



News from the Redwood Empire Environmental Center

"I firmly believe, from what I have seen, that this is the chosen spot of all the earth as far as Nature is concerned." Luther Burbank

Community Clean Water Institute Annual Report 2005-2006

Dear Friend of Community Clean Water Institute,

We are pleased to announce the one year anniversary of the formation of the Redwood Empire Environmental Center in Sebastopol. Town Hall Coalition, Community Clean Water Institute, and other progressive grassroots groups have successfully combined our resources to provide a facility that is available to neighborhood groups and people from communities throughout Sonoma County. We are pleased to provide you with the CCWI Annual Report, which highlights our accomplishments over the past year and provides information about our continued programs.

We need your financial support to sustain our valuable work to protect community rights and the common good. Donations to Community Clean Water Institute will help us maintain our water testing laboratory, buy new equipment, and train and expand our citizen water quality monitoring teams. Please send your tax-deductible donations to Community Clean Water Institute in the enclosed envelope. We appreciate your continued support and look forward to working with you to protect the quality of life in Sonoma County.

Citizen involvement is vital in protecting our watersheds and The Commons that we all share. We are building a new Commons sector to protect the environment and The Commons. A sustainable, healthy environment helps people, providing clean water to people on North Coast rivers, our economy and our quality of life.

This past year Hurricane Katrina caused major human suffering, and there is scientific evidence that climate change, paving over wetlands, and political cronyism and corruption, contributed to the damage. We remain focused on local solutions for sustainability. Despite backwards trends at the national level, we are having an effect locally. At the Redwood Empire Environmental Center we encourage you to join citizen action groups, be vocal, and get involved.

In this 2005 annual report, you can read about our accomplishments over the past year, and plans for the next. You can become a citizen monitor, notify CCWI of suspected water pollution, or support CCWI financially. Thank you for your interest in CCWI.

Mike Sandler, Program Coordinator and Director, Redwood Empire Environmental Center

CCWI data used by State EPA

In 2005, CCWI followed up on the previous year's submittal of citizen monitoring data to the State 303d list of impaired waterbodies. CCWI data was used to make water quality determinations in over 10 places! This was one of the first times that citizen monitoring data had been used in this way. Thank you to all citizen monitors for the great work you are doing!

Climate Change promoted at Bay Area Air District

CCWI, with the Climate Protection Campaign, completed a study on the Integration of Air Quality and Climate Protection. On June 1, 2005, after 3 years of local advocacy from CCWI, the Bay Area Air Quality Management District created a new Climate Protection Program. In 2006, CCWI will continue to promote regional climate protection.

The Lower Russian River Water Quality Monitoring Project

CCWI hosted several citizen monitor recruitment and training workshops, produced and distributed fact sheets from data collected in Dutch Bill Creek, Monte Rio, and the Lower Russian River to the coast to hundreds of residents in those watersheds. Data summary reports are on the CCWI website www.ccwi.org.

Community Clean Water Institute 6741 Sebastopol Ave. Ste. 140 Sebastopol, CA 95472
Ph 707 824-4370 ♦ info@ccwi.org ♦ www.ccwi.org



Community Clean Water Institute

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.

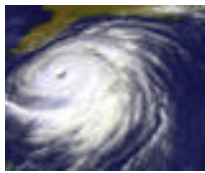
CCWI's Citizen Monitoring Program: CCWI Citizen Monitors use monitoring equipment, collect data, learn about their watershed, help pinpoint pollution sources, and identify widespread problems on over 17 creeks and streams. To become a citizen monitor, contact the CCWI office. CCWI continued monitoring on the Lower Russian River, hosted several training workshops, and distributed factsheets with best management practices to over 700 homes. In 2005, CCWI followed up on the previous year's submittal of citizen monitoring data to the State 303d list of impaired waterbodies. CCWI data was used to make water quality determinations in over 10 places! This was one of the first times that citizen monitoring data was used in this manner.



Citizen monitors John Pendergraft and Annie Mills monitor water quality near the confluence of Austin Creek and the Russian River.

Water and Climate Program: CCWI and the Climate Protection Campaign, completed a report on climate change for the Bay Area Air Quality Management District, which created a new Climate Protection Program. This is the first time an Air District in California is addressing climate change issues. The Sonoma County Water Agency's new energy policy calls for GHG reductions. In Spring 2005 CCWI facilitated a workshop for local govt. featuring an appearance by Robert F. Kennedy Jr.

Environmental Education: CCWI has facilitated two year-long environmental studies programs at Stuart School, a Santa Rosa K-8 school. Students participated in water quality monitoring on Santa Rosa Creek, stream clean ups, and restoration.



Scientists have predicted an increase in extreme weather events as a result of climate change. Hurricanes Rita (left) and Katrina devastated the Gulf Coast in 2005. We need Big Picture solutions to climate change. Find out more at www.ccwi.org

Internship Program: CCWI interns learn to test water quality and gain valuable experience. For more information, contact the CCWI office.

Water Rights, Privatization and Public Trust Program:

CCWI co-sponsored "Dinner to Defend the Commons" on December 10, 2005 featuring speaker Jonathan Rowe of the Tomales Bay Institute. The Commons is the public trust, including our public schools, wetlands, national parks, forests, air, water, Social Security, Medicare, libraries, and more.

Fortuna: CCWI intern Jon Mooney, a Master's student at HSU, is working with the Redwood Coast Energy Authority to identify energy savings from Fortuna's City operations, and upgraded Wastewater Treatment plant. The report features quantification of Fortuna's greenhouse gas emissions and suggestions for future actions.

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*Your tax deductible donation helps support the work of
Town Hall Coalition and Community Clean Water Institute.
Thank you for your support!*

CCWI's 2005 Financial
Reports can be found on our
website: www.ccwi.org

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Inside:

Political Comedy Night- April 2, 2006

Dick and Dubya from the SF Mime Troupe perform hilarious political satire - Sebastopol Community Center.

See inside for details.

- Community Clean Water Institute Update:

Citizen Water Quality Monitoring

Water and Climate Change

Defending the Commons

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Town Hall Coalition
Community Clean Water Institute
6741 Sebastopol Ave. Suite 140
Sebastopol, CA 95472



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