’s website www.cawater.net.

Ban on Large Wind Farms in Shasta County Goes to Planning Commission

The Shasta County Planning Department is sending a draft ordinance to the Planning Commission on April 14 that will ban all large-scale wind farms in Shasta County but allow small scale projects. SEA has asked Planning for a copy of the ordinance before the meeting but was told we would have to wait until the agenda packet comes out a few days before the meeting, denying us the opportunity to have our comments read by the commissioners ahead of the meeting.

Asphalt Plant Near Keswick Nixed A local victory!

By Celeste White of Friends of Shasta West

Tullis, Inc., owner of Northstate Asphalt, has recently bought Crystal Creek Aggregate on Iron Mtn Rd, informing the county that they will not be building an asphalt plant, as the previous owner had proposed. They will be expanding the mining operation; however, they will dig the current permitted open mine pit deeper rather than expand the surface area.

Given that all official entities that Friends of Shasta West contacted during the 2021 Scoping Period met the news of an asphalt plant in an environmentally sensitive area with yawns, it is probably safe to say that vigorous community opposition helped tip the scales in favor of the environment. Invaluable assistance provided by SEA and a retired city planner from outside the area helped shape strategy: Circulating petitions (at last count, close to 1000 signatures had been collected), encouraging comments to the Shasta County Planning Dept during the Scoping Period (almost 800 pages of comments submitted, most of them opposed), maintaining a high quality website, distributing yard signs to help raise awareness and direct traffic to the website, and a robust presence at the Redding Farmer’s Market, are all no doubt factors that helped determine the defeat of the asphalt plant.

In addition, it became clear that the impact of the previous expansion proposal would not have been restricted to Keswick. The area between Whiskeytown and the Redding city limits, as well as West Redding and downtown, would have been significantly and negatively affected by the increased truck traffic and downwind pollution. *(Thank you to all who sent in comments and the work of Friends of Shasta West in defeating this. Ed.)*

Shasta Board of Supervisors Invites Redding Rancheria to Discuss Casino Relocation

Redding Rancheria will be giving the Shasta County Board of Supervisors an update on its plans for a casino on the Sacramento River at the April 5 BOS meeting. This is according to Speak Up! Shasta, a group financed by the Rolling Hills Casino that is opposed to building the casino. Many other residents in the area are also opposed to the casino, including the Churn Creek Bottom Homeowners Association, and are asked to attend the meeting to speak out against the casino.

The previous BOS was opposed to the casino; however, the current board appears to want to take a new look at it. This is not a voting item but will be a presentation by the Redding Rancheria about the status of its efforts to relocate the casino.

Earth Day Wild and Scenic Film Tour Friday, April 22, 6:30 PM Online Event

This exciting Earth Day Wild and Scenic - On Tour event will be held live virtually on April 22 from 6:30 to 9:30 pm PT. On-demand viewing of the films will begin at the conclusion of the live virtual event and continue through April 29, a two-day extension from the original schedule. The festival features the most popular environmental films of this year's flagship 2022 Wild and Scenic Film Festival. Chico-Redding Citizens' Climate Lobby and North State Climate Action are proud to partner with Alameda CCL in bringing this event to you. What a great way to celebrate Earth Day! Invite your family and friends. For tickets and more

information: https://www.wildandscenicfilmfestival.org/events/ccl_alameda-22/ Use discount code **CCLCR** for \$5 off the ticket price

Turtle Bay Land Sale Goes to Redding City Council on April 19

The City of Redding recently received approval from the state that it can list the land encompassing the Redding Rodeo grounds and the Civic Auditorium as Surplus Property. This enables the City to put the approximately 45 acres up for sale. The City Council will have a vote on this on April 19, according to my inside sources, but meeting agendas can change.

Based on the offer to buy the property by Populous, K-2, and McConnell, this would be a very large development that could adversely affect the immediate area and surrounding parcels and the natural areas to the east of Turtle Bay Museum, the Sacramento River, and riparian areas.

Some groups feel that an Environmental Impact Report, and a Master Plan for the area should be completed before the land should be sold. The developers have not presented the Council with any real plans, but have stated that there will be retail stores, restaurants, and possible housing, and that the development will bring many tourists and become a destination for travelers.

If you are opposed to the sale of this public property to private developers for profit, now is the time to send your emails of opposition to the City Council. You can send emails to Mayor Kristen Schreder at kschreder@cityofredding.org, listing "City Council Members" in the address of your email and Turtle Bay Land Sale as the subject. You can go to the City [website](#) for all Council members' addresses, and address them separately.



The above map the City of Redding developed after many community concerns. The red "X's" denote lands not currently for sale but have no lasting legal protection from future development.

Tierra Robles 166 Home Subdivision goes to Shasta County Planning Commission April 6, 2 pm.

This Planning Commission meeting will address a 166-home subdivision in Bella Vista that many local residents are opposed to because it will result in more traffic on narrow rural roads, fire safety issues, increased housing that could encourage future development and urban sprawl, loss of wildlife habitat, and increased noise. The meeting will be held in the Shasta County Board of Supervisors Chambers at 2 pm. You can comment in person or send them to Director Paul Hellman at phellman@co.shasta.ca.us. You can also visit the website of those opposing the development at shastapatrol.org

Shasta Land Trust WILDWAYS 20th Annual Kickoff Event Sunday, April 10

Join the Shasta Land Trust for a Sunday evening at Daniell Beaver Banks Preserve and play your part in supporting local land conservation! Shasta Land Trust is launching its 2022 Wildways season with the **20th Annual Kickoff Event**. Over the past two decades, the success of the Wildways program has helped this organization permanently protect over 26,000 acres of working agricultural lands, watersheds, wildlife habitat, recreational zones, cultural sites, and scenic beauty in our community.

This will be **in-person this year** at their beautiful office space on the Sacramento River at 5170 Bechelli Lane. Tickets are \$55 in advance (\$15 children), and include a delicious BBQ dinner with live music by jazz-american group Honeybee. For more information call 530-241-7886 or www.shastalandtrust.org

Vernal Pools Threatened by Planning Commission Decision

On March 22, the Redding Planning Commission approved a lot split around a five-acre vernal pool south of Hartnell Avenue, south of Shasta Bible College. The lot split was initially approved by the City's Board of Administrative Review (BAR), but the decision was appealed to the Planning Commission by neighbors and supported by Shasta Environmental Alliance. The three-way lot split on this 30-acre parcel created a center lot containing a large vernal pool with only a 50-foot buffer, and residential lots on either side. The residential lots are zoned RM15 and will most likely be developed with apartments.

This three-lot split is exempt from CEQA review *unless* the following apply:

CEQA Section 15300.2. Exceptions:

"Location. "...a project that is ordinarily insignificant in its impact on the environment may in a particularly sensitive environment be significant..." Statewide, over 90% of vernal pools have disappeared due to development, and many others are threatened. The Hartnell Avenue vernal pool is particularly sensitive, as it supports five species of concern: slender Orcutt grass, Red Bluff dwarf rush, Henderson's bentgrass, vernal pool fairy shrimp, and vernal pool tadpole shrimp. Three are listed as threatened or endangered by USFWS and/or CDFW, one is on List 1B.1 (plants rare, threatened or endangered in California and elsewhere – seriously threatened in California), and one is currently being considered for elevation to List 1B status.

"Significant Effect. A categorical exemption shall not be used for an activity where there is a reasonable possibility that the activity will have a significant effect on the environment due to unusual circumstances." The properties surrounding the vernal pool will most likely be apartments. The surface and subsurface runoff of insecticides, herbicides and other chemicals would adversely affect the species in the pool and

Vernal Pools (Cont.)

the surrounding “upland” where the very important solitary bees have their larvae in underground holes. Larger upland buffers are needed to provide habitat for these vernal pool associates, as well as to filter pollutants from the surrounding development, equipment, cars, etc.

Planning Manager Lily Toy did say the remainder parcels would have deed restrictions on them requiring an as-yet-unspecified distance from the vernal pools. With this vague setback and without a requirement for fencing to keep the buffer area protected, encroachments will occur, and the rare species and various pollinators will likely slowly disappear over the years. The Planning Commission approved the three-way lot split 6-1.

State Senate Bill to require mitigation of oak trees in developments

A new California Senate Bill 1404, authored by Senator Henry Stern and recently introduced in the Senate, will require mitigation for the removal of three or more oak trees under any project subject to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). This would apply to any agency, whether city, county or regional.

This is exciting news because many California cities and counties do not have tree protection ordinances, or they are so weak as they are mere window dressing. (Drive by the new Costco site in Redding.) Tehama County and Shasta County tree ordinances are entirely voluntary, although the Shasta County Planning Department does work to get oak trees preserved on various projects.

This bill will likely be amended as it goes through the legislative process; however, it is a welcome sign to see this recognition of the weakness of CEQA when certain local agencies couldn't care less about oak trees. SEA wrote a letter in support of this bill.

CNPS Native Plant Sale Friday & Saturday, April 8 & 9 Shasta College Farm

The Shasta Chapter of the California Native Plant Society will be holding a native plant sale from 8 am to 5 pm on Friday, April 8, and from 9 am to 3 pm on Saturday, April 9, at the Shasta College Farm greenhouses. The Shasta College Horticultural Department also will be having their sale at that time. For more information email ShastaCNPSpropagation@gmail.com

If you miss the in-person sale, their online store will open to the public at 9 am on Wednesday, April 13, and last through 5 pm on Friday, April 29 (store is closed Saturdays, from 5 pm on Friday to 9 am Sunday). Our plants need to be in the ground in your yard! Order pickup will be at the Shasta College Farm, on a date and time that you will select after you shop. The store will be found at <https://cnps-shasta.square.site> when it opens on April 13—it will not be open before that date, and the link will give you an error if you try it earlier.



SEA Volunteers Needed:

SEA could use a newsletter editor or layout person, a treasurer, field trip leader and articles for the SEA newsletter. If you would like to volunteer, please contact ecoshasta@gmail.com.

SEA Needs Your Support

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

Thank you to all those listed below for your generous donations!!!

\$25 to \$99

James Aven, Margaret Beck, Muffy Berryhill, Melinda Brown, Anita Brady, Dawn Breser, Steve and Cathy Callan, Richard Christoph, Jim & Gayle Citta, Edward Couch, Allan Craig, Lang Dayton, John Deaton, Shirley Flynn, Carol Forster, Jonathan Foster, Derle Gilliam, Sandy Harrison, Jose Hernandez, Diane Hawthorne, Bruce Hillman, Kathy Grisson, Janice Hunter Buck & Sue Lang, Alan Lefler, John Livingston, Bob Madison, Kathryn McDonald, Catherine McKnight, Mary Mitchell, Tom Morehouse, Geneva Omann, Richard Ramos, Cathy Resfelt, Bridgett Robertson, Linda Samuels, Cathy Scott, Carolyn Salus-Singh, Jamie Spielmann, Ellen Sugg, Alexas Singer-Telles, Denise Williams, Kris BertelsonWilliams, Julie Winter, Don Yost, 6 anonymous.

\$100 to \$249

David Haskell, Bob Hixon, George and Darlene Horn, David Klasson, David Korman, Kathy & Jon Lefler, Doug Mandel, Diane Madgic, MaryAnn McCrary, Donald Owen, Virginia Phelps, John Springer, Janesa Wilder, Connie Word, Linda Wright, 2 Anonymous

\$250 to \$499

Mari Ennis Applegate, Don & Laurie Burk, Barbara Featherstone, Karen Foss, Jim Nelson, Doug Craig, Bea Currie, Lang Dayton, Ray Pfister and Lisa Ross, Dave and Barb Klasson, Peter Waller, Shasta Chapter, California Native Plant Society, Shasta Group of Sierra Club, Wintu Audubon.

\$500 to \$999

Mark Martinek

\$1000 & Up

Chris Harvey, Bob and Diane Madgic, Karen Little

Upcoming Field Trips

SEA - CNPS Davis Gulch Field Trip Saturday, April 9, 9 am

This field trip will be a 3 to 4-mile moderate difficulty hike on the biologically diverse Davis Gulch Trail at Whiskeytown NRA jointly sponsored by SEA and the Shasta Chapter of California Native Plant Society. A list of over 160 plants on the trail will be provided to participants and led by David Ledger and Chris Harvey. For more information and to reserve a space, email at David@ecoshasta.org.



Wholly parasitic Chaparral Broomrape on the Davis Gulch Trail Photo by David Ledger

Horsetown Clear Creek Preserve Wildflower Walk Saturday, April 16, 9:30 am

The Horsetown Clear Creek Preserve is starting their spring natural history walks with this wildflower walk led by David Ledger who will supply a plant list of the many wildflowers on the Preserve property. Meet at the Preserve parking lot on Clear Creek Road 7 miles west of Highway 273 just past the bridge over Clear Creek. For more info email horsetownhccp@gmail.com

Field Trips, Cont.

SEA 3rd Annual Sulphur Creek Earth Day Cleanup **Saturday, April 23, 9 to 11 am**

SEA will be holding our third upper Sulphur Creek Cleanup on Saturday. We will be working on the main stream of the creek and a feeder stream to the creek. This is fairly lightweight creek cleanup, but it does involve hiking down a short trail to the creek. Do your Earth Day action good deed and help SEA stop this debris from reaching the Sacramento River and eventually the ocean. Bring gloves, water and hat. For more information contact David Ledger at david@ecoshasta.org

Butterflies and Other Pollinators

Saturday, April 23 10 am

The Horsetown Clear Creek Preserve is featuring a pollinator walk led by naturalist Chis Gray who will identify various butterflies and other pollinators on the Preserve property. Great walk for adults and children. Meet at the Preserve parking lot on Clear Creek Road 7 miles west of Highway 273 just past the bridge over Clear Creek. For more info email horsetownhccp@gmail.com

SEA – CNPS Waters Gulch Field Trip **Near Shasta Lake** **Sunday, April 24, 9:30 am**

SEA and CNPS joint field trip led by Chris Harvey and David Ledger, on one of the most botanically diverse trails in the area with a few rare plants interspersed including Shasta snow wreath which recently received protected status by the California Game Commission. This is a four mile walk of moderate difficulty with varying terrain including a few steep sections, so some balance is required. For more information and to reserve a space, contact david@ecoshasta.org.

Right: Cloverdale Field Trip at the Clear Creek overlook. Chris Harvey, left, David Ledger right. Photo by Kit Harvey

Dye Creek Preserve Hike



Part of the group on the Dye Creek Preserve Trail, Kathy Grissom, SEA Secretary on right.

SEA had 16 people turn out for the Dye Creek Preserve field trip. We saw many different wildflowers in this beautiful canyon. Even the wide cave in the cliff at the end of the trail had many monkeyflowers inside. We were the only people in the canyon on this five mile hike.

Cloverdale Field Trip

