

Dutra Lies to Coast Guard

Sheri Chlebowski, President, Moms for Clean Air

As many of you know numerous community organizations, the majority of Petaluma's residents, and the City of Petaluma have been protesting the proposed Dutra Asphalt plant project at Haystack Landing, across the river from Shollenberger Park.

This project has become a confusing and flawed project in many ways. The public's understanding surrounding the project worsens with each modification made by Dutra and subsequent vote postponement by the Sonoma County Board of Supervisors.

The project proponents continue to push forward even in the face of inadequacies and impossibilities. Recently the proponents have had issues with the Coast Guard, PG&E, and a new proposal to use the Shamrock facility upstream.

In December, the Dutra Group solicited an opinion from the United States Coast Guard regarding navigational river safety of their proposed barge and mooring facility. The Coast Guard issued a letter of support but quickly recanted it after discovering that their decision was based on incorrect river maps provided by the Dutra Group consultant and a site visit which confirmed the river's inadequacies to dock a barge in the proposed location.

Based on this new information, they informed the Dutra Group that their barge facility would in fact create a safety hazard on the river. The Dutra Group's response was to issue a letter to the County arguing that the Coast Guard opinion would interfere with other commercial uses on the river jeopardizing the ability to receive federal funds to dredge the river. Arguing further that without the funding to dredge the river, the commercial and recreational uses of the river would be impaired, as well as flooding of downtown Petaluma. These are inaccurate and misleading arguments designed to

(Continued on page 4)

SCCA Endorsements for June 8, 2010

Torliatt for 2nd District Supervisor



As a fourth-generation Petaluma resident, Mayor Pamela Torliatt was raised with a strong sense of what it means to serve our community. After graduating from UC Santa Barbara with a Bachelor of Arts

degree in Political Science, Pamela returned to Sonoma County determined to make a difference in her community and serve the public interest. She called up then-City Councilmember Lynn Woolsey, asked for a volunteer position and quickly dove into the intricacies of local government. In 1992, she became the youngest appointee to the Planning Commission in the City of Petaluma's history. Four years later, she was the

(Continued on page 3)

Fudge for 4th District Supervisor



I have been an environmental leader in Sonoma County since 1994, when I was appointed to the Windsor Planning Commission. In 1996, I was elected to the Windsor Town Council, and we led the effort to **stop the sprawl** in Windsor.

We put an urban growth boundary on the ballot that **saved 300 acres** from more sprawling development, with better planning for city centered development. We then focused on "smart growth" and built our Downtown and Town Green, giving Windsor a much needed heart for our community. The **Sierra Club** awarded this project as one of the country's top 15 developments in the U.S. for 2006.

We built our own train depot to get ready for the SMART train. I led the effort to provide recycled water for

(Continued on page 3)

Allen for 7th Assembly District



A candidate for State Assembly in the 7th District, Michael Allen has been a community leader for over 30 years and has a record of activism that makes him uniquely qualified to tackle the diverse issues facing our community and our state. Michael is a reform-minded progressive leader, who is intent on solving problems in Sacramento and making our legislature work for Californians.

A resident of Santa Rosa, Michael Allen has had an extensive career as a registered nurse, lawyer and labor leader right here in our community. He began as a psychiatric nurse for the Sonoma County Crisis Clinic. Michael then put himself through law school and graduated to join the Sierra Club Legal Defense Team on the Warm Springs Dam initiative before becoming a negotiator, mediator, and consensus builder at the Sonoma County Organization of Public Employees.

In 1984, the membership promoted Michael Allen to Executive Director of the Service Employees International Union Local 707 and he later

(Continued on page 3)



GET TO KNOW YOUR NEIGHBOR AND WORK TO PROTECT SONOMA COUNTY!



Groups of Know Your Neighbor volunteers have been meeting all around the county, working on our on pilot project—the **Conservation At Home Initiative**. With the help of local experts, we are learning about local incentives and rebates, and the most effective ways to

start conserving energy and water, and start shrinking our carbon footprint today!

We all want to live in an economically vibrant, environmentally sustainable community and this is exactly what the conservation at home initiative is working to promote!

KYN is also gearing up for an **exciting election season!** This year our volunteers will be working to connect neighbors with neighbors, all around the county, to discuss ballot measures, and how to elect the most socially and environmentally concerned candidates!

Now is the time to get involved and make a difference in your community!

Contact Erin: 707-571-8868,
erin@conservationaction.org

JOIN US FOR UPCOMING EVENTS!

4TH DISTRICT 'LOCAL GOVERNMENT DINNER'

When: March 24th, 2010, 5:30- 7:30pm.

Where: Affronti Restaurant and wine bar: Healdsburg town plaza

Price: \$30-\$60 sliding scale

Featured Speakers:

Debora Fudge, Windsor Town Council

Richard Burg, Sonoma County Bike and Pedestrian Advisory Committee

Cathy Neville, Sonoma County Agriculture Commissioner

Ed Wilson, President of the Dry Creek Valley Association

Panel Moderated by **Bonnie Berkeley**, SCCA board member and Dry Creek Resident

SCCA MOVIE NIGHT AT THE RIALTO CINEMA

When: April 7th, 2010, 6:30pm

Featuring: Rivers of a Lost Coast

Price: \$10

*Free raffle, silent auction, guest speaker

Contact Erin: 707-571-8868,
erin@conservationaction.org



Action Alert!

Wal-Mart Expansion in Rohnert Park

By Christina Penrose, Canvass Program Director

Wal-Mart wants to expand its Rohnert Park discount store by more than 40,000 square feet to become a supercenter selling both groceries and retail. The proposal will soon come before the Rohnert Park planning commission and city council for approval. It is time for the residents of Rohnert Park to unite their voices in opposition to Wal-Mart's proposal. Stand up to protect the local economy and keep to keep congestion and green house gas emissions in line with Sonoma County's goals.

Pacific Market is a thriving local business slated for closure in the proposal. The Mountain Shadow Shopping Center in the northeast section of Rohnert Park will become blighted

with many shuttered storefronts. Over 60 local vendors that do business with Pacific Market will be directly impacted. Wal-Mart is reputed for insuring less than half of its low-wage worker population. The public will pay the bills for Wal-Mart workers as they rely on local emergency medical services and public clinics for health care.

The Wal-Mart proposal will not generate significant new revenues to support public recreation and city swimming pools, or police and fire services. In fact, the city will gain little additional tax revenue because the expansion of the store is mainly for nontaxable food items and the super center will steal sales tax revenue from other local grocers.

Take Action Now:

Urge the City of Rohnert Park to reject this costly Wal-Mart expansion!

Points to include:

- Let them know that you are AGAINST Wal-Mart's proposed expansion.
- Tell them to deny the EIR due to its inadequacies, including economic blighting, store closures, and traffic.
- Encourage the council to support local retail and grocers, and a network of small regional vendors which employ 4,000 local residents.
- Ask them to keep you up informed

Send letters to: Rohnert Park City Council c/o City Hall 6750 Commerce Blvd, Rohnert Park, CA 94928
Or email: blidster@rpcity.org

Save the Date!
SCCA Annual Dinner
May 20th, 2010 6-9PM
Guest Speaker: Grant Davis, General Manager Sonoma County Water Agency

youngest woman ever elected to the Petaluma City Council.

Over the next 14 years, Pamela tackled some of Sonoma County's toughest issues, bringing innovative solutions and a collaborative approach to the complex and often contentious issues of water management, transportation and land use. As an appointed member of the Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG), the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC), the Bay Area Air Quality Management District (BAAQMD) and the Water Advisory Committee (WAC) among others, Pamela has tirelessly represented the interests of the South County.

In 2006, Pamela was elected Mayor of Petaluma and she has used the influence of her office to enforce accountability to the people of the city and achieve real results for the community. She worked with others to incentivize infill development by adopting the Urban Growth Boundary and put into place planning documents to make Petaluma a more sustainable City, including the Petaluma Pedestrian and Bicycle Plan, the Central Petaluma Specific Plan, and Petaluma River Enhancement Plan. Along with other leaders and community groups, she worked to prevent a privatization process for Petaluma's Wastewater Treatment facility and created 171 acres of publicly accessible wetlands.

As our Supervisor, Pamela will put her experience to work creating jobs, protecting our environment and preserving our open spaces, reducing our budget deficits, and creating a more open and accountable government. Pamela believes that every level of government must do everything within its power to ensure that we reduce emissions, encourage sustainability, and reverse the harmful effects of climate change. As Supervisor, she will work with others to set the standards of sustainability by promoting waste reduction, green building, and alternative transportation.

For more information, please visit:

www.vote4pam.net

front and back yards in a 478 unit subdivision, which remains a first in Northern California.

I am a founding Advisory Board member of Solar Sonoma County, and also the Sonoma County Bicycle Coalition. As Mayor, I led the effort to make sure cities were included in the rollout of the Sonoma County Energy Independence Program. I spoke at hearings against the sale of the Central Landfill. I am a Water Advisory Committee member of the Sonoma County Water Agency. I have been an organizer of the Russian River Cleanup for 20 years. I am the current Chair of SMART.

I am the only candidate in this race who has been endorsed by SCCA, because of my leadership in Sonoma County over the past 15 years. I envision a sustainable Sonoma County, with green jobs and alternative energy, a place where we live where we work, and we meet our greenhouse gas reductions goals. I can lead the county in this direction because I am a professional planner and I know how to pull together all the pieces. My track record is there for all to see. I would be the only professional planner on the Board of Supervisors, and would be the first woman ever elected from the 4th District. This is an exciting opportunity for us all.

I need campaign donations and more volunteers so I can win this race for us. Please donate as much as you can, now. And go to my website and sign up to become a Facebook Fan! With appreciation, Debora Fudge.

www.fudgeforsonomacounty.com

Executive Director's Note:
These are not SCCA's final endorsements for the June Election— we are still in process on State Senate and several other ballot measures.
Also, there may be a remit envelope for a candidate included in your newsletter— these outstanding environmentalists need our support to compete against development and resource extraction industries- **Please give as generously as you can!**

served as President of the North Bay Labor Council. Michael is also a respected labor attorney, working to protect workers rights and help employers and workers to negotiate many successful contacts throughout the North Bay. In 2007, State Senator Patricia Wiggins asked Michael to accept the position of District Director for her five regional offices that serve over 880,000 constituents in Humboldt, Lake, Mendocino, Napa, Solano, and Sonoma counties, a position he still holds today.

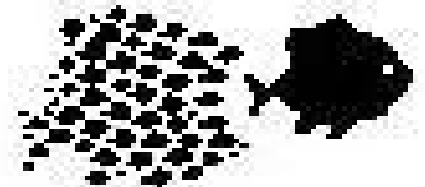
In Michael Allen's decades-long involvement with the community, he has produced real results for critical environmental issues in the North Bay by bringing together the often-fractious trio of business, labor, and environmental groups. Michael served on the Santa Rosa Planning Commission and serves as Chair of the SMART Train Citizens Oversight Committee, working to create a more sustainable economy through this groundbreaking project.

Michael Allen is also a founding member of Solar Sonoma, a progressive coalition of community members, government representatives and private sector organizations that promotes development of alternative energy sources and reductions in fossil fuel dependency and green house gas emissions.

Preserving, protecting and cleaning up our environment will be one of Michael's top priorities in the State Assembly. He believes that we must take every possible step toward sustainable living and reversing climate change in order to safeguard our children's future.

To read more about Michael Allen or to get involved in his campaign, please check out his website at

www.AllenforAssembly.com





Sonoma County Conservation Action

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Dutra Continued from Page 1

scare the County and community into supporting this project.

Dredging is based on annual tonnage, commercial and recreational use of the river, and the importance of the river to the surrounding area. The Petaluma River has the third highest commercial tonnage in our state. Commercial tonnage on the Petaluma River has grown to 1.2 million tons in 2007. The San Rafael canal receives federally funded dredging absent any commercial tonnage. Federally funded dredging is not jeopardized by an absence of this asphalt plant project.

In addition, there are two PG&E 12" High Pressure Gas Transmission Pipelines that cross the Petaluma River and traverse directly through the Dutra Parcel. This location is noted briefly in the Draft Envi-

ronmental Impact Report, and is verified by PG&E maps, 4'x8' Warning signs reading "DO NOT ANCHOR OR DREDGE", plastic flagging on site, and recorded easements.

However, the official maps supplied to the county for the project depict the pipelines crossing the River through Shamrock's parcel upstream, instead of their real location on Dutra's proposed site. This inaccurately gives the appearance that the pipelines bypass Dutra's proposed tug and barge mooring site. As a result of these previously hidden problems, Dutra has been forced to acknowledge that their barge and mooring facility is infeasible and thus has completed a new proposal to use the Shamrock facility upstream. The meager 5-page long proposal to use the Shamrock Facility just

up the river for their barging facility proposes a plan without adequate discovery of its viability. The Shamrock facility is already operating at its capacity, and has received a letter from the County Code Enforcement Officer in December of 2009 stating it is out of compliance with several of their permit conditions.

With all of the inconsistencies, inadequacies, and impossibilities surrounding this project it cannot be allowed to move forward. Contact your Sonoma County Board of Supervisors and tell them to vote no on this project and join us at the public meetings. For more information visit www.momsforcleanair.net and www.saveshollenberger.com. ◊

*Sheri Chlebowski, President,
Moms for Clean Air*

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