

12th Annual Grassroots Gourmet Gala a Success

By Diane Schulz, Office Manager

This year's Gala Gourmet event, held June 23rd at the beautiful Glaser Center in Santa Rosa, was the grandest and best attended ever, celebrating our 16th year of operation. A huge thank you from all of us here at SCCA to our new and ongoing supporters!



Assemblyman Jared Huffman, 6th AD

Our keynote speaker was Assemblyman Jared Huffman, recently elected to the State Assembly for the 6th District, who addressed climate change, specifically in regard to water and trans-

portation issues. A question and answer period followed his speech, with plenty of time to satisfy all questioners. After dinner, awards for canvassers and activists were announced, with this year's Upstream Swimmer Award going to Susan Gorin of the Santa Rosa City Council and the Dick Day Community Activist Award to Stephen Fuller-Rowell of the Sonoma County Water Coalition. As always, wine and conversation flowed on as the evening waned.

Next year is an election year, and our annual event will be even bigger and better. We'll keep you informed via our newsletter and website regarding both the exciting political races already beginning, as well as other events throughout the year. Also, we are considering moving our event to early May, to be timely with the Primary Election in June.

Again, a huge thank you to all who attended and donated, helping us to create another successful event! ♦

Thanks for Your Support!

Fall 08 Santa Rosa Council Environmental Candidates

By Dennis Rosatti, Executive Director

I feel like we're standing on the brink of a major tipping point in Sonoma County politics. Perhaps I am feeling this way due to the inspiration Al Gore's movie has left us with, a reawakening of sorts of the nation's awareness and dedication to the environment. The plight of our world's climate and energy usage is in the forefront of nearly every newspaper and journal in the world. Or, it could be partly due to the two long sitting County Supervisors who thanks to retirement have seats up in 08', offering a real opportunity for an emergence of environmental leadership on the Board of Supervisors.

Overshadowing all of this, is the fact that we have a majority within our grasp on the Santa Rosa City Council. This Council not only makes decisions for the City itself, but they make appointments to many boards and commissions that dictate the way many cross-city and county programs are run. For example, each council-member gets an appointment to the powerful Board of Public Utilities, which oversees water and wastewater for not only Santa Rosa, but the 4 City joint wastewater treatment plant on Llano Road.

In Fall of 2006, voters elected two environmental, progressive candidates to the Council: Veronica Jacobi and Susan Gorin. These freshmen (or freshwomen, to be politically correct) are working hard to fulfill the public's desire for a cleaner, greener Sonoma County. Advances have been made in green building, smart growth planning, and sustainable development as a direct result of their participation in council dialogue and decision making. But they need 2 more solid votes to pass progressive ordinances and legislation.

Sensing this need, weighing the qualifications of the announced candidates, and sensing the opportunity to turn things around, SCCA has decided to endorse early in the Santa Rosa City Council race. We have endorsed 3 seats, and there are 4 seats that will be up. We may add an endorsement closer to the election, depending on whether additional qualified environmental candidates enter the race.

Marsha vas Dupre has an outstanding record of public service in Santa



Rosa. She currently sits on the SRJC Board of Directors, and served on the city council from 1998-2002, when she was narrowly defeated by a smear campaign

run by the development community.

Michael Allen worked closely with SCCA in the SMART Rail and Trail



ballot measure last fall as the Treasurer of the campaign, and currently serves as State Senator Pat Wiggin's Field Director. Michael is a well respected labor attorney who worked as

ED of SEIU local for many years, and started his career as an attorney for the Sierra Club.

Gary Wysocky is the president of the Sonoma County Bicycle Coalition



and currently serves as the president of the Junior College Neighborhood Association. Besides being

an active cycling enthusiast, Gary is a certified

(Continued on page 3)

Environmental Elected Corner: Spotlight on Pat Wiggins, CA State Senate

A Note to Our Readers:

This is the second column in our ongoing series featuring environmental electeds and the policy and challenges they face in their roles as public servants. Here we have a State Senator that started at the grassroots level on the Santa Rosa City Council, went on to 3 successful terms in the State Assembly, and continues to move the environmental agenda forward in the State Senate. Enjoy the inside peek into Sacramento, straight from the source!

Dennis Rosatti, Executive Director

A Legislative Review

By Senator Pat Wiggins

By the time the Legislature had adjourned for 2007, the Senate & Assembly had approved close to 1000 bills, sending them to Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger for his signature or veto (he has until October 12 to decide).

The nation often looks to California for leadership on environmental issues, and I am proud to say that there was no shortage of meaningful environmental legislation this year.

One, SB 488 (a land preservation bill by Senator Carole Migden, D – San Francisco), has already been signed into law. SB 488 authorizes the Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District to exchange up to 40 acres of district-owned property for other land to be used for park land or open space. A related measure, AB 1063 by Assemblywoman Noreen Evans (D – Santa Rosa), would eliminate a statutory obstacle to also help the Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District protect land in Sonoma County.

I personally introduced several significant environmental bills this year, a couple of which made it to the Governor's desk:

SB 701, which would reinstate the previously-expired California Forest Legacy Program, designed to protect forest land, including working forests,



State Senator Pat Wiggins, 2nd District

from conversion to other purposes;

SB 735, requiring the state Department of Transportation, or CalTrans, to track the use of recycled aggregate materials (my long-term goal is to divert more re-usable materials away from landfills and into road construction and repair projects).

Another of my bills that I consider very important, SB 562, did not pass out of the Legislature before we adjourned on September 12. I am glad to say that SB 562, which focuses on salmon restoration funding, is still alive, and I plan to pursue the legislation again in 2008.

The Senate Democratic Caucus introduced a number of bills designed to curb greenhouse gases and respond to climate change. Among the bills which passed both houses of the Legislature and were thus sent to the Governor's desk were SB 210, SB 660, and SB 1036.

- SB 210, by Senator Christine Kehoe (D – San Diego), establishes a low-carbon fuel standard, and requires the Air Resources Board to develop and administer a program to reduce the carbon content from transportation fuels refined and sold in California by 10 percent by 2020.

- SB 660, by Senator Don Perata (D – Oakland), establishes the California Office of Climate Change Research and Assessment in the Resources

Agency to centralize all efforts assessing the effects of climate change and to set research priorities for climate-related activities.

- SB 1036, also by Senator Perata, authorizes the California Public Utilities Commission to allow investor-owned utilities to recover costs for renewable energy that are in excess of market prices.

None of the three preceding bills had been signed or vetoed by the Governor as of September 19.

Other bills awaiting Schwarzenegger's decision include:

- AB 258, by Assemblyman Paul Krekorian (D – Glendale), which would require the state to adopt a program to eliminate the release to waterways of plastic resin pellets used to produce plastic products;

- AB 1109, by Assemblyman Jared Huffman (D – San Rafael), which would require the state to set standards on efficiency and mercury and lead content for light bulbs;

- AB 1470, also by Assemblyman Huffman, which would impose a surcharge on utility customers to subsidize installation of solar water heaters.

All of the bills that I have mentioned would result in progress and thus deserved to be signed. It is a testament to all of the legislators I have mentioned that they are committed to protecting our land, our water, and our environment in general.

Much more work clearly needs to be done, however, and rest assured that I plan to continue my efforts on behalf of our environment and our natural resources in 2008.

Pat Wiggins served 4 years on the Santa Rosa City Council, 6 years in the State Assembly, and is currently in her first term as State Senator for the 2nd District. Pat resides in Santa Rosa with her husband Guy Conner, who is an SCCA Board Member. ♦

Peter Douglas and Spring Lake Pancakes *By Jenna Brager & Bill Kortum*

On the foggy Wednesday morning of September 12th, SCCA's Pancake Extravaganza under the oaks at Oak Knolls in Spring Lake Park was a wonderful success. Peter Douglas, Executive Director of the California Coastal Commission, was our special guest speaker.



Under the oaks we sat and listened, ate pancakes, and pondered nature.

Peter Douglas helped establish the California Coastal Commission in 1972 and has served as Executive Director for 22 years. He has been advocating for the protection and preservation of California's coast for over 35 years, and has been acknowledged for his steadfast values. The California Coastal Commission is a planning and regulatory body with jurisdiction over all land use up to the nearest coastal ridgeline and a three mile band of ocean offshore.

Peter touched on the work and enormous responsibility of the Coastal Commission, while mostly focusing on the importance of staying inspired, along with staff, in order to maintain



Inspiration from a welcome teacher.

long term dedication to environmental activism. He emphasized the necessity for strong committed Commission

members, noting especially the long and valued participation of Sonoma County's Mike Reilly. Also essential is the activism of environmentalists who collectively used the initiative process to create the California Coastal Commission and who stand guard to this day in challenging the Commission on controversial projects to fulfill its obligation to preserve and protect the coast. Peter was preaching to an audience who keep the role of activists alive in Sonoma County. He is often quoted as saying "The coast is never saved," aptly describing this beautiful resource being under constant pressure for development. Sonoma County faces the same challenge.

To share a piece of his own inspiration, Peter told stories of his cabin on the Smith River in Oregon, relaying a peaceful up-close encounter with a black bear. "I appreciated Peter's inclusion of spirituality in the context of progressive change. It is often left out and is a very important aspect of stay-



Left to right: Dennis Rosatti, Lucy Kortum, Peter Douglas, Bill Kortum, Jenna Brager

ing inspired," said Tim Dixon, SCCA's Field Manager.

It was a great pleasure that so many wonderful environmental activists, including many who have worked hard for coastal protection, were present at this special event. Among them Coastwalk, a Sonoma County based and California-wide organization which advocates for both coastal preservation and access, was well-represented.

Dennis Rosatti, SCCA's Executive Director, and Nick Caston, field representative for Assemblywoman Noreen

Candidates continued from page 1

public accountant and teaches at Sonoma State University.

Joining SCCA in endorsing these candidates, in a sign of progressive solidarity, are the Housing Advocacy Group (HAG), and the Coalition for a Better Sonoma County (CBSC). This is perhaps the first time in history that these 3 organizations have not only endorsed candidates in a race this early, but they also have agreed that the 3 endorsed candidates are the best for all areas of progressive idealism.

"All three of these candidates will work toward a more sustainable economy, environment and a healthier community" added Rick Meechan, Co-Chair of the Coalition for a Better Sonoma County and Board Member of Concerned Citizens of Santa Rosa. "We are very fortunate to have such quality candidates already in the field."

Affordable housing continues to be a focal point of political will in Santa Rosa. Said HAG attorney David Grabill, "These 3 candidates are the ones who we want making decisions on affordable housing in Santa Rosa. They understand that housing for all is a mandate from the public."

I personally have sat through many decisions where environmental interests were on the losing end of votes on issues from campaign finance reform to affordable housing and green building. It's time to for change!

I ask that you support these candidates with your time, your money and your influence. We all want a Santa Rosa City Council that is pro environment, pro affordable housing, pro working people, and progressive. Let's join together to make that vision a reality. ◇

Evans, proved to be expert chefs, serving delicious pancakes with big smiles to all attendees. Everyone walked away full of pancakes and inspiration. Thank you Peter Douglas!

Special thanks to event sponsors: Guy Conner, Senator Pat Wiggins, Bill and Lucy Kortum, Barbara Moulton, and Santa Rosa Community Market. ◇

Board and Council Environmental Report Card 2007/2008

You all know Conservation Action for our famous Environmental Report Card that grades individual decision makers on their voting and willingness to listen to environmental constituencies. This year we decided to complement the individualized report card with a more macro styled approach by issuing a "Board and Council Environmental Report Card." The chart below is our attempt at some broad strokes and generalizations regarding opportunities and challenges that these boards are facing, and how well they are performing in terms of going after sound environmental policy, as a unit. We welcome your feedback on this new addition to Conservation Action's watchdog presence at letters@conservationaction.org

Board of Supervisors	D-	<p>Report: The majority vote for development projects with little regard to infrastructure or sustainable safeguards. Only Reilly offers consistently good environmental reasoning.</p> <p>Challenge: The County General Plan update is the acid test. The Board can earn points with solid environmentally sustainable General Plan language.</p>
Cloverdale	C	<p>Report: This is a council with promise, but has a lot of growing to in environmental policy in areas of green building, affordable housing, and sprawl.</p> <p>Challenge: Urban Growth Boundary cooperation and adoption, and most importantly, where the boundaries of UGB fall are the acid tests.</p>
Cotati	B-	<p>Report: Some solid policy has developed over the past few years, in the wake of Lowe's big box debacle. Formula store ordinance is a good step.</p> <p>Challenge: Local economic self reliance is the acid test. Needs a strategic vision for its redevelopment agency. Maintaining small town identity.</p>
Healdsburg	C	<p>Report: The council has not reflected the environmental values of the citizenry, however, Mike McGuire has led them on creek cleanups and plastic bag ordinance.</p> <p>Challenge: Develop a solar policy, and reflect the citizen majority's will for environmental policy and vision in the new general plan. Also, moving the bag ordinance forward.</p>
Petaluma	B-	<p>Report: The whole is greater than the sum of its parts. Fortunately, overall policy is still being driven by good long range planning of former council that is still set in motion. New Mayor inherited a conservative council.</p> <p>Challenge: Protecting the city from big boxes, and continuing to lead amongst the County's Cities on sustainable water policy.</p>
Rohnert Park	C+	<p>Report: The council has seen significant changes, mostly for the better, and policy is slow but coming.</p> <p>Challenge: Be more proactive on sustainable water issues- be more productive than defensive. Develop a water balance neutrality policy.</p>
Santa Rosa	D+	<p>Report: Discharge issues and environmental vision on wastewater management continue to be issues. Although new hope exists, there is a long way to go for this group. The city remains behind the times.</p> <p>Challenge: The City has many policies that need updated, including their inclusionary zoning ordinance and bike & pedestrian master plan. This important city needs enlightened leadership.</p>
Sebastopol	A-	<p>Report: The leader amongst councils in the county. Always looking to push the agenda. City General Plan is a model that could be followed better.</p> <p>Challenge: Council needs to learn to constructively work together by including effective public involvement in NE Area and preserving community values.</p>
Sonoma	B-	<p>Report: Council of varying interests is learning to work together.</p> <p>Challenge: City must develop a green building policy. Hospital siting and/or retrofit must conform with smart growth principles.</p>
Windsor	B+	<p>Report: Town Green has breathed new life into town. Council is guiding smart growth and future planning.</p> <p>Challenge: Living wage ordinance and affordable housing inclusion are the big policy challenges this year, as well as the gateways program.</p>

Historians of the conservation and environmental movements have traced the battles to establish national parks and preserve wilderness areas in federal lands, composed biographies of prominent figures from **John Muir** to **Rachel Carson** and **David Brower**, and given us organizational histories of such major national groups as the **Sierra Club**, the **National Audubon Society**, **The Nature Conservancy**, and **Earthjustice**, as well as international groups like **Greenpeace** and the **World Wildlife Fund**.

What we've lacked are histories of local and regional environmental efforts over the long term. True, we in the North Bay are fortunate to have **Dr. Marty Griffin's** study, **Saving the Marin-Sonoma Coast**, part history and part memoir, covering the battles for Richardson Bay, Bolinas Lagoon, Tomales Bay, Point Reyes, and the Russian River.

But we have not had comprehensive surveys of the century and more of efforts to maintain parks, beaches and open space within a major urban area.

Richard A. Walker, professor of geography at UC-Berkeley, has taken

up the challenge of documenting the full range of conservation politics in our region with his new book, **The Country in the City: The Greening of the San Francisco Bay Area**, University of Washington Press.

Walker begins his story with wealthy landowner and Congressman William Kent, who helped save **Muir Woods** and **Mt. Tamalpais** as parks, and the elite **Save the Redwoods League**, which over the last ninety years has purchased and preserved \$100 million worth of prime stands of redwood forest along the North Coast. He continues with the post-New Deal growth of the state park system, fueled by tideland and offshore oil revenues.

County and regional parks have become an important part of the urban "greensward" in the Bay Area. The East Bay Regional Parks District, from the Berkeley-Oakland hills to **Mt. Diablo**, became the largest urban park district in the United States under the able direction of Republican conservationist William Penn Mott. **Saving the San Francisco Bay** and the Pacific coast required numerous bat-

tles, from preserving Angel Island, Point Reyes, and the Golden Gate National Recreation Area to the establishment of the California Coastal Commission; Walker covers each in a few paragraphs.

Protecting open space from the developer's bulldozer has been a continuing challenge. Walker details how such growth control measures as green belts, urban boundaries, and regional planning have struggled against suburban sprawl. Petaluma's action in 1972 limiting growth of annual additional housing units was a landmark.

In a chapter on Napa and Sonoma Counties, Walker tackles the issues of agriculture and water, covering the expansion of the grape growing and winemaking industries and their positive and negative impacts on the countryside. The Sea Ranch controversy gave rise to **Californians Organized to Acquire Access to State Tidelands (COAAST)**. Local activists **Bill Kortum**, **Chuck Rinehart**, **Dick Day** and **Joan Vilms** all appear in the narrative, as do the first progressive Sonoma County supervisors - Helen Rudee, Eric Koenigshofer, Helen Putnam, and Ernie Carpenter - open to a moderate green agenda. Walker applauds the **Sonoma Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District**, established in 1990, as the first in the U.S. to be funded by a sales tax.

Not surprisingly, Walker sees the future of environmentalism requiring new alliances of traditional conservation groups like the Sierra Club with the labor movement and expanding communities of Latinos, Asians, and African Americans in California. In this regard, he views **Sonoma County's Accountable Development Coalition** as a model for the next stages of urban environmentalism.

Walker's book offers a fresh perspective on the historic range of environmental activities in the Bay Area, and his optimistic spirit should encourage all activists.

David Walls, a Sebastopol resident, is professor emeritus of sociology at Sonoma State University, and author of The Activist's Almanac.

The Quest Continues: Cloverdale Urban Growth Boundary

On October 9th, citizens of Cloverdale gathered in the Citrus Fair Tea Room for an educational forum on Urban Growth Boundaries. The forum was sponsored by Sonoma County Conservation Action, Greenbelt Alliance, and Cloverdale Committee for an Urban Growth Boundary. The event was very well attended, with over 130 residents from Cloverdale.

A panel made up of 5 people each spoke to their own area of expertise. Dennis Rosatti, SCCA Executive Director, spoke about the history of the campaigns in the other 8 cities of Sonoma County. Next up was Eric Koenigshofer, a former Sonoma County Supervisor who talked about the original County General Plan, that he helped shape while serving on the board. Lois Fisher spoke about urban design and smart codes, and how smart growth principles might be applied in Cloverdale. Lois was followed by Debora Fudge, Mayor Pro

Tem of Windsor, who told anecdotal stories about Windsor's efforts to pass an Urban Growth Boundary..

Daisy Pistey-Lyhne finished off the presentation, with a look at where Cloverdale's current process is at in relation to the UGB, and also asked citizens to participate in ongoing dialogue, so that a limit line that is appropriate for Cloverdale can be established.

At the end of the night, folks were talking amongst themselves and were commenting via note cards that were passed out on where they would like to see the line drawn, and thoughts they had on one of three proposals for boundary lines that Greenbelt Alliance had prepared.

We will keep you posted as things develop on this hot County issue. It is likely that an Urban Growth Boundary will be on Cloverdale's ballot for the Fall of 2008, and SCCA will be active to see it's passage through. ◇

Know Your Neighbor (KYN) Schedule of Events:

October 21, 2007: Sunday, 3-6pm: **An Environmental Affair: Climate Change and Sonoma County Water.**

Presenters: Peter Spencer of Sierra Club Climate and Energy Committee, Stephen Fuller-Rowell of Sonoma County Water Coalition. Please join us for a lovely afternoon outside learning about our current state of climate change, local water issues and what we can do! Enjoy delicious wine and local food catered by The Epicurean Connection.

Location: 1492 Nut Tree Ln, Sonoma. Sliding scale: \$25-50, RSVP Requested.

November 3, 2007: Saturday, 9:30am-3:30pm: **Sustainable Beekeeping Workshop**, taught by long-time beekeeper April Lance. In a time of disappearing bees, it is more important than ever to learn how to encourage and sustain healthy honey bee populations.

Location: 1656 W. Dry Creek Rd, Healdsburg. Cost: \$60, RSVP Required.

November 14, 2007: Wednesday, 7-9pm: **Clean Money Elections**, presented by Danny Medress of CA Clean Money Campaign. Come learn about corruptive effects of campaign contributions and positive effects of clean money campaigns.

Location: SCCA. Suggested donation: \$5-10.

December 2007: Public Speaking Workshop, taught by Monnet. Please join us for this 2-day workshop learning how to empower your voice. Exact date TBD. Cost: \$60

December 2007: Know Your Neighbor (KYN) Benefit. Please join us in a benefit for SCCA's neighborhood organizing program. Learn more about Know Your Neighbor (KYN) and enjoy organic food and palate-stimulating wines.

Location: Starlight Wine Bar and Restaurant, Sebastopol. Details TBA.

January 31, 2008: Thursday, 7:15pm: **SCCA Movie Nite at Rialto!** Come join us for an evening of fascinating cinematography and a silent auction. "Named after a Sufi word that translates roughly as "breath of life" or "blessing," *Baraka* is shot in 24 countries on six continents, uniting religious ritual, phenomena of nature, and humans' destructive powers into a web of moving images. The feeling is like that of viewing the universe through a powerful telescope."

Location: Rialto Cinemas Lakeside, Santa Rosa. Cost: \$10, RSVP Requested.

January 2008: First in a Monthly Series on The Workings of County Government! TBD

February 21, 2008: Thursday, 7-9pm: **Wal-Mart: The High Cost of Low Price.** Eat yummy GE-Free popcorn while watching this informative documentary. "The film features the deeply personal stories and every day lives of families and communities struggling to survive in a Wal-Mart world. The film has been seen by millions worldwide. Families, churches, schools, and small business owners have screened the film over 10,000 times. See the film, share it, and become part of the movement forcing companies to act responsibly."

Location: SCCA. Suggested donation: \$5-10.

March 13, 2008: Thursday, 7-9pm: **The Future of Food.** This insightful documentary "offers an in-depth investigation into the disturbing truth behind the unlabeled, patented, genetically engineered foods that have quietly filled U.S. grocery store shelves for the past decade." Of course, we'll have GE-Free popcorn!

Location: SCCA. Suggested donation: \$5-10.

March 22, 2008: Saturday, 10am-4pm: **Compost Workshop!**

Taught by experienced gardener and compost queen BJ Avery. Come learn the ins and outs of a variety of ways to compost. Reduce your waste and feed your garden! Location: TBD. Cost: \$60, reservations required.

Ongoing: Precinct Organizing for the Environment!

Facilitated by Jenna Brager, SCCA is working to build precinct teams in every City and Supervisorial district in Sonoma County. Call Jenna to find out more!

KNOW YOUR NEIGHBOR : An Update

SCCA's neighborhood organizing program is very much alive and expanding. Thanks to an abundance of caring citizens, the Know Your Neighbor (KYN) Program is increasingly building teams of environmentally and socially concerned people in their own neighborhoods.



KYN Permaculture Workshop attendees creating an herb spiral.

We have several gatherings each week in different neighborhoods all over Sonoma County, in which neighbors discuss local issues and how to be effective working on them.

Localizing our efforts to improve our own neighborhoods continually proves to be effective at making the changes we want to see and building community around environmental and social awareness. So let's get together with our neighbors to protect and enhance our environment!

In this effort to gather likeminded people, grow awareness, and inspire, we have an exciting variety of on-going events – film showings, sustainability workshops, forums, dinners, and more! Please see the KYN events schedule, and join us for good times and lots of learning.

We'd love for each of you to participate in building our environmental community by connecting with your neighbors. The success of this movement depends on you as citizens of Sonoma County. The grassroots are powerful; and *together we make the difference.*

Please contact Jenna to get involved:
jenna@conservationaction.org
707-571-8868.

After decades of suburban-sprawl development that has the city bursting at its seams, Santa Rosa has begun to look inward for future growth; away from the hillsides and agricultural lands that surround it, and towards its increasingly vibrant downtown.

The Downtown Station Area Specific Plan (SAP) contains proposals that will create smart growth opportunities for future development. Reconnecting Fourth Street through The Plaza, attracting a major grocery store to the area, and creation of over 3,000 new housing units are just a few of the visions outlined in the SAP.

After two-year long process and significant input from the public, the City Council voted unanimously to adopt the Plan in early October. **A number of key changes are poised to take place as a result of the Station Area Plan process, including:**

- A comprehensive review of the City's Housing Allocation Plan, with an eye towards eliminating the mixed-use exemption and changing the inclusionary housing threshold from acreage- to unit-based. Currently, projects smaller than 15 acres are not required

to build any inclusionary units, and mixed-use development is exempt from both in-lieu fees and requirements to build inclusionary units.

- The adoption of a citywide, mandatory green building ordinance, requiring a minimum of 50 points under 2007 Build it Green guidelines and 20 points under LEED. A task force has been established to recommend such an ordinance and study how these minimum requirements should be ramped up over time.

- The adoption of standards for commercial bicycle parking that are based on square-footage rather than parking requirements for cars.

SCCA has been active with its partner group Conservation Action Fund for Education (CAFE), combining to generate hundreds of letters from concerned residents which led to many of these sound policy recommendations. CAFE sponsored bilingual canvassers to canvass the SAP area, resulting in an unprecedented level of Spanish letters aimed at city decision makers—a real victory for an often overlooked constituency.

This effort has been one of collaborations. Greenbelt Alliance, the Accountable Development Coalition, Conservation Action Fund for Education, and Sonoma County Conservation Action have been key contributors. Our organizations have been active in a Bay Area movement called The Great Communities Initiative, which can be found on the web at http://www.transcoalition.org/c/gci/gci_home.html

Over the months to come, there will be a number of important public processes taking place, and these will determine whether the pivotal changes discussed above are implemented. We thank you for your hard work, and need you to continue turning out to support smart growth, mixed income neighborhoods, and green building for our downtown!

Please contact Jessica Diaz, diaz.adc@gmail.com, Accountable Development Coalition Coordinator to receive updates and get involved!

Julia Prange is currently working toward her masters in Urban and Environmental Policy and Planning at Tufts University in Boston, MA ♦

THE SCCA NEWS SCOOP

By Denny Rosatti

Santa Rosa Green Building

Santa Rosa has begun taking steps to update its green building ordinance, thanks in large part to the work SCCA canvassers did notifying residents and generating letters to the council demanding mandatory green building standards for the downtown Station Area Plan.

Dennis Rosatti, SCCA's Executive Director, has been asked to serve on a committee appointed by the City Council to work out the details of the ordinance. What we're looking for is a mandatory ordinance that can be used as a model for other communities in the state and nation. We'll keep you informed as this issue develops over the next several months.

Windsor Rail Depot

Windsor has a new multimodal cen-

ter (i.e. train station) in Downtown Windsor, in anticipation of SMART's eventual passage which would include



Windsor's New Train Depot

daily rail service between Cloverdale and the Larkspur Ferry. Said Windsor Mayor Pro Tem Debora Fudge, "The residents of Windsor love their new train station, and they are pleased to be on the cutting edge of alternative transportation options in Sonoma County". This type of cooperation is very encouraging for the future.

Chris Coursey Gets SMART

Many of us have been reading Chris Coursey's column in the Press Democrat for years, enjoying his thoughtful inquiries into land use planning and County politics. It seems that the folks at SMART have been reading too!

SMART recently hired Coursey to be their Media and Public Relations Director. Coursey will be a full-time SMART staff person, and will report to SMART's Executive Director, Lillian Hanes. According to Coursey, "SMART decided after the last election that it needed to do a better job at making sure people get the information they need to understand the benefits of passenger rail in the North Bay. I'm excited to be part of that effort and look forward to working with individuals, local government and community groups to make SMART a part of our future."♦



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Canvass Report

by Craig Litwin, Political Director

What a phenomenal Canvassing crew! Did you know that SCCA's effectiveness stems primarily from our ability to go door to door, and to do full-time outreach via our phone program? This is how we are able to do things like help renew the Open Space District! Without you joining and renewing your memberships, we would not be able to do the full time canvassing work that we have done for the past 16 years.

Here are a just a few of the things that our crew was able to do with your support **in just the last three months:**

Our canvass was able to collect more than 1200 signatures for the General Plan Update, calling for better protections for our streams and waterways, reducing green house gasses, and better development planning; concentrating new growth in service centers instead of piecemeal throughout the county.

We were also able to work on a ban of plastic bags in the city of Healdsburg, which would effectively reduce greenhouse gasses, reduce the landfill, and promote conservation as a lifestyle.

When we reuse our canvass bag at the store we are not reliant on a petroleum bag that litters our coast, river and streams, and which also takes a thousand years to decompose.

Additionally, we were able to promote the city-centered development in the city of Sonoma in regards to their hospital. Our canvass identified numerous people that want to see the hospital not only stay in the city-center, but be improved and modernized to offer all of the necessary health options for a strong city.

We are currently registering voters at the door, and just got done working for a successful turnout at the Urban Growth Boundary Forum SCCA co-hosted in Cloverdale. We are ever diligent to attain the last UGB in the county.

We have canvassed through the heat of summer and are now into the Fall season. As the leaves begin to turn and the winter rains begin we will still be out there. For even though the election season starts in earnest January 1, 2008, for us, it started 16 years ago with the first door that we knocked on.

Thank you for supporting the grassroots of Sonoma County!

SUPPORT CONSERVATION ACTION!

SCCA is sustained entirely by the contributions of local concerned citizens. Please sign up or renew today. Thanks!

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Signature: _____

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