

# Community Clean Water Institute

## ANNUAL REPORT 2003

*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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### *Dear Friend of Community Clean Water Institute,*

Thank you for being a part of the movement to protect our watersheds and promote the stewardship of our common natural resources. Local solutions remain the best way to tackle global problems. CCWI assists in connecting local to global through its programs of citizen monitoring program, navigating citizen complaints through the corridors of regulatory agencies, educational programs advocating for clean water, and connecting big picture issues such as water privatization and global climate change to local actions for individuals and organizations here in Northern California.



**Citizen monitor Dennis Beall, and Sarah from CCWI test Austin Creek.**

In this 2003 annual report, you can read about our accomplishments over the past year, and plans for the next. You can join the movement by becoming a citizen monitor, notifying CCWI of suspected water pollution, or supporting CCWI financially. We are partnering with Town Hall Coalition to form the Redwood Empire Environmental Center, and to hold a Raffle in 2004. Your purchase of raffle tickets supports education and outreach supporting truly healthy forests and clean water. Thank you for your interest in CCWI.

*Mike Sandler, Program Coordinator*

**Right: CCWI goes to Kyoto, Japan.**

**Below: Water agency staff discuss water and energy efficiency at CCWI's Watergy Workshop.**



*Included in this report: News & Updates, 2003 Accomplishments, Project Descriptions, Upcoming Projects*

# 2003 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. Thank you to all citizen monitors for the great work you are doing! CCWI is currently seeking citizen monitors for the Lower Russian River. Data summary reports are on the CCWI website.

## CCWI now does Bacteria testing!

With Sarah's diligent research (and a little help from eBay), we were able to obtain the \$3,000 worth of equipment needed to test for coliform for a fraction of that cost. As a result, in 2004 CCWI will be able to perform coliform testing for citizen monitors and other interested groups (for around \$10 per test). In 2003, CCWI loaned this equipment to the Russian River First Flush Monitoring project, allowing them to perform bacteria testing for the first time.

**Citizen Complaints:** In addition to numerous comments on EIRs and statewide water policies, CCWI issued pollution alerts on the Laguna de Santa Rosa and Monte Rio beach which resulted in several articles in the local press. CCWI has also been advocating for subsurface irrigation of redwood trees as part of the City of Santa Rosa's Incremental Recycled Water Program (IRWP), and is promoting non-spray responses to the aquatic invasive species *Ludwigia* (water primrose) in the Laguna de Santa Rosa. See the Water Rights Program section for a description of our involvement in the Salmon Creek watershed. Citizens concerned about a water pollution problem in their area can register a complaint on the Complaints page of the CCWI website, or by calling CCWI.

**Organizational News:** Special thanks to departing Board member Lisa Mador for her ongoing dedication to CCWI. Our great summer intern Addie Evans is back at college in Ohio. For more information on CCWI's internship program, call the CCWI office. This winter, we merged our office back with Town Hall Coalition, our sister organization to form the Redwood Empire Environmental Center, and with whom we are partnering for a Raffle in 2004. Prizes include two nights stay at the View Crest Lodge in Trinidad, and a 4 person kayak rental from Russian River Outfitters in Duncans Mills. **Your purchase of tickets supports education and outreach and scholarships for student research stipends supporting truly healthy forests and clean water.** [www.townhallcoalition.org](http://www.townhallcoalition.org), [www.ccwi.org](http://www.ccwi.org).

## CCWI Citizen Monitors

### Russian River Watershed

Pocket Canyon Creek	Doug Vincent, <i>Pocket Canyon Protection Group</i>
Dutch Bill Creek	Tom Austin, <i>Dutch Bill Creek Watershed Group</i>
Austin Creek	Dennis Beall, <i>Austin Creek Alliance</i>
Santa Rosa Creek	Bonnie Hogue
Laguna de Santa Rosa	Steve Greek
Russian River	<i>Available</i>
Jenner Creek	Suki Waters, Phillip R. Gichell
Mill Creek	Elaine, Joey and Joanna Greene
Mark West Creek	Laura Waldbaum, Casey Kaplinger

### 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 Cr. School	Noel Bouck, PhD, <i>Salmon Creek School</i>
Tannery Creek	Darlene Lamont, <i>Salmon Creek Highlanders</i>
Thurston Creek	Lucinda and Jude Dekker, <i>Salmon Creek Highlanders</i>
	Julia Green, Indigo, Nova

### Petaluma River Watershed

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

**Fortuna:** - On May 28, three Humboldt State University students presented their semester-long research projects sponsored by CCWI. Fortuna City Manager Duane Rigge attended the presentation, along with Sal Steinberg and the Friends of Van Duzen, and Pam Halstead and Fortuna High students from the Fortuna Creeks Project. The three presentations were: Jennifer Fuller's "Energy efficiency in the City of Fortuna's wastewater treatment plant"; Jennifer Cole's "Evaluation of water quality monitoring on urban streams in Fortuna, California from 1997 to 2003"; and Tyler Brandenburg's paper describing uses of a "classroom living machine" in a high school curriculum. The reports are available at the CCWI website at [www.ccwi.org](http://www.ccwi.org).



## HSU Student Presentations in Fortuna

From left: Pam Halstead of Fortuna Creeks Project, and HSU students Jennifer Cole, Tyler Brandenburg, and Jennifer Fuller, with Mike from CCWI.

**Water Rights, Privatization and Public Trust Program:** CCWI is part of the Stop the Mad River Water Bags Coalition, formed to oppose bagging North Coast water, shipping it south in giant floating canvas bags for sale to Southern California as drinking water. CCWI is partnering with other groups in expanding the vocabulary of public trust and protecting the commons for water and our shared inheritance. Closer to home, CCWI also assisted local residents in registering a complaint of an alleged illegal diversion of water from Salmon Creek with the State Water Rights Division.

**Water and Climate Program:** Global climate change is one of the greatest threats to water resources and ecosystems over the next century. Climate change is expected to impact water resources and water availability by altering snowmelt patterns in the Sierra Nevada mountains and threatening coastal aquifers, which account for a majority of California's water supply. The global emissions that cause global climate change come primarily from fossil fuel used in creating electricity and driving our automobiles.

**CCWI goes to Japan-** One of the most exciting things to happen in 2003 was the selection of CCWI as a finalist in the World Water Action Contest. As a finalist, one of only 4 in the U.S., Mike Sandler traveled to Kyoto, Japan and gave a presentation to a panel of international water experts on CCWI's Water and Climate Project, addressing the impacts of water use and wastewater treatment in Sonoma County on climate change. This experience was made possible through the partnership of the Sonoma County Climate Protection Campaign, led by Ann Hancock. Mike's presentation can be found on the CCWI website at [www.ccwi.org](http://www.ccwi.org).



The Water and Climate Poster in Kyoto, Japan

**Watergy Workshop-** Water + Energy = Watergy. When you use less water, you also use less energy. CCWI teamed up with the Climate Campaign and the Alliance to Save Energy based in Washington, DC to bring together water agency and wastewater treatment plant staff, elected officials, and board members to discuss opportunities to implement and finance watergy efficiency measures, helping cities save money, water, and energy and reduce greenhouse gases. Presenters at the November 12 workshop included the City of Palo Alto, PG&E, the California Energy Commission, and experts on water efficiency. Co-sponsors of the Watergy Workshop were Marin Municipal Water District, Sonoma County Water Agency, City of Santa Rosa Public Utilities Department, The Alliance to Save Energy, the Climate Protection Campaign, Town of Windsor, and US Filter (Petaluma).



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

# New Projects For 2004:

**The Lower Russian River Water Quality Monitoring Project**, funded by a grant from the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) Costa-Machado Water Act of 2000 (Proposition 13). The 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.

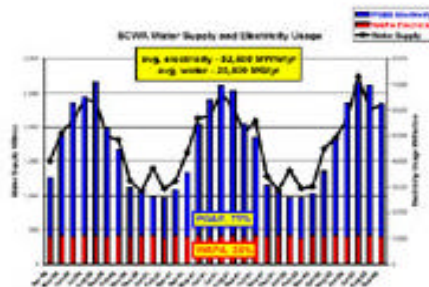
## Events:

CCWI sponsored the following events in 2003

Coastal Snapshot Day  
Climate Change Workshops Series at SSU  
Youth Activist Convergence  
West County Watershed Day  
Workshop at Russian River Celebration  
Forum: Redwoods and Climate Change  
Russian River First Flush Monitoring  
Watergy Workshop

**Middle Reach Russian River Restoration Project**- Our first restoration project, planting trees with students in collaboration with the Russian River Watershed Council and others.

**Air District/GHG Inventory**- CCWI, with the Climate Protection Campaign, will conduct a greenhouse gas emissions inventory for Sonoma County, and recommend how to incorporate climate change into air pollution programs at the Bay Area Air Quality Management District.



This graph shows the energy and water use of the Sonoma County Water Agency. Peaks are summer months, valleys are winter months. Cost, energy, water use, and greenhouse gas emissions are correlated. This type of analysis pinpoints potential efficiency savings.

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](mailto:info@ccwi.org).

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