

**Peter Calthorpe Keynote at
SCCA's 11th Annual Gala**

Sonoma County Conservation Action's Gourmet Grassroots Gala Dinner and Auction will be held on June 17th from 5:00-9:30 PM at the beautiful new Glaser Center on Mendocino Ave. in downtown Santa Rosa.

We are pleased to announce that our Keynote Speaker this year will be Peter Calthorpe, transportation expert who is intimately knowledgeable on the SMART rail issue that connects Sonoma and Marin Counties in a regional transportation district. Calthorpe authored the Sonoma Marin Multimodal Transportation Land Use Plan (commonly known as the Calthorpe Plan), which was passed by 72% of the voters of Sonoma County in 1998.

(See our website, conservationaction.org for more about Peter Calthorpe.)

Great Food & Beverages

Our dinner will highlight locally grown organic food prepared by Chef Nancy Collins and Bohemian Buffet. A no host wine bar featuring local Sonoma County wines and beer is always a popular choice, along with our fabulous silent auction and raffle.

Buy Tickets Online Right Now!

Mark your calendars and look for more information on this extraordinary event that benefits the work and programs of Sonoma County's largest environmental organization, Sonoma County Conservation Action!

This event typically sells out early, so reserving a spot is suggested. Tickets to the dinner are \$45, and can be reserved online. You can also send a check for the number of tickets desired to SCCA, 540 Pacific Avenue, Santa Rosa, CA 95404 with "Dinner Tickets" written in the memo space, or call the office (571-8566) to reserve tickets with your Visa or MasterCard.

Sponsorship levels start at \$125 and are gratefully accepted. Sponsors will be listed on our program, and on our website.

Silent Auction items are needed, and Volunteer Tickets are still available. Please contact us right away to help make the gala great! ♦

SCCA Endorsements for June 6, 2006 Primary Election



4th District Supervisor

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Thanks for Your Support!

Endorsements cont. on page 3

Timber Conversion Ordinance, A Multi-Year Campaign *By Craig Litwin*

The problem of deforestation is a worldwide one and deforestation is the second leading contributor to human induced global warming. Agricultural conversions such as replacing forests with vineyards bring with them many serious environmental consequences for wildlife, fish and rivers. Once the redwood forests are removed, they will be lost forever. The negative economic, biological, and environmental effects will be extensive. Our children and future generations will be the real victims. Our actions now will determine the effect on them.

Locally, segments of the wine industry have increasingly been targeting forestland in Western Sonoma County to convert the land to wine production. Last year more timber conversion applications were filed with the California Department of Forestry than in the past 10 years altogether.



Entrepreneurs and speculators are now buying depleted forestlands rather than waiting until natural forest re-growth occurs.

Sonoma County has written a timberland ordinance regulating forest conversion in an attempt to address the increasingly onerous conversion problem. The good news is that this is the first such attempt in the State; hence, the ordinance will serve as an

example for other counties to follow. It is the only one but it has opened up the eyes of legislators and will set a precedent statewide. The bad news is that the County's proposal is still much too weak in protecting our forestland.



What is wrong with the County's proposed solution? - The most

glaring fault of the present ordinance language is that it credits landowners for doing what they must do anyway. This refers to a flaw in the 2 for 1 mitigation aspect of the ordinance – erroneously known as 'no-net-loss' – the part which requires preservation of 2 acres of timberland for every acre converted.

The new ordinance ignores the fact that much of our forestland is not convertible in the first place (slopes too steep, in riparian zones, etc.) The idea of 'preserving' timberland which is not in danger of conversion is completely bogus. The County should instead be trying to protect forests which are actually in danger of conversion. Credit for the protection of timberland should be given only for protecting land which can actually be converted.

Take Action Now!

How can the County fix this problem? - At the last Supervisor's hearing on the ordinance, County staff was directed to research the feasibility of an amendment to the ordinance along the lines of the SCCA's and Sierra Club's suggestion of disallowing the crediting of inconvertible land as a mitigation - a 'like kinds' requirement. Such an amendment is needed to clarify that for each acre of timberland that is converted to vineyards the developer must permanently preserve two acres of productive timberland that could also potentially be converted to vineyards.

Fortunately, although it is too early to be sure, it looks like 4 of the Supervisors seem likely to support such an amendment. Opposition to the ordinance and the amendment came only from Supervisor Kelley. With Supervisorial elections coming up in the primary, we have a chance to elect a candidate who will recognize the threats which agricultural conversions pose to our remaining forests, a candidate who will support significant policies for preserving forests *and* agricultural lands well into the future.

What can you do to urge the County to fix this problem? -

Please call, fax, write or email your Supervisor and urge him or her to provide real forest protection in this ordinance. [If you're in Supervisor Reilly's district, please thank him for introducing this ordinance and advocating for the environment.] And please also contact PRMD (Planning and Resource Management). Simply



tell them "PLEASE don't allow mitigation credit for 'protecting' non-convertible forest - the forest being protected should be of like kind with the forest being destroyed. We very much want to see real forest protection." This is urgent and important! We may need only one more Supervisor's

vote to achieve substantial reforms in this ordinance. Contact information is just below.

For more information visit: scca@conservationaction.org or <http://redwood.sierraclub.org/sonoma/ForestProtection/index.html>

Contact information for the Supervisors is at <http://www.sonoma-county.org/board/index.htm> ◇

SCCA Alert: Join Transportation Alliance to Support the SMART Train

This November, Marin and Sonoma County voters will have the opportunity to greatly improve our regional transportation system. For a modest 1/4 cent sales tax our region would enjoy rail service between Cloverdale and the Larkspur ferry terminal, with stops at all city centers along the 70-mile route. Known as the SMART Train (Sonoma Marin Area Rail Transit), the proposal would be ac-

companied by a class 1 bicycle and pedestrian path adjacent to the whole route.

It is going to take a significant effort to reach voters in both counties — and to get the two-thirds voter approval necessary to win. It is going to take a coalition of groups, working in concert, to achieve victory.

Conservation Action is pleased to announce that it has joined efforts with other environmental groups, labor and business groups to co-create Transportation Alliance. Transportation Alliance is the two-county political action committee working to make sure that the SMART train and

bicycle path measure wins.

There is a tremendous amount of work ahead of us as we prepare to get out the vote for the SMART Train measure. There will be tabling at events, hosting house parties to get out the word, walking precincts, and many other tasks necessary for the success of this ballot measure.

Please join Conservation Action in working for Transportation Alliance. Again, there are many roles to fill in this most important campaign. There is a time and place for you to participate, if you are so willing. Please call or email us right away to plug into the effort! ◇

Canvass Report

By Andrew Goodman

Well, our rain boots are finally drying out as the 2006 election season is in full swing. At the beginning of the year we heard the call from Cloverdale for increased open space protection and prevention of continued urban sprawl. Our canvassers braved the relentless downpours to spread the environmental word.

We continue to collaborate with Greenbelt Alliance on acquiring an Urban Growth Boundary (UGB) for Cloverdale. Over the years, our two groups led the charge to secure voter approved UGB's in 8/9 cities. Our canvassers collected over 380 postcards in one week from residents in support of a voter approved UGB in Cloverdale.

It will be additional proof to the power of grassroots organizing when Cloverdale passes their UGB, securing 9/9 incorporated cities for the county.

The frightening proposition of a new Wal-Mart in Roseland brought our efforts down to West Santa Rosa. Our organizers knocked on doors to mobilize local residents to take action and speak their mind on the subject at community meetings.

We continued into Sebastopol. Always working for alternatives to automobiles, the canvass staff made sure that local residents were conscious of the benefits of the SMART passenger train. The SMART train will take 5,000 motorists a day (1 million cars annually) from the 101, re-



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ducing greenhouse gas emissions.

As the June 6 primary quickly approaches, Conservation Action has identified several progressive candidates who are running for office. The 4th District Supervisor seat is up for grabs and the canvass staff is enthusiastic about Debora Fudge's candidacy. A few of her numerous credentials include heading up the effort to create Windsor's new Town Green as a mixed-use development; she was able to get the town's garbage trucks converted to run on bio-diesel, sparing the air; plus, unlike the incumbent, she supports a county-wide comprehensive water

management plan.

Campaigning for such a forward thinker is invigorating and the reception has been very supportive at the doors as north county residents have grown tired of the current Supervisor's blatant disregard for most if not all environmental concerns.

This election year is tremendously important for Sonoma County. We have Fudge in June and SMART and key City Council races in November. So when our canvassers knock on your door this season please take a moment to listen, show as much support as you can, and VOTE!◇

THE SCCA NEWS SCOOP

By Denny Rosatti

SMART Polls 72% for Both Counties

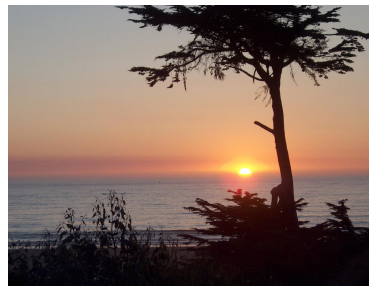
A recent poll released by the SMART district showed favorable results for rail in both Sonoma and Marin Counties; heart-warming news for SCCA.

After hearing a few pointed facts about the plan, the test group polled 72% supportive of rail from Cloverdale to Larkspur, paid for by a meager 1/4 cent sales tax dual-county wide.

The results increased to as high as 88% favorable when specific details were being conveyed, such as, "the rail will save 25 minutes on the morning commute between Santa Rosa and San Rafael."

The poll was carried out by J. Moore Methods, an experienced pollster with a reputation for accuracy on transportation measures.

*To view results online, see "Links" at <http://www.conservationaction.org/links/groups.html> ◇



County General Plan Dates Announced

The Sonoma County General Plan is moving ahead, as dates have been announced for the Planning Commission to hear public testimony on the various general plan elements.

The initial meeting on the DEIR (Draft Env. Impact Report) had an overflow crowd at the County Permit and Resources Management Department. Due to public outcry, the comment period for the DEIR for the General Plan was extended.

*See "Calendar" for hearing dates at <http://www.conservationaction.org/events/calendar> ◇

Wal Mart's Santa Rosa Invasion

There is a serious threat that Wal Mart could soon appear at the Stony Point Plaza in Santa Rosa. SCCA handed out hundreds of flyers in the southwest Santa Rosa area to inform residents about this looming big box threat.

Wal Mart has been directed to perform a thorough Fiscal Impact Study, and must respond to questions raised in the DEIR. SCCA is working as part of the Accountable Development Coalition to track and potentially influence the Wal Mart debate.

A new documentary titled "Wal Mart: The High Cost of Low Prices" highlights many of the reasons this store is destructive to the local economy, environment, and even safety of a community.

The video is available at many local video stores. Try Video Droid in Santa Rosa, Box Office Video in Sebastopol or Forest Video in Occidental for copies of this very telling film.

*See "Opinion" for more on this topic at <http://www.conservationaction.org/news/opinion.html> ◇



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If Your Membership
Has Expired,
PLEASE RENEW! !

Conservation Action Puzzler: Answers on Website
Board of Directors: Bill Kortum, President; David Keller, Chair; Marty Bennett; Guy Conner; Una Glass; John Kramer; Donald Lollock; Sharon Marchetti; Michael Robinson; Fran Tanti.
Co-Directors: Craig Litwin; Dennis Rosatti.
Office Manager: Diane Schulz.
Field Managers: Andrew Goodman; Nicko Wilde.
Field Trainers: Tim Dixon; Kate Fraga.
Field Organizers: Ben Mackey; Aaron Milligan; Mike Prater; Josh Stithem; Nick Tudor; Caitlin Whiteside.
Phone Manager: Christina Penrose.
KYN Coordinator: Jenna Brager.
ACROSS: 7 Local Sweet for '06; 8 Sonoma Creek Headwaters Ridge; 10 Grassroots effectiveness tool; 13 S.Rosa hiker's paradise; 15 Egg basket of the US; 16 destructive timber to agriculture plan; 19 neighborhood plan, rhymes with "show your saber" (acronym); 20 SCCA's call to arms; 25 fix/ remedy; 27 Nov. "main event"; 28 slimy Armstrong dweller.
DOWN: 1 "The Birds" locale; 2 Seb. Vice Mayor; 3 The ___ House, historic ruins; 4 local horticulturist; 5 the last to be adopted, w/ 16 down; 6 door-knocker; 9 protected by smart-growth; 10 Seb. sister city; 11 wise sales tax; 12 potential honor roll source for local electeds; 13 not a solicitor; 14 month for environmental gala; 16 the city in the north, with 5 down; 17 Russian river protest slogan; 18 source of action; 21 non-GMO; 22 native bloomer; 23 where most greenhouse gases are generated; 24 local coast trail enviro hero; 26 source of energy.

SCCA's June 6th Primary Election Endorsements

- Local: Debora Fudge North County Supervisor.
State: Pat Wiggins: Senate 2nd District; Patty Berg: 2nd Assembly District; Pam Torliatt: 6th Assembly District; Jared Huffman 6th Assembly District; Noreen Evans 7th Assembly District.
Federal: Lynn Woolsey 6th CA District, Congress

SCCA's 11th Annual Dinner
June 17th 5:00-9:30 PM

Grassroots Gourmet Gala
Glacier Center 547 Mendocino Ave
Santa Rosa, CA 95401

To Purchase Tickets Call: 571-8566, email
scca@conservationaction.org,
or visit us online at
www.conservationaction.org

We look forward to seeing you there!

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

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