

ANNUAL REPORT 2006

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.

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Dear Friends,

Sonoma County is one of the most beautiful places in the world as far as nature is concerned. Our rivers, streams, springs, and forested watersheds provide life-giving abundant pure water that helps to sustain life on the planet. Community Clean Water Institute would like to thank our team of volunteer water monitors who have been testing the quality of water in our creeks and streams for over 7 years.

2006 started out with the Russian River reminding us of both its power and vulnerability. It was a wild time here on the Laguna where we sampled sewage over-flows as they passed by our office in Sebastopol. This picture shows a sunnier, cleaner testing session on the Laguna this past summer.

We are delighted to announce the return of Sarah Shaeffer as the new Director of CCWI. Sarah received her Master of Public Health from Emory University, focusing on Global Environmental Health. Sarah brings knowledge and experience from her studies and research in Micronesia where she learned of the immense tragedies in public health due to contaminated water and poor wastewater management in much of the developing world. "Protection of water quality is vital to our health, wellbeing and our human ecosystem. We must cherish and protect the sources and quality of our water. I am happy to bring this experience and knowledge to my work with water quality monitoring at CCWI" stated Sarah. We would like to thank our long-time staff members Mike Sandler, Director and Beth Robinson, Program Manager, for their outstanding work at CCWI. We wish them well in their new endeavors.

In 2007, we are focusing on improving technology for our data users, adding storm monitoring, and actively identifying sources of pollution. CCWI is adding additional technical advisors to help guide our programs and reach these goals.

Our new volunteer Truston Davis and I were delighted on November 6, while monitoring Mark West Creek near its confluence, to witness a dozen spawners swimming up through the riffle at our feet. It was an exhilarating reminder of why we must continue our work to protect our streams and oceans. If you cannot become a volunteer monitor yourself, consider making a generous contribution to CCWI in support of our programs. We need your help to continue to monitor and protect water quality and resources in the magnificent waterways and watersheds of Sonoma County.

Thank you,

Nels Worden, President and Members of Board of Directors
Sarah Shaeffer, Director



Sarah's first day back at water monitoring this July at the summer bridge on the Laguna de Santa Rosa with summer intern Andra Stoddard.

2006 Pollution Hot Spots

Nitrate (NO₃-N) >1ppm

Americano Creek
Atascadero Creek
Cheney Gulch
Colgan Creek
Laguna de Santa Rosa
Mark West Creek
Salmon Creek
Windsor Creek

Phosphate >0.1ppm

Americano Creek
Colgan Creek
Dutch Bill Creek
Green Valley Creek
Laguna de Santa Rosa
Mark West Creek
Santa Rosa Creek

E. coli >235 MPN

Atascadero Creek
Russian River
Salmon Creek
Windsor Creek

Turbidity >100 NTU

Cheney Gulch
Green Valley Creek
Laguna de Santa Rosa
Mark West Creek
Russian River
Salmon Creek

Conductivity >375µs

Americano Creek
Atascadero Creek
Cheney Gulch
Colgan Creek
Dutch Bill Creek
Laguna de Santa Rosa
Mark West Creek
Windsor Creek

pH >8.5

Americano Creek
Dutch Bill Creek
Mark West Creek
Russian River
Santa Rosa Creek

Dissolved Oxygen <7mg/L

Americano Creek
Atascadero Creek
Austin Creek
Cheney Gulch
Colgan Creek
Dutch Bill Creek
Fay Creek
Green Valley Creek
Laguna de Santa Rosa
Mark West Creek
Pocket Canyon Creek
Purrington Creek
Russian River
Windsor Creek

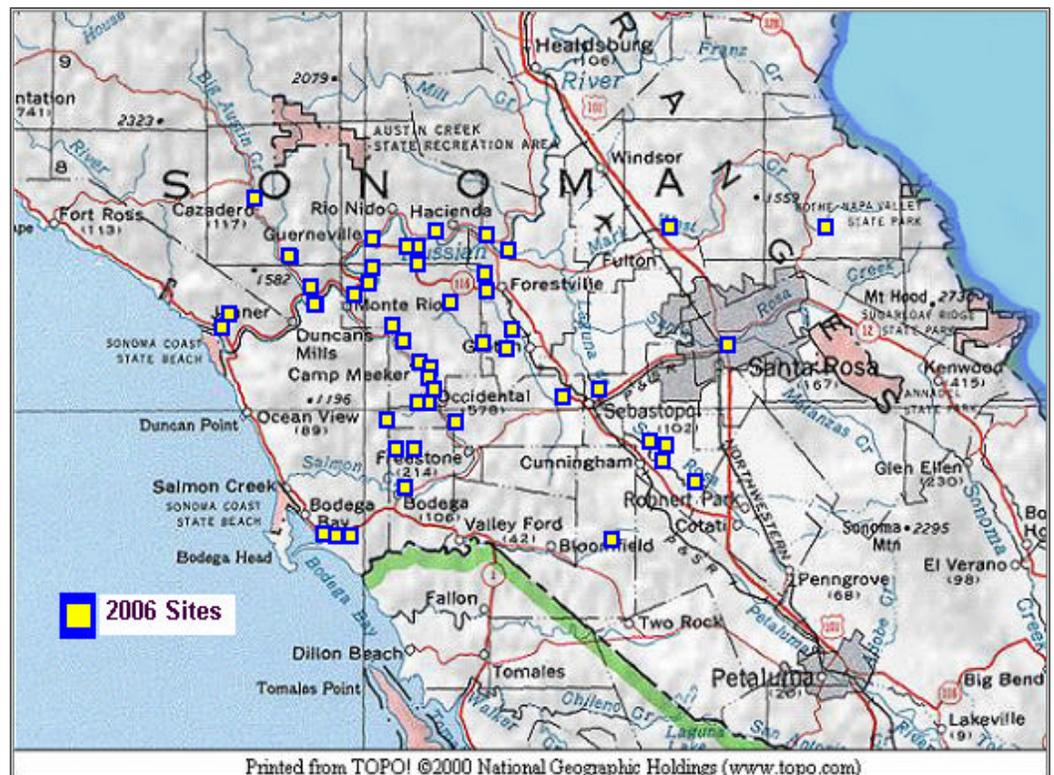
Water Quality in 2006

A preliminary look at 2006 data gathered by our volunteers suggests possible problems in Atascadero-Green Valley, Salmon, Windsor, Mark West,Americano, Dutch Bill, Cheney Gulch and of course the Laguna de Santa Rosa. Check out the sidebar at left to see a list of streams violating the North Coast Basin Plan Objectives at least once during the year (exception: Nitrate level in the basin plan is 10 mg/L, however levels above 1 mg/L are used by the USEPA).

CCWI will submit our 2004-2006 data to the State Water Resources Control Board for their assessment of which streams should be included as impaired on the 303-d list. Our dataset is the largest submitted within the Russian River and Salmon Creek Watersheds. The Clean Water Act requires the State to develop Total maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) of pollutants for streams listed as impaired, an important step towards controlling non-point source water pollution. Data collected between September and October 18th were submitted by CCWI to the World Water Quality Monitoring Day project, (www.worldwatermonitoringday.org).

The 2006 database is available on our website. Look for CCWI water quality data reports broken down by subwatershed and an over all assessment of our water quality findings beginning in April.

Community Clean Water Institute Volunteer Monitoring Sites 2006



Thank you to our 2006 financial supporters:

Green Earth Foundation
Rose Foundation
Individual Donors

Sonoma County Fish & Wildlife Commission
Tides Foundation
Grassroots Wildlands Fund
Bay Area Air Quality Management District

Citizen Monitoring Updates

This year we added two new watersheds to our volunteer monitoring program. In the Estero Americano watershed, a team is monitoring Americano Creek below the old dump site. Cheney Gulch, which runs along Hwy 1 from Bay Hill Road to its outlet in Bodega Bay wetlands, receives stormwater discharges from a gravel mine and cow pastures. Both watersheds are under threat from mining companies eager to open new gravel mines.

We have updated some of our monitoring equipment to include ion chromatography to measure anions (nutrients) and a DO meter using new luminescent technology, both new methods are a considerable upgrade in data quality. CCWI also acquired hobotemps perfect for intensive



Cheney Gulch after a storm

temperature monitoring in-stream. These devices will monitor 24/7, and only need downloading about once a month by volunteers. This is a vital tool in understanding habitat limitations in our salmonid streams.

Our summer SSU intern Andra Stoddard revamped our website to include personalized pages for each stream we monitor. On these pages are found personal stories from volunteers, photos and site specific information. Visit www.ccwi.org/issues/index.html to see the new pages.

Water Monitor Volunteers

Dutch Bill Creek

Tom Austin

Russian River/Austin Creek

Dennis Beall

Robert Feuer

John Pendergraft

Mark West Creek

Val Mulcaire

Grif Okie

Truston B. Davis

Laguna de Santa Rosa

Steve Greek

Gail Ohlander

Salmon Creek

Bob Nelson

Darlene LaMont

Margaret Gerner

Beth Trachtenberg

Noel Bouck

Carol Sklar

Jenner Creek/ Estuary

Randy Barron

Russian River

Elizabeth Christie

Lisa Vasse

Dennis & MaryLee

Brown

Windsor Creek

Robin Decker

Santa Rosa Creek

Paul Larkin

Pocket Canyon Creek

Doug Vincent

Green Valley Creek

Tom Veader

Bob Pakes

Larry Hanson

Bob Burke

Americano Creek

Jhara Snow

Sue Buxton

Cheney Gulch

Joe Mortensen

Karey Kumli

ET Lode

*Thank you also to all the various children, spouses, parents, friends and orange-fetching dogs who help water test!

Climate

2006 was the year that climate change became recognized by Americans as a serious issue. CCWI has been promoting local climate protection since 2002, and because of our early efforts, Sonoma County and the Bay Area are more prepared to meet this growing threat. With CCWI's encouragement, the Bay Area Air Quality Management District held a Climate Protection Summit in November 2006, where Al Gore presented the slides made famous in "An Inconvenient Truth" to hundreds of regional decision makers.

New Program: Voices of the River

In addition to our ongoing water testing classroom visits, CCWI has teamed up with West County Community Services to bring some much needed after school program-



ming for Russian River youth. This is one of the first projects up and running at the Russian River Youth Center located on the Monte Rio Recreation and Park District property along Dutch Bill Creek. Topics covered include civic involvement, water quality testing and watershed appreciation. A student-led, river-inspired art show is up for the month of April at Coffee Bazaar in Guerneville, and a stream clean-up was held on April 21st. Thank you to Sonoma County Fish & Wildlife Commission and the Rose Foundation for financial support.

Inside: Community Clean Water Institute's 2006 Annual Report

Complaints and Policy in 2006: CCWI continued to provide assistance through the Redwood Empire Environmental Center to residents concerned about protecting the rural character of Sonoma County. including responding to a proposed wine factory, gravel quarry proposals and water pollution problems uncovered through our volunteer testing program. CCWI sent comments and attended meetings on the Sonoma County's General Plan Update, the Marine Sanctuary Plan, water supply and wastewater and many other issues.

Do you have a pollution concern? CCWI will investigate water quality and water rights complaints on behalf of concerned citizens. Call our office right away to get a water sample jar when you see pollution, and document the problem with photos. Contact CCWI at 707-824-4370, or info@ccwi.org.

Contribute to Community Clean Water Institute! Your tax deductible donation will support grassroots water quality monitoring that will identify pollution sources in your watershed. With your support CCWI can report water quality problems to the public and advocate for clean up, abatement and long term policy that supports healthy ecosystems and drinking water.

\$25 \$50 \$100 Other \$_____

Name: _____

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