

Stand Up Sonoma County:

Saturday, Oct. 20 Noon, SR Court House Square

Impeach Now & End the Occupation of Iraq

SPEAKERS

Congresswoman Lynne Woolsey

Elbert "Big Man" Howard

Student and Youth Groups - (3-4)

Rosendo Lopez - CASA Calpulli

Dr. Peter Phillips – Project Censored

Linus Lancaster – Veterans for Peace

Miles Everett – Alliance for Democracy

Norman Solomon – Progressive Democrats

Evelina Molina and Miguel Molina from KPFA

Elizabeth Stinson – Peace and Justice Center

Davin Cardenas - Committee for Immigrants Rights

GROUPS

1. Sonoma County Democracy for America

2. Veterans For Peace

3. SSU Black Student Union

4. Healdsburg Peace Project

5. Healdsburg Progressive Club

6. Media Freedom Foundation

7. Palestinian Students for Justice

8. Progressive Democrats of America

9. Peace Club of SSU

10. Peace and Justice Center of Sonoma County

11. Petaluma Copwatch

12. Instituto Sanchez Mendoza

13. Vietnam Vets Against the War

14. Sonoma County Free Press

15. Project Censored

16. Media Freedom Foundation

17. Wearenotbuyingit.com

18. Redwood Empire One Corps

19. Unitarian Universalists Petaluma

20. Graton Day Labor

21. Casa Calpulli

22. Raging Grannies

23. Students for Media Democracy

24. Department of Peace Campaign

25. Santa Rosa Democratic Club

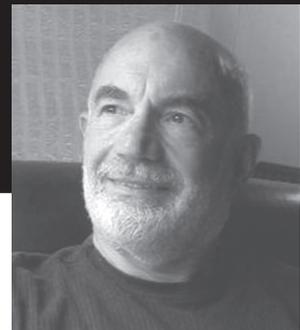
26. Resolution to Impeach Coalition

27. Committee for Immigrants Rights

Inside Politics

By Jim Maresca

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The Politics of Water

The Russian River is the source of domestic water for most of Sonoma County as well as for eastern Mendocino County and northern Marin County. The Sonoma County Water Agency has a facility at Wohler Dam in Forestville where it diverts water out of the Russian River to be sold to its municipal customers.

Once it seemed that the river had all the water we would ever need. But now we keep having water emergencies. What is going on?

Since early in the 20th century, the Russian River had been getting water that should have stayed in the Eel River. It was part of Potter Valley, a power generation project by PG&E. Over time, Potter Valley became inefficient and was allowed to deteriorate. A few years ago, a lawsuit forced a major reduction in the amount of Eel River water that could be diverted into the Russian. Over the same time period, development in Sonoma County has continued at an unsustainable rate. The combination of less water and more development has created a water crisis.

Fish have also been impacted. Three endangered species – Chinook salmon, Coho salmon, and steelhead trout – spend part of their anadromous lifecycle in the Russian River. If flows in the river are too low in the fall when the fish swim up river to spawn, the fish will die.

To accommodate both humans and fish, the State Water Resources Control Board has established minimum flows for various seasons and rainfall conditions. In an ordinary year, the minimum flow for the Russian River in the summer is 125 cubic feet per second. But the amount of water taken out by the Sonoma County Water Agency (SCWA) in years with a dry spring would force the flows below the mandated level, and the amount of water left in Lake Mendocino in early fall could be insufficient to support the flows necessary for fish migration.

And the problem is going to get worse, not better. The combined general plans

for Sonoma County and the incorporated cities within the county, when fully built out, would require more water than SCWA currently has access to.

What is the Sonoma County Water Agency's solution? On more than one occasion SCWA has proposed virtually drying up the river in the summer by reducing flows to 35 cubic feet per second. This past year, when they asked for a reduction, National Marine Fisheries Service, the controlling federal agency, would not let them go below 85 cubic feet per second.

This year our Board of Supervisors was willing to declare a water emergency serious enough to take substantial water out of the river, but they were unwilling to impose mandatory conservation. Effectively, this put the whole solution to a State and Federal problem on the backs of the people who live in the lower river area. Those of us concerned with the river had to call upon the State Water Resources Control Board to do what our supervisors lacked the courage to do – order mandatory conservation. We succeeded and the State Board ordered a 15% reduction in the amount of water taken out of the river at SCWA's Forestville facility.

On the surface, it seems as if conservation has worked. The Water Agency will meet its goal of a 15% reduction in diversions from the Russian River. But it was not from conservation! A substantial portion of the reduction was replaced by pumping water out of the aquifer. This practice is absolutely unsustainable.

Until now the major developers, instead of getting serious about conservation, have chosen to fund the campaigns of candidates who let them continue business as usual. If we do not turn this around in the next three to four years, we may end up in a situation of permanent water shortage.

Sudden Oak Death Informational Meeting

Sudden Oak Death Informational Meeting in Santa Rosa, Oct. 20-A Sudden Oak Death (SOD) community meeting will be held at the Finley Community Center, October 20, 2007. A cooperative venture of the University of California Cooperative Extension, the Sonoma County Department of Emergency Services, and the City of Santa Rosa, the workshop is intended to provide disease information, preventative treatment options and risk-reduction strategies for hazardous conditions resulting from SOD, especially fire danger. Speakers will include Dr. Dave Rizzo, UC Davis Plant Pathologist and SOD expert. There will also be an open discussion during which workshop participants and panel members can express their concerns and brainstorm options for management strategies.

Saturday, October 20, 2007

1:00 – 4:00 p.m.

Finley Community Center,

2060 West College Ave, Santa Rosa

Caused by the plant pathogen *Phytophthora ramorum*, Sudden Oak Death is severely impacting woodlands throughout Sonoma County. Recently, *Phytophthora ramorum* has recently been identified within the City of Santa Rosa. This workshop will help to inform residents about the potential impact and what they can do about it. Since the 1990s, *P. ramorum* has killed at least a million trees in California, including tanoak, live oaks, and many red oak species. Nationally, Sonoma County is currently sustaining the worst mortality from the pathogen.

For more information, or to reserve a place at the meeting, contact Caerleon Safford, Sonoma County SOD Fire Coordinator, at (707) 565-6070 or csafford@sonoma-county.org. For more information on Sudden Oak Death and *P. ramorum*, go to the California Oak Mortality website www.suddenoakdeath.org.

"This year's Nobel selection sends a strong message that to achieve peace we need to live in harmony with one another and with the environment."
- Care2.com, Inc. response to Al Gore and the United Nations' Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change being honored by the Nobel peace prize for their work to raise awareness about the threat of global warming.