



**Shasta
Environmental
Alliance**

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

December 2024 Newsletter

In this issue:

SEA and Community Events

Support SEA for This North State Giving Tuesday

Report: Rancho Breisgau Riparian Restoration Volunteering

Trip Report: Sloppy Joe Trail Hike

Redding Riverfront Project Update Presentation to City Council

New Local Educational Nonprofit Advocates for Native Plants and Their Habitats

Trip Report: Quartz Hill Road Development Walk

New Water Pumping Station Next to River Trail

Trees Dying in Mt. Shasta Mall Parking Lots

Does Redding Need Another Gas Station?

Burning Logging Slash in the Shingletown Area

Environmentalists Win in Chico City Council Election

Thank you to our donors!

[Donate](#)

SEA & Community Events

[SEA Horsetown-Clear Creek Preserve Hike](#)

Sunday, December 8th at 9:30 am

Meet to Horsetown-Clear Creek Preserve

[New Year's Day Hike](#)

January 1, 2025, 9:30 am

Sign up at [our Meetup site](#)

Support SEA for This North State Giving Tuesday



Photo by North State Gives

This Giving Tuesday, Shasta Environmental Alliance (SEA) is excited to participate in North State Gives, an annual event that helps local nonprofits raise funds to fuel their missions. We invite you to join us on December 3, 2024 to support SEA's critical work protecting the beautiful landscapes and wildlife of Shasta County.

As you know, SEA is a community-driven organization committed to preserving Northern California's environment through advocacy, education, and conservation projects. Donations from

North State Gives will empower us to continue to:

- Advocate for sustainable policies and land use.
- Educate the public on wildfire prevention, pollution, and biodiversity.
- Restore natural areas with conservation efforts that benefit both wildlife and our communities.

Your contribution during North State Gives will go directly toward these initiatives. This is a chance for us all to make a lasting difference for the future of Shasta County's natural beauty.

On or before December 3rd, please visit [SEA's North State Gives page](#) and help us continue this essential work. Together, we can protect the environment we cherish for generations to come. Thank you for your support!

Report: Rancho Breisgau Riparian Restoration Volunteering

Photo by Brooke Thompson

Article by Kathy Grissom

On October 11th and 12th, there was a large turnout for the Rancho Breisgau Riparian Restoration project, with volunteers planting about 2,500 during these two days! The Bureau of Land Management and River Partners, with support from the Western Shasta Resource Conservation District, joined in a



collaborative effort to plant over 30,000 plants in total which will help restore 150 acres of watershed between Battle Creek and the Sacramento River. Restoration efforts will improve fish habitat, reduce habitat fragmentation, and support the recovery of endangered wildlife species. This is an ongoing project with about 25,000 plants left to be planted.

BLM funded a Seeds of Success collection crew to gather local native seeds, which will increase the probability of the plants thriving in a changing climate. An old walnut orchard was removed and acres of invasive weeds were masticated and sprayed.

The land was then tilled, rows built, and drip lines installed. Josh from River Partners explained that planting in rows is effective for keeping the plants watered the first years, and that as the years go by, the rows will no longer be noticeable due to natural selection and varying rates of growth for different plants.

We planted sycamore, elderberry, box elder, coyote brush, rose, Oregon ash, blackberry, buttonbush, pipevine, and clematis. Later in the year oak and willow will be planted and then native grasses.

It was a very well-organized and fun volunteer opportunity and it will be exciting to watch that land turn back into a natural environment!

Trip Report: Sloppy Joe Hike



Photo by Doug Mandel

Article by Juliet Malik

On Sunday, November 17th, new SEA board member Juliet Malik led a group of 13 out for a cool, fall morning hike along sections of the Sloppy Joe, Canyon Hollow, and T-Party trail complex in West Redding. This naturalist-focused hike started along Canyon Hollow which follows a seasonal creek bed and hosts classic riparian species such as

buttonbush and arroyo willow. Along this section, we noted four native oak species: blue oak, black oak, interior live oak, and scrub oak. We also saw examples of four woody vines common to California: wild grape, poison oak, honeysuckle, and clematis.

After taking a snack and water break at a CCC-installed picnic table we headed up to the access road at the top of the ridge via Sloppy Joe to T-Party. We took in views of the sprawling blue oak woodland featuring stands of gray pines, fall colors from the deciduous oaks, and an understory of toyon, buck brush, western redbud, and two species of manzanita, common and white-leaf. We investigated oak leaves and twigs along the ridge to find several species of gall wasps and spotted an immature turkey vulture –noted by its lack of a redhead– sunning its wings.

Other non-plant identifications included California towhees, oak titmice, ruby-crowned kinglets, oakmoss lichen, bracket fungi, and some abandoned cars dating back to the 1950s! Stay tuned for more extensive hikes in this area next spring, when a multitude of wildflowers is expected!

Redding Riverfront Project Update

Presentation to City Council

The project team will be providing the City Council with an update on the Redding Riverfront Specific Plan on December 3, 2024.

The presentation will include an update on the project, the work completed since the last City Council presentation, and a summary of the community feedback and ideas heard during the last round of engagement on options and alternatives. The meeting is open to the public and all are encouraged to attend.



WHEN: December 3, 2024, starting at 6:00 PM

WHERE: Redding City Council Chambers, 777 Cypress Avenue, Redding, CA

AGENDA: Please [click here](#) for more information.

LIVE STREAM: The meeting will be streamed online at: www.cityofredding.gov, under Government/Agendas & Minutes/Meeting Videos.

New Local Educational Nonprofit Advocates for Native Plants and Their Habitats



Article and Photo by Doug Mandel

Redding residents were treated to an in-depth report on monitoring soil, plant, and wildlife habitat on California Rangelands by Alicia Herrera, an ecologist with Point Blue Conservation Science. After her talk, Jonathon Freeman of the Native Roots Network gave us an update on the Medicine Lake (Sattitla) National Monument effort in Siskiyou County.

Alicia and Point Blue scientists work cooperatively with landowners to help them understand and develop a plan that can provide the best ecological standards for their rangelands. With rangelands occupying 57 million acres of land in California, this is an important way to help preserve wildlife habitat and protect and increase soil productivity.

Perhaps her most controversial finding was that Project Blue and other soil scientists had discovered that rangeland soils store more carbon than any other land use in California. Rangeland, if properly managed and not overgrazed, helps achieve this. Rangelands primarily include grasslands, shrublands, savannahs, wetlands, and woodlands.

Her informative and provocative talk kept the audience engaged and brought about 30 minutes of questions from the audience indicating their interest in her presentation. To learn more please visit the Point Blue Conservation Science website at <https://www.pointblue.org/>

After her talk, Jonathon Freeman of Native Roots Network gave us some promising updates on the efforts to have Medicine Lake Highlands (Sattitla) declared a National Monument and a decision is in the last stage of development. Jonathon also briefly discussed Native Roots Networks' success in acquiring 1200 acres of land in the Jones Valley/Bella Vista area. To learn more about the Native Roots Network go to <https://www.nativerootsnetwork.org/>

Trip Report: Quartz Hill Road Development Walk

SEA recently led a small field trip of nine people on 110 acres of land that the City of Redding is developing in part with funding help from the Department of Housing and Development. This property sits just west of the River Ridge Subdivision and west of Quartz Hill Road. The City of Redding will put in a developed subdivision and then sell the land to K-2 Development to build homes as the market allows. We have received so many phone calls and emails from residents concerned about the project that we decided it was time to explore the area which is quite popular as a hiking area for the neighborhood.

This area was a blue oak woodland but was severely burned by the Carr Fire and is now closer to a grassland and if not developed would eventually revert to chaparral and then back to an oak woodland as the trees re-grow. The area has



two seasonal streams through it and riparian vegetation along the streams including buttonwillow, arroyo willow, black willow, cattails, and white leaf alder as well as many rushes, sedges, and grasses.

The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) survey that was done for the property states there are no seasonal wetlands or milkweeds on the property. Yet on our walk, we found not only standing water in the seasonal stream but all the plants listed above, which are associated with wetlands. Monarch butterflies are protected under federal law and indirectly, their habitat, especially milkweed which is essential food for their larvae. Despite the consultant stating that in the NEPA report after a thorough search of the area, no milkweed plants were found, just on our short field trip we found several hundred milkweed.

Unable to get the requested information on the project from the Planning Department, SEA has had to send in a Public Records Request.

New Water Pumping Station Next to River Trail

The City of Redding will install a new water pumping plant in the Sacramento River just upstream of the old pumping house near the trail restrooms starting sometime in 2025. This project will have some beneficial and detrimental effects on the environment and the Draft Environmental Impact Report which is now under revision before the Final EIR is approved.



FIGURE 2-2
Rendering of the Proposed Intake
and Pump Station
Pump Station 1 Replacement Project
Redding, California

Some of the benefits include the fact that Jenny Creek, which has both salmon and steelhead trout in the stream, will have the corroded culverts removed and the stream will be allowed to follow its natural course under a bridge, which will allow salmon to make it up the creek when the A.C.I.D. Dam is removed in the fall. As it is, once Lake Redding is lowered, fish cannot make it up Jenny Creek until river flows increase in the winter because the culvert outlets are above the creek level. Also, once the new pumping station is installed, it will have more effective fish screens to keep out the smallest of fish from being sucked into the water intakes.

Unfortunately, though, this install will remove 230 trees in the riparian area to make a 16-foot wide, (18 feet including the grave) service road from Overhill Drive to the pumping station for repairs and maintenance. It will also require making infill into the river for the new building and pump inlets.

Overall, this will be a benefit when considering that at times Lake Redding is so low it limits the amount of water that can be pumped out of the river due to the low lake level in the fall. The new plant will be located where the river is deeper.

It is encouraging that Jenny Creek will convert back to its original streambed level so it is accessible by fish year-round. Now the only question is will the City put in a huge wide, lighted trail in the biologically important Jenny Creek Open Space which could detrimentally affect the terrestrial wildlife and the fish in Jenny Creek?

Trees Dying in Mt. Shasta Mall Parking Lots



Several months ago Robert Sid posted on his Facebook page that trees are dying in the Mt. Shasta Mall parking lot. I drove over to the Mall to check it out and found out he was right. Trees are dead, dying, and highly stressed.

There are 14 completely dead trees, 18 almost dead trees with only a single branch or two alive, and many other trees that most likely will not make it through next year. Many other trees may not live past a year or two. Fifteen trees have already died and been removed. In total, 29 trees are dead or missing, and at least 19 will not make it another year.

What is the problem? I am not an arborist or a tree health specialist, however as I see it, 1. many are ash and cannot take many days of 110+ degree heat in an asphalt parking lot; 2. They need more water and 3. The trunks need to be painted white to reflect the hot sun's rays. The bark on almost all dead or

stressed trees is shredding and peeling off. When this happens they cannot draw up enough water from their roots even if they are even being adequately watered.

The solution would be to plant trees that can better tolerate the harsh conditions of parking lots such as native blue oaks or cork oaks, make sure they have adequate water during the summer, and finally paint the trunk of the smaller trees white with latex paint.

It would also benefit the City if they would hire an Urban Forester who could work through the Planning Department and help to enforce a much-needed tree ordinance that has real teeth instead of the developer and commercial property owner-friendly ordinance the city now has. Mitigation fees that many California cities charge for tree removal could cover the cost.

Does Redding Need *Another* Gas Station?

As you enter Redding, the last of the oak groves will soon be cut down to make way for yet another gas station at the I-5 Churn Creek/Rancho Road.

There are currently three gas stations at that intersection, plus a Shell Station and the huge 16-station, 32-pump Costco gas station on the west side of I-5.

This one will be on Churn Creek Road where it ends at Rancho



Road, next to the S. Bonnyview/Churn Creek offramp. There will also be a Wendy's on the site.

There are currently 14 oak trees on the lot seven huge and over 24 inches in diameter, the largest blue oak over is 36" dbh and there is a huge multi-branched interior live oak over 48" in diameter. trees on the lot and several smaller ones. The blue oak is most likely over 300 years old

There are also three low retaining walls about 200 feet long that appear to have been cut from stone from a local rock quarry over 100 years ago. One stone has a date of 1870 chiseled in it,

but as Redding wasn't built until 1872 it must have come from elsewhere. The closest quarry is at the intersection of Honeybee and Texas Springs Roads, abandoned to weeds and the elements some 100 years ago.

Unfortunately, Redding's weak Tree Management Ordinance couldn't save the trees or provide any mitigation fees for their replacement elsewhere. That was the same for both sides of I-5, the Costco, Churn Creek Market Place, and the Les Schwab Tire store, all formerly beautiful oak woodlands, now paved over without mitigation for the destruction of almost 50 acres of oak woodland.

Burning Logging Slash in the Shingletown Area



Photo: One of three local slash piles waiting to be burned in the Shingletown area

Following a logging operation, timber companies are left with decisions of what to do with huge piles of slash left over: either burn it on site, haul it to a plant such as Wheelabrator to burn for electricity, or chip it on site and let the nutrients turn to soil. Any of these methods cost money and release CO₂ into the atmosphere.

Leaving dead or misshapen logs and chipped wood onsite to decompose naturally would replenish the land with nutrients and return the CO₂ to the carbon cycle. The cost of just 5 mpg diesel trucks hauling the slash is high and adds to the CO₂ released.

Whichever method a logging company chooses, it shows that logging is not the carbon-free operation that Cal Fire and the California Board of Forestry assume when they ignore CEQA accountability for greenhouse gases released in Timber Harvest Plans (THP). THPs approved by Cal Fire assume that 100 years or more from the time a tree is cut all the carbon will be replenished through new forest growth. In some cases that is true, but the earth doesn't have 100 years, especially if a timber company uses a 60-year rotation for clear-cuts it will always be behind in carbon sequestration.

We were contacted by local residents in Shingletown concerned about a slash pile that will be burned in the future. SEA contacted the Shasta County Air Quality Control and it is legal to

burn and depending on the area the material is collected from it could require a state or local permit which is easy to obtain.

For a detailed scientific analysis go here:

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1_fkH_OuweBuqSk9y3cIL1LaU1xQDnqXw/view

Environmentalists Win in Chico City Council Election



**Photo of Bryce Goldstein after winning the election by Shirley Martin*

While the election news in Shasta County may have been disappointing there was great news coming from the Chico City Council election. Two young women, both environmentalists, won seats on the seven-member Chico City Council on a grassroots campaign focusing on the environment, affordable housing, more bikeable streets, protecting Chico's tree canopy, and strengthening its tree ordinance. The new council members are Bryce Goldstein and Katie Hawley, both under 30 and a part of the Chico Green City Coalition. Another member of the Coalition, Monica McDaneil, is behind by only 42 votes as of November 15. There is one other environmentalist already on the Council.

Shirley Martin is the proud mother of Bryce and she is a member of SEA and the Shasta Chapter of California Native Plant Society. She has even brought Bryce on one or two of the native plant walks SEA/CNPS has hosted in the Redding area.

Bryce is an environmentalist, transportation planner, Climate Action Commissioner, former Planning Commissioner, musician, and renter. She was active in a referendum that successfully opposed a 1400-acre development of urban sprawl next to Chico with 63% of the vote in the March 2024 Primary.

SEA congratulates Bryce and the Chico Green City Coalition and hopes they achieve a majority on the City Council when all the votes are counted.

Thank You to Our Donors!

Acorn (\$25 to \$99)

Kris Bertleson-Williams, Dawn Bieser, Laura and Mike Bradley, Sandra Cameron, Miki'ala Catalfano, Gibson Collard, John Deaton, Barbara Dorris, Tammi Douse, Jane Elmore, Ailene Genoff, Lyra Gray, Kathy Grissom, Penelope Harris, Diane Hawthorne, Robert Hixon, Janice Hunter, Kay Johnson, Kay Kosko, Michael Koturba, Suzzie Lang, John Livingston, Lee Macey, Diane Madgic, Robert Madison, Victoria McArthur, Jim Milestone, James Nelson, Doug O'Brien, Geneva M Omann, Viktoria Peterson, Cathy Reisfelt, Brigitte Robertson, Linda Samuels, Cathy Scott, Laura Shaw, Casandra Simmons, Alexa Singer-Telles, Jamie Spielmann, John Springer, Max Walter, Marti Weidert, Jaclyn White, John Winchell

Seedling (\$100 to \$249)

Muffy Berryhill, Laura Bradley, Steven and Kathleen Callan, Aleta Carpenter, Linda Castagnoli, Lang M. Dayton, Allan Craig, Paula Dulak, Mari Ennis-Applegate, Karen Foss, Derle Gilliam, Kathleen Gilman, Green Party of Shasta County, Karen Hazeltine, George Horn, Jim and Sharon Jerge, John Lefler, Doug Mandel, Donald Owen, Kristen Schreder, Sierra Club, Siskiyou Land Trust, John Springer, Connie Word

Young Oak (\$250 to \$499)

Alan Ernesto Phillips, Barbara Featherstone, Ryan Henson, Cathy Lefler, Peter Waller, Shasta Chapter of the California Native Plant Society

Oak Tree (\$500 to \$999)

Mary Belkin, Ray Pfister & Lisa Ross

Oak Woodland (\$1000 & Up)

Don and Laurie Burk, Lang Dayton, Chris Harvey



We Couldn't Do This Work Without You.

Please consider donating to SEA!

You can go to ecoshasta.org to donate!

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

Shasta Environmental Alliance, P.O. Box 993777, Redding, CA 96099-3777