

THE ECHO

ENVIRONMENTAL VOICES

NEWSLETTER

August 2015

Contents:

❖ Mission Statement.....	2
❖ Urgent News: Millions of Wastewater Spilled by EPA Workers.....	2
❖ Events: Major Northern CA Event on Aerosol Geoengineering	2
❖ Past Events: Clean Not Extreme.....	3
❖ California Initiative to Ban Fracking.....	3
❖ US Tar Sands.....	4
❖ “Chemtrails” Ban Passes in Richmond, California	5
❖ Honeybees and Aluminum.....	5
❖ DARK Act.....	6
❖ Half a Million Trees.....	6
❖ Fast Track to TPP	6
❖ RoundUp.....	7
❖ Fukushima.....	8

Mission Statement

Our mission is to help preserve our future by providing education and research about toxic chemicals and how they affect our health and the environment.

Urgent News

EPA accidentally breaches a dam while working to contain toxic acid mine drainage, releasing an estimated three million gallons into the Animas River, impacting the Navajo Nation and Durango and La Plata counties in Colorado.

“Yes. The agency is typically in the business of cleaning up this kind of mess, but in this case, well, it screwed up—big time. While supervising the drainage of the Gold King Mine near Silverton, Colorado (one of many abandoned mines in the area), workers breached an unstable dam, releasing an unstoppable deluge of the very same toxic wastewater they’d been trying to contain. It took a day before the agency owned up to the accident, and when it did, it underestimated its severity. After first putting the spill at a million gallons, the EPA has now tripled that estimate.”

Link to the Article:

<http://www.onearth.org/earthwire/animas-river-epa-mining-spill>



Events

Action Event To End Climate Engineering

August 14, 2015 (Friday)

David Marr Auditorium
1005 Magnolia St
Redding, CA 96001



Photo taken in Auburn, CA by local activist- Sierra Nevada
Geoengineering Awareness @ sngawareness.weebly.com

Link to GeoEngineeringWatch.org

<http://www.geoengineeringwatch.org>

“On Friday, August 14th, 2015 a gathering has been scheduled at the David Marr Auditorium In Redding, California (seating for over 1000) to present indisputable evidence to the public on the ongoing covert catastrophic climate engineering/geoengineering programs. This is a FREE public education event...Numerous experts including former government biologists and defense industry personnel...”

Link for more event information:

<http://www.geoengineeringwatch.org/major-northern-california-event-will-expose-global-climate-engineering/>

Past Events

Clean Not Extreme Energy

18 locations coordinated anti-fracking protests across California on August 1st for a day of action dubbed "Clean not Extreme." Actions included a performance of anti-fracking songs by "The Raging Grannies" in front of the Department of Conservation, which includes the Division of Oil, Gas, and Geothermal Resources (DOGGR), the agency directly responsible for regulating fracking and fracking waste disposal in California.

"Clean Not Extreme" events followed the recent release of the statewide study on hydraulic fracturing (fracking) and oil well stimulation practices in California.



These events were part of a statewide day of action that clearly showed rising public opposition to fracking and extreme oil extraction as well as rising support for a 100% clean energy economy.

Link to the Article:

<http://www.truth-out.org/news/item/32212-sacramento-activists-sing-no-fracking-no-way-at-protest#>



Join the Anti-Fracking Movement

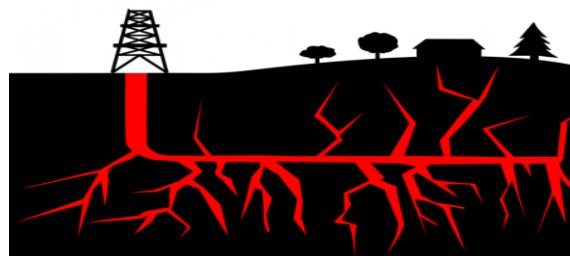
<http://californiansagainstfracking.org/>

California Initiative to Ban Fracking

A new organization based in Monterey County is starting the movement for an initiative to ban fracking in California.

"Paula Getzelman, a founding member of the fledgling Protect Monterey County, said the organization is in a fund-raising mode now and will begin the signature-gathering process after the first of the year to place a citizens' initiative for a fracking moratorium on the November 2016 ballot."

Link: <http://www.thecalifornian.com/story/money/2015/08/05/hydraulic-fracturing-fracking-monterey-county-protect-monterey-county/31172281/>



This would allow Californians to vote on a proposition to place a moratorium on fracking in the state.

Opinions are divided after the release of a report summarizing one and a half years of objective research from the California Council on Science and Technology. Proponents of extreme energy extraction methods claim the report as a victory, while opponents of fracking and extreme oil extraction celebrate the report for highlighting known and unknown risks.

So far there has been little response from the state legislature after the release of the report, but SB 248 is a new bill that addresses fracking waste disposal issues.

"Sen. Fran Pavley (D-Agoura Hills), author of the 2013 fracking bill, is adding provisions to an existing bill to address some of the issues in the report. SB 248 would phase out the use of unlined ponds for waste and call for a uniform list of allowable chemicals in fracking. That's good as far as it goes, which isn't nearly far enough."

Link to the Article:

<http://www.latimes.com/opinion/editorials/la-ed-fracking-report-california-council-on-science-and-technology-20150714-story.html>

US Tar Sands Strip Mining

The following article was written by a local environmental activist and is a must read, especially if you are unaware of ongoing tar sands strip mining in Utah. This is an extreme form of energy extraction that heavily pollutes the air,

water and soil. This form of energy extraction is wholly irresponsible given our current understanding of climate science, ecology and human health.



*"A Canadian based corporation called US Oil sands has attained construction permits for 32,000 acres of land for tar sands strip mining. This land, however, is located on protected Ute tribal land. On June 12, 2014, the EPA issued a directive to U.S. Oil Sands, stating that the company needs additional permitting before they can proceed with the project because the strip mine is located on traditional Uintah and Ouray Reservation land. The EPA's letter indicates that US Oil Sands needs tribal authorization in order to proceed with the construction of the site. **To date, US Oil Sands has never sought the Ute Tribal Government's approval of the project. Despite the EPA's orders, they have chosen to move forward with construction.** (emphasis added)"*

Link to the Article:

<http://m.dailykos.com/story/2015/05/28/1368076/-The-California-Frack-Wars-Episode-VI-Return-Of-The-Fractivist>

Dozens of environmental groups have joined the environmental groups Peaceful Uprising, Tar Sands Resistance, and Rising Tide in fighting US Tar Sands on Ute land, including the Center for Biological Diversity, Friends of Earth, Energy Action Coalition, and 350.org.

Link to the Article:

<http://www.tarsandsresist.org/national-environmental-groups-stand-with-utah-land-defenders/>



"Chemtrails" Ban Passes in Richmond, California

Richmond, CA City Council adopted Kucinich's 2002 Space preservation Act, which bans space based weapons including "chemtrails" and mind control.

Link to the Article:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=te-vfQPBHU>

Honeybees and Aluminum

New research shows bumblebee pupae have extremely high levels of aluminum accumulated in their bodies. Researchers have a new factor to consider to explain current bee declines affecting American beekeepers (40% in US last year) and wild bee populations.

Anti-Geoengineering activists are concerned that an ongoing covert military program may be causing the increased atmospheric and rainwater concentrations of aluminum and barium that is being detected by citizens across the nation, and that this program may be causing many negative effects on humans and wildlife, including bees.



<http://sngawareness.weebly.com/>

From the published and peer-reviewed research paper:

"Aluminium is the most significant environmental contaminant of recent times and we speculated that it could be a factor in pollinator decline...Bees rely heavily on cognitive function and aluminium is a known neurotoxin with links, for example, to Alzheimer's disease in humans."



"The significant contamination of bumblebee pupae by aluminium raises the intriguing spectre of cognitive dysfunction playing a role in their population decline."

Link to the Article:

<http://journals.plos.org/plosone/article?id=10.1371%2Fjournal.pone.0127665>

DARK Act

The Safe and Accurate Food Labeling Act of 2014 is being called by opponents the Deny Americans the Right to Know (DARK) Act. Despite widespread public support for labeling, if enacted, this act would cripple the GMO labeling movement.

"The reality is that the DARK Act would undo labeling laws that some states have already put on their books. But it goes further than that. The bill would actually make it harder for the FDA to require mandatory national labeling of GMOs."

Link:

<http://www.justlabelit.org/shedding-light-on-the-dark-act/>

Half a Million Trees

Read this article for 5 reasons why cutting down nearly a half a million trees in the east bay area is a terrible idea. The plan is funded by a \$4 million grant to reduce fire risk, but environmentalists claim that the loss of mature trees in several parks may further dry regions and do nothing about low lying brush and the plan does not include restoration of any kind after the clear cuts.



"The largest San Francisco Bay Area forest clearcut in 100 years will begin in August. An estimated 450,000 healthy, mature trees in the Oakland and Berkeley hills and county parklands will be cut down and chopped into logs and piles of wood chips"

Link to the Article:

<http://ecowatch.com/2015/05/18/clear-cut-half-million-trees/>



Fast Track to TPP

Please join us in asking our representatives to oppose the TPP by signing the petition below by MoveOn.org and by calling or writing in person.

"The Obama Administration is currently negotiating, in secret, a massive so called free trade agreement called the Trans-

Pacific Partnership (TPP). TPP leaks indicate that this agreement will greatly empower Corporations by virtually eliminating consumer, health, safety, labor, privacy and environmental regulations.”



“In essence this will be a global Corporate coup. In order to get this through congress President Obama and powerful corporate lobbyists pressured our elected members of congress to approve fast track legislation. Despite the secrecy and popular opposition to fast track and the TPP, fast track passed both the house and senate, aided by some \$200 million lobbyist incentives. Now we are in the fight of our lives to urge Congress to oppose the TPP when it comes up for a vote.”

Link:

<http://petitions.moveon.org/sign/stop-the-trans-pacific>

RoundUp

The US has been slow to respond to the World Health Organization’s International Agency for Research on Cancer determination of RoundUp’s main ingredient, glyphosate, as a probable human carcinogen.

In the East Bay, plans to deforest hundreds of acres of non-native trees include the spraying of RoundUp on the remaining tree trunks for two years to prevent resprouting.

Wheat farmers in the US currently use RoundUp at the final stages prior to harvest in order to dessicate the plants for easier harvest. This results in exceptionally high levels of glyphosate residues on these types of crops.

Kellogg’s has recently faced scrutiny over Non-GMO verified Kashi brand cereals found to contain high levels of glyphosate and its metabolite.



“GMO Free USA published Tuesday the results of independent lab tests documenting that a box of Kellogg’s Kashi GoLean Original cereal, which had not been verified by the Non-GMO Project, contained high levels of the World’s most used herbicide glyphosate residue.”

Link:

<http://sustainablepulse.com/2015/08/05/kelloggs-slammed-after-cereal-testing-shows-high-levels-of-probable-human-carcinogen/#.Vcgj9PkSqzo>

Fukushima

70 years after a nuclear bomb was dropped on Hiroshima, Japan, killing an estimated 80,000 Japanese instantly, activists speak out about nuclear weapons, nuclear power, and the Fukushima disaster. Thousands have united in the streets of Japan to raise their voices against the use of nuclear power after the 2011 Fukushima disaster, which to this day remains unresolved.

Link:

<http://mashable.com/2015/08/06/hirosima-bombing-anniversary/>

The environmental and public health impacts of the Fukushima disaster continue to unfold. For example, Newsweek reported that TEPCO recently admitted this year that in 2014 they failed to report that they had found

"contaminated water 50 to 70 times more radioactive than radioactivity levels already seen on its campus"

Link:

<http://www.newsweek.com/fukushima-has-been-leaking-radioactive-water-may-tepc-didnt-tell-anyone-309442>



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one ton of carbon dioxide by the time it reaches
40 years old!*
