

Community Clean Water Institute

ANNUAL REPORT 2002

Community Clean Water Institute is dedicated to promoting and protecting clean water and public health by identifying water pollution, advocating for sound water policies, and providing information to the public.

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CCWI

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Dear Friend of Community Clean Water Institute,

The Community Clean Water Institute (CCWI) has had an exciting year! Through our various programs monitoring water quality in rivers and streams, responding to citizen complaints of water pollution, assisting regulatory agencies and watershed groups, providing educational programs at schools, educating well owners about groundwater issues, and advocating for clean water policies, CCWI is making an impact throughout the North Coast.

2002, as the 30th anniversary of the Clean Water Act, was recognized as the Year of Clean Water. There have been many clean water successes, but in the big picture there are challenges ahead. Looming global freshwater shortages, privatization threats to water as a public trust, and even climate change give CCWI's local actions global significance.



Mike and Sarah testing Dutch Bill Creek, site 2

What follows is CCWI's 2002 annual report. Read on to hear about CCWI's accomplishments over the past year, and some exciting new initiatives. You can become involved too. Become a citizen monitor, notify CCWI of suspected water pollution through our complaint process, or support CCWI financially. Thank you for your interest in CCWI.

Mike Sandler, Program Coordinator



Included in this report: News & Updates, 2002 Accomplishments, Project Descriptions, Upcoming Projects

2002 PROJECTS

CCWI's Citizen Monitoring Program:

Citizen monitoring is monitoring of the environment by community volunteers interested in watershed protection. By monitoring local creeks and rivers, citizen monitors learn about their watershed, help pinpoint pollution sources, and identify widespread problems. Citizen monitors are trained on how to use monitoring equipment, and collect data, which is forwarded to statewide water databases, decision makers, regulatory agencies, watershed groups and others. CCWI is seeking citizen monitors for: The Laguna (Sebastopol), and Santa Rosa Creek.

Dutch Bill Creek: Working with Analytical Sciences, Inc. of Petaluma, CCWI conducted a round of water quality tests in March 2002, and produced and distributed the Dutch Bill Creek Fact Sheet to 300 residents in the watershed in July 2002. Results can be found at www.ccwi.org/issues/dutchbill.htm. Contact CCWI if you are interested in becoming a citizen monitor on Dutch Bill Creek.



Citizen Complaints: In 2002 CCWI received and responded to complaints involving the following water bodies: Dutch Bill Creek, Sonoma Creek, Rattlesnake and Kellogg Creek, Russian River, and the Laguna de Santa Rosa. CCWI has also sent numerous letters opposing water quality exemptions, and regarding timber harvest plans which could have negative water quality impacts. CCWI's letter to regulatory agencies regarding suspected illegal taking of water by Peter Michael Winery prompted an investigation by the State Department of Water Rights. CCWI provided assistance to neighbors north of Cloverdale who were concerned about vineyard development which was within 100 yards of their community well. CCWI also coordinated a mailing to residents in Sebastopol regarding groundwater pollution in their area.

Citizens concerned about a potential water pollution problem in their area can register a complaint on the Citizen's Complaints page of the CCWI website at www.ccwi.org/issues/complaints.htm, or by calling CCWI.

Internship Program: CCWI has had some great interns in 2002. Rachel Peletz, was our summer intern, and Chelsea Cashner interned in the Fall and Winter. For more information on CCWI's internship program, call the CCWI office.



CCWI Citizen Monitors

Russian River Watershed

Pocket Canyon Creek	Elizabeth Christie, <i>Pocket Canyon Protection Group</i>
Dutch Bill Creek	David Berman, <i>Dutch Bill Creek Watershed Group</i>
Austin Creek	Dennis Beall, <i>Austin Creek Alliance</i>
Atascadero Creek	Julia Pollock
Copeland Creek	Mark Galipeau, <i>John Reed Elementary School</i>
Russian River	Don McEnhill, <i>Russian RiverKeeper</i>
Jenner Creek	Suki Waters, Phillip R. Gichell
Mill Creek	Elaine, Joey and Joanna Greene

Salmon Creek Watershed

Fay Creek	Bob Nelson, <i>Salmon Creek Highlanders</i>
"Westwood" Creek	Margaret Gerner, <i>Salmon Creek Highlanders</i>
Salmon Creek	Beth Trachtenberg, <i>Salmon Creek Highlanders</i>
Salmon Creek Mouth	Abby Myers, <i>Learning Waters</i>
Tannery Creek	Darlene Lamont, <i>Salmon Creek Highlanders</i>

Petaluma River

Petaluma River	David Yearsley, <i>Petaluma River Keeper</i> Kate Brolan
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PROJECTS & ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Fortuna: CCWI has partnered with two great groups doing water quality monitoring in the Fortuna area: The Fortuna Creeks Project, based at Fortuna Union High School, and Friends of the Van Duzen, a local watershed group. The Fortuna Creeks Project, a creek monitoring project of students at Fortuna Union High School, tests 5 water quality parameters on Mill, Rohner, and Strongs Creeks, and the Eel River. CCWI set up a Classroom Living Machine at Fortuna High School to teach students about principles of wastewater treatment. Friends of the Van Duzen, a watershed group and member of the Humboldt Watershed Council, is coordinating watershed education projects with three schools in the Fortuna area with support from CCWI. CCWI is offering a research stipend to three HSU students to work on water quality issues in Fortuna in Spring 2003.



Fortuna High School students with a “Classroom Living Machine” which simulates a wetland.

Water Rights, Privatization and Public Trust Program: This Program developed in response to Alaska Water Exports’ now-cancelled plan to ship “excess” water from the Gualala River to San Diego for profit. The plan included many dangerous assumptions about “excess” water, and could have had implications on water rights in all watersheds in California. It was a prime example of globalization’s impact on water and the public trust, the commodification and export of natural resources through hidden subsidy, and loss of community control over common assets. CCWI hosted two forums in Sebastopol and Santa Rosa with speakers including Assemblymember Patricia Wiggins, Supervisor Mike Reilly (now Chair of the California Coastal Commission), Juliette Beck of Public Citizen’s Water for All Campaign, and others. CCWI helped file approximately 200 protest forms, encouraged the Sebastopol City Council to pass a resolution opposing the water bags, and generated significant media coverage opposing the water bags. The plan was cancelled 4 days after the the second Forum. CCWI’s attention is now focused on the same company’s latest proposal to purchase water rights on the Mad River. You can find more information on the Water Rights Program at CCWI’s website.

CCWI used Monopoly imagery to successfully oppose Alaska Water Export’s plans on the Gualala and Albion Rivers.



**GO DIRECTLY BACK TO ALASKA.
DO NOT PASS GO.
DO NOT COLLECT \$200.**

Events:

CCWI sponsored the following events in 2002

The North Coast Water Coalition Water Forum
The Youth Activist Convergence
Julia Butterfly Hill Speaking Event
West County Watershed Day
3 CCWI Citizen Monitoring Orientations
Russian River Appreciation Festival
2002 Russian River Watershed Celebration
National Water Monitoring Day
2 Forums on Gualala and Albion Water Bags, Water Rights, Privatization and the Public Trust.

To find out more about current and upcoming projects contact the CCWI office, at (707) 874-3803 or info@ccwi.org

New Projects For 2003:

The Lower Russian River Water Quality Monitoring Project expands CCWI's ongoing testing, data collection, and community outreach along Dutch Bill Creek, and includes the Lower Russian River's final six miles to coastal outlet.

CCWI's Water Rights, Privatization and Public Trust Program maps out appropriate community responses to out of state speculation on California water resources.

List of CCWI Publications:

CCWI Citizen Monitor Handbook
Dutch Bill Creek Factsheet/ Data Analysis
CCWI Citizen Monitor Data- 2002
What is Citizen Monitoring?
Who Owns the Gualala?
How to find out about your well
What to do about a contaminated well
Some Chemicals found in wells near Witter and Elphick Road, Sebastopol

CCWI's Water and Climate Program draws connections between climate change and California's water supply, and promotes easy ways to protect the climate through water use reduction and efficiency.

CCWI Watershed Resource Library- CCWI is assembling a resource library, including testing protocols, and information for citizens interested in monitoring their watershed.



To find out more about becoming a Citizen Monitor, or if you have concerns about pollution in your area, contact the CCWI office at (707) 874-3803, or info@ccwi.org

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