



## Move Dutra to the Dump

By Bill Kortum

The Dutra asphalt plant's proposed location in the voter mandated scenic corridor below Petaluma will have a degrading influence on Shollenberger Park immediately across the Petaluma River. SCCA canvassers have spent almost a year educating the public to express their concern to the Board of Supervisors.

Often at the door the question arises about an alternate site.

An alternative site proposal has been formally submitted to the County planning department. Supervisor Kerns has the prerogative to offer Dutra a location on the secluded back end of the 400 acre county refuse site on Meacham Road.

The county site contains 20 million cubic yards of rock that could be mined by Dutra to save the complicated, energy intensive barging of rock from Marin County to Haystack. Highway 101 is a short distance away for transport of the hot asphalt. Methane gas produced by the county dump can be used to heat the asphalt. Used asphalt shingles and tar paper, having no recycling market, could be used as feedstock for asphalt.

Every yard of rock removal represents a potential of half a ton of garbage capacity.

Along with increasing emphasis on recycling, the life of the dump could be extended fifty years. Fifty year disposal capacity can lead to the reassembly of the nine-city consortium to use in-county management of our waste and avoid hauling garbage to destinations outside the county. The generation of jobs by this reconfiguration far outnumbers the jobs generated by the Haystack Landing proposal. The County, having no new refuse site after a twenty year search, should retain the 400 acre site if for no other reason than to have a location for

(Continued on page 5)

## Annual Dinner Spotlight on Climate Change

By Bonnie Berkeley

**Like deer caught in headlights**, many reluctant politicians previously in "climate change denial" are suddenly bathing themselves in the new color of the season, "green". SCCA is ever diligent in sorting out green-washing and green-speak, so we can truly support politicians who are proven activists in addressing the urgent issue of our changing climate.



Senator Pavley to speak at SCCA Dinner.

This year, we are fortunate to have a proven activist speaking at your annual membership dinner. We'll spotlight State Senator Fran Pavley, author of CA's groundbreaking global warming legislation AB32, who has forged a legislative path making a real difference to our state, 14 other states (at last count), and other countries that are following her lead and basing changes on California's model.

Many are more aware of her legislation than her name; though you will soon know her, and to know her is to be inspired and grateful to her for securing laws which diminish toxic and

Earth-damaging emissions. You will want to hear what she has to say at SCCA's dinner and will leave informed and encouraged.

Keeping with Conservation Action's focus on Climate Change, we'll enjoy a new dinner venue, Sonoma Mountain Village Event Center. Sonoma Mountain Village is on the radar of many environmental organizations nationally and globally. They have received prestigious awards, which reflects well on our County. When fully realized, their plans will create one of the most sustainable communities on the planet. SCCA has worked with this new Coddling generation to help assure achievement of real solutions for good environmental planning.

SCCA especially needs and appreciates your support this difficult year to help continue our work in this beautiful County. After 18 years as "upstream swimmers," we've been around long enough to see the tide starting to turn. Last year staff and volunteers extended major efforts to elect politicians with the conservation ethic we all hope for. **For the first time in history**, the Santa Rosa City Council has an environmental majority, as does Petaluma. In fact, now 6 out of 9 cities have green majorities. SMART train is also a **big victory** for transportation, which we campaigned hard for. Did you know that Sonoma County's 93% voter turn-out was tops

(Continued on page 8)

## SCCA Annual Benefit Dinner and Celebration

**Thursday, June 25, 2009 5-9PM**

**Sonoma Mountain Village Event Center, Rohnert Park**

**Keynote Speaker:** State Senator Fran Pavley, Author of AB32, CA's Groundbreaking Global Warming Legislation!

**Dinner:** Sit-Down Style, Local and Organic Selections and Wine

**Cost:** \$45/ticket, Sponsorships and Silent Auction Donations Welcome

Number of Tickets \_\_\_\_\_ x \$45.00/ticket = \$ \_\_\_\_\_ enclosed

# of Dinners: Chicken Piccata \_\_\_\_\_ Vegetarian \_\_\_\_\_

I can't attend, but enclosed is \$ \_\_\_\_\_ to support the good work of SCCA to protect and steward the environment of Sonoma County.

Mail to: SCCA 540 Pacific Ave, Santa Rosa, CA 95404 Attn: Annual Dinner

# Environmental Elected Corner: Shirlee Zane, 3rd District Supervisor

## A Note to Our Readers:

*This is the sixth installment in our ongoing series featuring environmental elects and the policy and challenges they face in their roles as public servants. Here we have a telling narrative from Shirlee Zane, who was recently elected to the to represent the 3rd Sonoma County Supervisorial District. I hope you enjoy this insight into County government, straight from the source!*

*Dennis Rosatti, Executive Director*

## Sonoma County Update

*By Shirlee Zane, 3rd District Supervisor*

When I stepped into my new office for the first time as a Sonoma County Supervisor, the world looked so different than when I started my campaign nearly two years ago.

In the wake of an inspiring presidential election, hope seems more palpable than in the waning months of 2007. Yet so do the challenges.

At the County of Sonoma, we have experienced unprecedented demand for medical, housing and food assistance as people lose their jobs and watch their home equity evaporate. As demand for services mounts, funding from the state threatens to dwindle and declining local tax revenues offer little with which to fill the gap.

When I was sworn into office on a Monday morning in January, I passed the Human Services building on Paulin Drive, where people line up in the early hours of the morning before the doors open, awaiting assistance.

Several years ago, I may not have guessed that I'd find myself here, on the Sonoma County Board of Supervisors. For so many of the people lined up just down the street from my office, their present circumstances would have been unimaginable to them then as well. Their steady jobs and solvent loans have been supplanted by unemployment, foreclosures, and uncertainty.

During times like these, I worry about conservation efforts going adrift in a sea of economic despair. Yet all we need to do is remember what landed us here: mismanagement of capital based on the desire for short-



*Shirlee Zane, 3rd District Supervisor*

term gain. Whether the resources we are talking about are financial, human, or natural, we realize now that the only option for a better future is to manage them in a sustainable way.

That's why I am committed to protecting our environment during these tough economic times. Creating and attracting high-quality jobs and generating revenue locally is absolutely critical, and these objectives can be achieved without squandering our natural resources. My votes on land use matters have and will continue to reflect this core belief.

In seeking to live more lightly on the planet, we can actually create greater economic stimulus than we could through continued overconsumption of resources. Take for example the Sonoma County Energy Independence Program (SCEIP), which I have been proud to champion as a means of putting energy efficiency, water conservation and renewable energy within reach of more Sonoma County residents. While this program will help lower electricity, natural gas and water usage, it is also a huge boon to our local building trades and contractors.

Sometime this summer, the Board of Supervisors will consider green building standards for new construction, and my hope is that these standards are in keeping with our aggressive goals for reducing greenhouse gas emissions and will spur continued innovation and improvement in green construction practices.

As a co-chair for Sonoma County Health Action, I am proud to be a part of our "iGrow" initiative which seeks to increase access to healthy food by

proliferating community gardens, thus increasing food security for the economically vulnerable and making our eating habits more environmentally sustainable.

I would be remiss as we go into these dry summer months not to say a few words about water. I championed the Sonoma County Energy Independence Program as a means of financing water conservation, and hope to see the Sonoma County Water Agency and our water contractors work together on similar initiatives to reach even more households. We also need to stop divorcing groundwater management from land use decisions. The Sonoma County Water Agency is embarking on a groundwater study and management planning process for the Santa Rosa Plain, and I have been working with them to ensure environmental stakeholders are at the table.

It is indeed a different world than the one in which I began my campaign for County Supervisor. If ever there was a time when we could afford to be "partisan" in our environmentalism, I think that time has passed.

While – to be sure – there are important fights ahead, these times demand so much more than fighting. It is a time to envision and create and collaborate. And this means that as environmentalists, we need to embrace unlikely alliances.

I plan to lead by example and convene diverse stakeholders to discuss the issue of how to create jobs in Sonoma County while preserving our quality of life. It is my hope that my office can help forge long-term, productive, and – upon occasion – unusual partnerships in pursuit of economic prosperity and environmental sustainability.

I am thankful for all of you who helped get me here, and look forward to working with you in the years ahead. ♦

*Shirlee Zane can be reached at [szane@sonoma-county.org](mailto:szane@sonoma-county.org) or (707) 565-2241. For Board of Supervisors agendas and other information, go to: [www.sonoma-county.org/board](http://www.sonoma-county.org/board)*

## CONSERVATION ACTION ALERT!

### Preservation Ranch

By Jay Halcomb, Sierra Club Chapter President

The largest and most prominent use issue in Sonoma County is the Preservation Ranch project, near Annapolis.

This is the largest forest-to-vineyard conversion project ever proposed in California coastal forestlands. Premiere Pacific Vineyards, Inc. has begun the formal process for a permit to convert (permanently deforest) 1,681 acres of timberland to vineyards on an approx. 19,000 acre property in northwest Sonoma County near Annapolis, in the Gualala watershed. As a result, the Permit and Resource Management Department (PRMD) of Sonoma County has initiated the required Environmental Impact Report (EIR) process on this proposal. **The core components of the proposal are: permanent rezoning from timber production use to rural residential development (forest conversion to vineyards is prohibited under current zoning); use permits for 17 ridge top vineyard blocks; and "consideration" of other project activities.** The Initial Study describes a project that includes a 3 to 5 year construction period for ridge top vineyards, reservoirs, gravel quarries, internal road expansion and upgrades, drainage and water delivery systems, worker housing and renewed timber operations. The current proposal does not appear to include any vineyard estate luxury homes, however, past versions of the project proposed over one hundred such residences, and they might appear in subsequent proposals after initial permits are issued. This land has been over-logged for decades, which is why it now looks prof-



A clearcut on the Gualala River.

itable for a land conversion and these new uses.

There are better alternatives than vineyard conversion for this property, which could be managed for sustainable forestry and restoration forestry without the vineyards.

*Potential adverse impacts and issues of the project include:*

**Water impacts:** the project will affect tributary creek flows, requiring 40 new reservoirs to be constructed, each of 10 to 40 acre-feet capacity; will result in greatly increased agricultural water demand for irrigation and frost protection; over 10 miles of seasonal creeks are to be filled; potential for significant impacts on water quality and salmonid recovery for the Gualala watershed.

**Forest impacts:** invasive species spread; *permanent loss of 1700 acres of ridgetop forest and habitat through conversion*; loss of the actual and potential carbon sequestration values of the forest potential for piecemealing of future logging.

**Habitat, wildlife and fishery impacts:** *over 85 miles of 8 foot high wildlife fencing are to be installed*, resulting in habitat fragmentation and permanent wildlife hazards; the vineyard buffer zones will be adopted from the forest practice rules, providing inadequate protections.

**Fire impacts:** fire ignition risks due to agricultural and construction opera-

tions; and increased need for fire protection services. Current fire response time for this area is estimated to be about 45 minutes.

**Road impacts:** increased public road use; major road expansion in forestland; gravel quarry mining to be done on-site with gravel trucking from off-site; noise and permanent lighting impacts, both during construction and normal operations.

**Vineyard impacts:** soil fumigation for vineyards is not prohibited; the "sustainable" agriculture proposed may be unenforceable; there is potential for emergency pesticide spraying; targets potential for piecemealing of residential development.

**Tax impacts:** the public would need to support greatly increased road maintenance,

fire protection, and other infrastructure needs resulting from forty or more permanent workers and more than 200 seasonal workers serving the project. **What will be the hidden costs to the County?**



More Gualala clearcuts.

### TAKE ACTION NOW!

See Sierra Club Website:  
[www.redwood.sierraclub.org/sonoma/forest.html](http://www.redwood.sierraclub.org/sonoma/forest.html)

Contact: Dan Kerbein, **dkerbein@earthlink.net**, 707-535-0326

Write to Sonoma County Permits and Resource Management Dept. at:

PRMD, Attention: David Schiltgen -  
File No. PLP06-0107, 2550 Ventura  
Avenue, Santa Rosa, CA 95403-2829.

Contact your County Supervisor!

[ecarrillo@sonoma-county.org](mailto:ecarrillo@sonoma-county.org)  
[vbrown@sonoma-county.org](mailto:vbrown@sonoma-county.org)  
[pkelley@sonoma-county.org](mailto:pkelley@sonoma-county.org)  
[mkerns@sonoma-county.org](mailto:mkerns@sonoma-county.org)  
[szane@sonoma-county.org](mailto:szane@sonoma-county.org)

*Include the points mentioned above!*

### SCCA and CAFE Upcoming Events

#### **July 16th: River Float, 5-9PM**

**Canoe on the Russian River with SCCA and the Russian Riverkeeper.**

**Learn About River Issues and Activism on an Outdoor Adventure!**

**Meet at Wohler Bridge Parking Area at 4:45**

**Cost: \$50-\$100 Sliding Scale**

**RSVP Required! Call 707-571-8868 or**

**email [jenna@conservationaction.org](mailto:jenna@conservationaction.org)**

## Waiting for the Tooth Fairy by David Keller

We don't have the water. It's not just this year.

We don't have the water. It's not just the third year of drought either.

- **The Russian River is pumped down, mined, discharged in, over-appropriated and abused.**

- The Eel River gets dewatered and hot, with her salmon and steelhead fisheries decimated. Major damages caused by dams and water transfers through PG&E's Potter Valley Project (PVP) continue, masking the Russian River's mismanagement by supplementing Lake Mendocino.

- Sonoma County's groundwater basins are drained by water agency, city and private wells.

- To prevent continued killing of remaining steelhead and salmon by high flows and velocities, National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) is requiring a \$110M+ program to reconstruct Dry Creek habitat, parts of the Russian River and its estuary. Increased releases from Lake Sonoma will be delayed at least 10 years. If Dry Creek cannot sustain higher flows without jeopardizing fish, a \$300-500M pipeline could be required, too.

- In 2004, NMFS reduced PVP diversions to help prevent extinction of Eel River salmonids.

- Sonoma County Water Agency (SCWA) just defunded its long-planned water project expansion, the Water Supply, Transmission and Reliability Project EIR, as probably legally infeasible and immensely expensive. It would have enlarged the system to take an additional 26,000 acre feet of water per year from the Russian River (for at least another 250,000 people).

- SCWA is part of the North Bay Water Reuse Project (NBWRA), seeking US Bureau of Reclamation funding to pump treated wastewater to grape growers in southern Sonoma and Napa Valleys who've overdrawn their local supplies. The project design has ***no obligation or goal to use recycled water primarily to offset municipal potable water demands*** on the Russian and Eel Rivers. Instead, this

boondoggle would pump it to new agricultural customers at ratepayers' expense of \$300-500M, generate huge green house gas emissions, and mask poor grape growing practices. (Comments on the DEIR/EIS are due 6/26: <http://www.nbwra.org/docs/>) SCWA did, however, just cancel another reuse project, the North Sonoma County Agricultural Reuse Project, due to massive objections, lack of recycled water, and impacts of recycled water on soils and grapes.

- Unregulated pumping from the Rus-



The "Water Fairy" brings fresh supply regardless of availability—making "paper water" a dream come true!

sian River and tributaries for vineyard frost protection in the past few years has led to salmon and steelhead kills and wide gyrations in river flows.

- **Over 800 unpermitted** and illegal agricultural reservoirs and pumps have drawn down the Russian River watershed with no regulatory controls currently in place to assure enough water for fish passage and downstream drinking, agricultural and recreational users.

- The Sonoma County Water Agency (SCWA) 2005 Urban Water Management Plan, which predicts future water supplies for the county and cities, **was ruled significantly deficient** in court, invalidating most General Plan water assumptions.

- The State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB), ordered 25% cutbacks in summertime Russian River withdrawals in Sonoma County and 50% in Mendocino County, to leave enough water for autumn's salmon runs. They require Russian River water quality monitoring, and prohibit commercial turf irrigation and filling unmet water demands with more groundwater pumping. Cities protested this order, claiming they can

conserve enough water ***voluntarily***. Major water users have said "No mandatory enforcement!" for years. Fortunately, SWRCB Board members responded: "I don't want to hear any more about your past conservation practices. They haven't been enough. Tell me what you're going to do from this point forward." The new rules "will require some sacrifices by agricultural and urban users. This is not a temporary order any more!"

This cutback, the fourth in seven years, is the new 'normal' and a *beta*-test for changes in impending mandatory river flows.

Yet our cities grow and vineyard expansions continue, even though *there is no more water available* from our watersheds and reservoirs for many years to come, no less during drought times. Remarkably, our local governments act as if there's plenty of water for us, forever. SCWA and the water contractors still haven't proposed rewriting the water delivery contracts or General Plans to match supply realities. "Paper water" keeps the development machinery going without substantial changes in watershed management and water efficiencies.

We're still acting as if 'someone' will fix this for us, painlessly, quickly, without cost.

The water battles will continue. Our political leaders, regulators and engineers have known about impending system failures and disruptions for over 25 years, but have chosen instead to 'stay the course', while our rivers, watersheds, fish, wildlife, soils, groundwater, recreation, tourism and local economies are damaged.

It's time to seriously change our practices, and not just for this year. If not now, when? Where's our water coming from after this next round of choices?

**Or is the tooth fairy still coming...◇**

*David Keller is formerly a Petaluma City Councilmember, is the Bay Area Director for Friends of the Eel River, and has been an SCCA Board Member for more than twelve years.*

those unknown needs in the future for activities that are shunned by the public. At the same time, abandoning the Haystack Landing asphalt plant site would remove the plant's impact on Shollenberger Park's wildlife and its 150,000 visitors.

The Supervisors' straw vote endorsing the Haystack site disregards the Petaluma voter mandated Urban Growth Boundary and the countywide voter mandated Scenic Corridor between Petaluma and Marin County. The unanimous vote against the Haystack location by the Petaluma City Council should in itself require a move to a new location.

And a statement from the North Bay Labor Council, while endorsing Dutra, urges opponents to offer an alternative solution.

**The offer has been made.**      ◇

*Bill Kortum is former South Sonoma County Supervisor and is the Founder and President Emeritus of SCCA.*

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## **Fudge Kicks Off Run for 4th District Supervisor**

**Debora Fudge** kicked off her bid for the Board of Supervisors in great form with a big turnout of enthusiastic supporters, Saturday afternoon, May 30th. The stunning country setting with local farm fresh fare was a perfect backdrop for the cross-section of dedicated environmentalists, politicians, landowners and grassroots activists who showed up to be counted in the early stages as backers.

Deb has been a Windsor Councilwoman for 14 years, accruing the knowledge to earn this position and merit the support evidenced Saturday.      ◇

### **SCCA Report Card Graders Needed!**

Summer is upon us, and with it comes the Annual Environmental Report Card Process for 2009/2010!

We're looking for members who are willing to spend some time grading the electeds on your local City Council or Board of Supervisors! Call Denny at (707) 571-8566 or email [denny@conservationaction.org](mailto:denny@conservationaction.org)

## **SCCA Wish List**

Hey there folks, can you help us out with donations of stuff or funding to our not so random list of needs? Thanks!

1. New Office Space- 1400+ sq ft, w/ a Kitchen
  2. Ergonomically Designed Office Chairs/Desks
  3. Headsets for Phones
  4. Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) Membership
  5. Hybrid Car for Office/KYN staff
  6. Toaster Oven
  7. Sonoma County Parks Pass
  8. Working Umbrella's
  9. Bioneers Conference Sponsorships- \$1,700 needed!
  10. Flashlights and Batteries
  11. Environmental Majority on the Board of Supervisors\*
- \*This one would be fabulous!



# KNOW YOUR NEIGHBOR

Know Your Neighbor (KYN) volunteers have been very active! Team captains have stepped up to the plate and are hosting their own neighborhood gatherings and activities. KYN teams have kicked off their initial activities, which have included meeting with elected officials, neighborhood clean-ups, creek clean-ups, viewing environmental documentaries, writing letters on important issues, and more! Many thanks to all of you dedicated volunteers! Your role in KYN is critical to our local environment.



*Local activist Bill Kortum and CA Coastal Commission Director Peter Douglas sharing coastal history on SCCA's Coastal Day.*

Are you ready to practice water and energy conservation at home? Ready to save money on your water and power bills? Know Your Neighbor is currently developing a "Conservation At Home" initiative to bring to our volunteers. We will assess energy and water usage and costs amongst neighbors, and then collectively set goals for reductions. We'll continue to come together and keep on track to achieve our goals of reducing energy and water use at home. Let us know if you'd like to participate!

Our educational events and hands-on sustainability workshops are a continued success. See the adjacent photos of enthusiastic participants! We're really happy to announce that our next Know Your Neighbor event is an outdoor adventure! Join us for a float down the Russian River with Don McEnhill, the Russian Riverkeeper. As we enjoy firsthand experience on the river, the Riverkeeper



*Instructor Serge Labesque open the hive at our Beekeeping Workshop in Sebastopol.*

will brief us on current water and river issues and enlighten us as to how we can all help protect this incredibly valuable resource. See the back page for more details. The River Float is happening July 16, 5-9pm.



*Weeding and sheet mulching the garden at Meadow View Elementary School during our Permaculture Workshop.*

And lastly, it is with deep gratitude that I must announce my mid summer departure from SCCA and KYN. My time working with SCCA and all of you has been incredibly enriching. Your dedication and success are the greatest inspiration. Please continue your heroic efforts with KYN!

***For those of you just now finding yourself wanting to get involved and those of you wanting more event info, please contact Jenna at 707-571-8868 or [jenna@conservationaction.org](mailto:jenna@conservationaction.org)!***

## Canvass Report

By Christina Penrose, Canvass Program Director

The Canvassers are gearing up for summer, and finding supporters all over the rural areas of the county. It's great to have the daylight extended so we can see where we're going out on those country roads! You'll find some of the canvassers thoughts and ideas throughout this canvass report.

*"If I can bring awareness to one person, my night is a success."* –Leo

*"For every unfriendly person, there are at least ten wonderful people behind the door."* –Lauren

After meeting and eating homemade brownies with Debora Fudge and wrapping up our efforts knocking on doors in Windsor, and collecting letters from residents who oppose the Dutra Asphalt plant at Haystack Landing, we headed out to the Sonoma Valley. Laurie Gallian refreshed our knowledge on the city of Sonoma before we started making contacts. The landscapes are beautiful out there and people are anxious to preserve them.

Since then, we've had the pleasure of hearing from Steve Birdleough on the progress of the SMART agency,

and Don McEnhill, our Russian Riverkeeper, gave us some updates on the happenings with the Russian River and water issues in the county.

*"Fresh air and friendly faces."* –T.J.

In May, our Executive Director



"Kortum's Heroes"- Some SCCA Canvassers and Staff on Election Night Spring 2008

briefed us on the transportation and land use conferences he's been attending, preparing us for action on these critical issues. SCCA Board Member Don Lollock briefed us on his work with the California State Fish and Game Commission, and another Board Member Ken Wells briefed us on county garbage and recycling issues. We also heard from former canvasser Willow Pelot-Whitcomb on the

Israeli-Palestinian conflict and her recent trip to Israel for some perspective.

*"I like finding out how long our members have lived in the county, and what changes they've noticed."* –Josh

*"Unguarded conversations are appreciated. Much can be learned during the interaction."* –Kevin

*"Money is tight, of course, but we're still finding support out there."* –Kate

With the West County ahead of us, we have work to do regarding the Preservation Ranch Project in West County, and it's significant environmental impacts. We have lots of West County horses, goats and sheep to befriend, and of course friendly people to engage and organize. ◇

**Happy Summer!**

### Save the Earth!

SCCA is seeking an outgoing, energetic individual to coordinate it's **Know Your Neighbor Program (KYN)**. Details are available on our website at:

**[www.conservationaction.org](http://www.conservationaction.org)**

## THE SCCA NEWS SCOOP

By Dennis Rosatti, Executive Director

### Bohemia Ranch

A true gem of open space property has become available for purchase in the West County. Called "Bohemia Ranch", the 800+ acre property sits off Bohemian Highway between the towns of Occidental, Camp Meeker, and Monte Rio. The property has potential for camping and hiking, and hosts a wide variety of native plant species, mixed redwoods and oaks, and features three different feeder streams to Dutch Bill Creek. Many folks know this as "Bohemian Waterfall Park", as it was nearly purchased by the Open Space District back in 1999, and has an amazing waterfall on the property. SCCA is organizing a tour of the property for it's members, and is encouraging people to send letters of support to the Open Space District and to the County Supervisors. ◇

### Light Brown Apple Moth

The issue of Light Brown Apple Moth (LBAM) is complex, but stated simply, when two or more LBAM's are discovered in an area, a state mandated quarantine zone is created which places restrictions on growers (large and small scale) in that zone when moving produce or ag products off their properties. SCCA has joined with Occidental Arts and Ecology Center, CA Native Plant Society, Community Alliance of Family Farmers, and Sierra Club to work with the Ag Community and local government agencies to create a best practices consensus document for dealing with the presence of LBAM in Sonoma County. All of our collective organizations agreed that LBAM shouldn't be dealt with through the quarantines or through aerial spraying, and that international trade politics are the real culprit behind the LBAM paranoia.

Our main goal was to avoid a situation where farmers are left to fend for themselves without best practices and may be tempted to use more toxic methods to prevent the moths from ever surfacing on their land. ◇

### Sonoma County Energy Independence Program Launched

The AB811 program I mentioned last issue has been put on fast track and is now available for Sonoma County residents. The basic premise is that homeowners can borrow money from the County to perform energy and water conservation retrofits, and then repay the loans as part of the annual property tax bill. Ideally, the program will allow for the homeowner to create savings each month on their utility bill, and set that money aside so that it can be repaid at the end of the year, creating a net zero cost to the individual, while achieving high levels of environmental savings. ◇





Sonoma County Conservation Action

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scca@ConservationAction.org

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#### Annual Dinner continued from p. 1

in the state?! Now that's grassroots organizing!

On the horizon are more urgent issues - strategies and decisions needing to be addressed. It seems that pressure continues to build as population increases, resources deplete and toxics erode our climate. **Decisions to protect, preserve and enhance the environment are waiting for people with where-withal, know-how, experience, and passion. SCCA is your premier Sonoma County environmental organization who will assure this happens. This is a fiscally challenging year and we need you!** As a Sonoma County resident, you deserve the current irrevocable decision-making to become the right decisions. That is our task, with your support.

Let's gather for SCCA's Annual Benefit and Celebration; toast successes and people who've volunteered; enjoy a sit-down catered dinner; be the winning bidder on this year's silent auction items; and enjoy rubbing *real* green elbows with our keynote speaker, State Senator Fran Pavley. ♦

*Bonnie Berkeley is a Dry Creek Valley resident and has been active in Sonoma County politics for many years. She currently serves as SCCA Board Chair.*

### SCCA RIVER FLOAT!

**Thursday, July 16, 2009, 5pm-9pm**

\$50 – 100, sliding scale.

Please bring your own water and snacks. Clothing for evening is best.

*An evening float on the Russian River with the Russian Riverkeeper. Learn about current water and river issues.*

We'll paddle canoes from below the confluence with Dry Creek to the Wohler Bridge. This remote 6.5 mile paddle takes us through an intimate, hard to access part of the river which is home to abundant birds and wildlife.

Meet at 4:45pm at the Wohler Bridge parking lot outside of Forestville. Corner of Wohler and Westside Roads. Don't be late!

**RSVP Required!** Call 707-571-8868 or email [jenna@conservationaction.org](mailto:jenna@conservationaction.org)

#### 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: \_\_\_\_\_

*Contributions to SCCA support our advocacy and grassroots Organizing work. They are not tax-deductible.*

☐ **Yes, I want to receive my newsletter by email!**

#### Please circle your preferences!

<b>Regular</b>	\$250 Patron	\$120 Sponsor
<b>Membership:</b>	\$75 Supporter	\$52 Family
	\$36 Individual	\$25 Entry Level

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*Please join our growing list of **Sustaining Members** who give Regularly-scheduled donations via credit card. Call us at the office at **571-8566** for more information*

**Please share this newsletter with your neighbors and friends! Thank You!**