



Clean Water Coalition

O F N O R T H E R N
S O N O M A C O U N T Y

PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

**North county residents, winemakers, and business leaders
create new umbrella group to study impacts of sewage disposal schemes**

Healdsburg, Calif. April 3, 2008 -- Organizations representing over 2,500 residents of northern areas of Sonoma County have joined together to form a new alliance to monitor public wastewater disposal plans.

The body, called the Clean Water Coalition of Northern Sonoma County, is headquartered in Healdsburg, and has members in the Alexander Valley, the Dry Creek Valley, and the Russian River Valley. The Coalition's purpose is to educate the public about the implications of major urban sanitation projects proposed for the rural region.

The Chairman of the umbrella group, Fred Corson, heralded the move as an example of increased public interest and participation in civic issues. "Today treated sewage, or wastewater, is not exactly a dinner-table topic," said Corson, "but soon it will rank up there with climate change and freshwater availability as an issue too important to avoid public scrutiny. Waste disposal decisions made today can have groundwater contamination consequences tomorrow, and they will determine the future health of our children and the fate of the North County's agriculture and tourism-based economy."

Leaders of the Clean Water Coalition:

Fred Corson, Chairman

Fred Corson is from the fifth generation of a Northern California farm family. His education includes a PhD in organic chemistry from the University of California at Davis. He worked for the Dow Chemical Company for 31 years in research, research management, and business and corporate management positions. Before retiring, his position was Corporate Vice President of Research and Development. Specific job activities during his career included management of research on trace chemicals analysis, impacts of chemicals on people and the environment, and membrane separation systems. He and his wife, Mary Jane, live in the Dry Creek Valley. He grows grapes and is a timber owner and operator on family property in Mendocino County.

Dave Ring, Vice Chairman

A resident and grape grower in the Alexander Valley, Dave's career started in the Silicon Valley where he worked in manufacturing and finance for ROLM. He joined Cisco Systems as VP of Manufacturing, a position he held while the company grew from startup to Fortune 500. He was also on the board of Cisco and several other venture-backed startups. In addition to his work with the Clean Water Coalition of Northern Sonoma County, Dave is a member of the Soda Rock Neighborhood Association, the Alexander Valley Association, and volunteers with the Acumen Fund, which works to encourage entrepreneurial solutions to global poverty. Dave and his partner, Stu Harrison, recently celebrated their 25th anniversary. Dave is a graduate of Harvard College and Stanford University's MBA program.

Nabeel Al-Shamma

Nabeel Al-Shamma and his wife live on their vineyard in the Alexander Valley. Nabeel involves himself with local issues such as water and climate action in an effort to preserve Sonoma County for future generations. He is a senior director at Adobe Systems driving technical initiatives involving products such as the Adobe Reader and Flash Player. He began his sixteen years at Adobe working as senior developer and architect on Adobe Acrobat and PDF. Prior to Adobe, he worked at large companies such as Xerox, and startups such as Surface Science Instruments and Prometrix. Nabeel has a BS and MS in Mechanical Engineering from UC Berkeley. When he's not focused on his work or local issues he spends time in his vineyard or cycling the back roads of Sonoma County.

Dennis Hill

Winemaker Dennis Hill is driven to preserve quality winemaking and the sustainability of agriculture in Sonoma County. He grew up on his family's farm in the northern Russian River Valley and worked in agriculture as a young boy. After studying art and design at San Jose State University in the early 1970s, Hill

traveled extensively through Europe ultimately realizing the natural beauty of his hometown. He continued his formal education at UC Davis, and became a winemaker working with leading wine producers including Seghesio Winery, Alexander Valley Vineyards, Mill Creek Vineyards and Blackstone Winery. In 2007, he formed Cannonball Wine Company. Guided by sustainable practices, Hill operates his family's vineyard just outside of Healdsburg. His leadership of the Westside Association to Save Agriculture (WASA) and participation in the Clean Water Coalition of Northern Sonoma County is his contribution to help preserve Sonoma County's agricultural heritage.

Peggy Maddock

Peggy Maddock and her husband Dick have been landowners and part time farmers in the Alexander Valley for 34 years. As a mother of four and a graduate from Stanford and UC Berkeley with a degree in Child Development, Peggy has been a probation officer, social worker, nursery school teacher, and, for the last 25 years, a teacher at Alexander Valley Elementary School. An advocate for the Russian River watershed, she has been a member of the RRW Council since its inception 10 years ago and currently serves on the Board of Directors. Peggy has promoted watershed education for children through her work with Landpaths and other outdoor education programs.

Don McEnhill

Don McEnhill is Riverkeeper and Program Director with the Russian Riverkeeper organization, whose mission is to preserve, restore and enhance the natural systems of the Russian River through citizen action, scientific research and expert advocacy. Mr. McEnhill is a Healdsburg resident with a business background who grew up on the Russian River spending his summers at the family cabin on Fitch Mountain. Working with citizen groups and attorneys, he has researched water supply, water quality and land use issues in the Russian River for the past 5 years. Don is an avid canoer, white water paddler and recreational fisherman.

Katie Wetzel Murphy

Katie Wetzel Murphy's family has owned property in the Alexander Valley since 1962, and Katie has lived in the Alexander Valley since 1979, when she started working for her family's winery, Alexander Valley Vineyards. She joined the winery after graduating from UC Davis in Agricultural Economics. Katie serves on the Board of the Alexander Valley Association as President, the Sonoma County Wineries Foundation, and is a trustee at Sonoma Country Day School. She has previously been a board member of the Sonoma County Vintners and has volunteered for Healthcare Foundation Northern Sonoma County, Alexander Valley School, St. Paul's Church and other organizations. Katie and her husband Denny Murphy have three children.

About the Clean Water Coalition

The Clean Water Coalition of Northern Sonoma County is an organization comprised of local groups and concerned individuals within the agriculture valleys in Northern Sonoma County. The Coalition represents citizens who live in the Alexander Valley, Dry Creek watershed, Middle Reach of the Russian River, and within the City of Healdsburg who depend on high-quality groundwater supplies for drinking, domestic uses and agriculture.

The Coalition is focused on preserving groundwater and surface water quality and availability in the agricultural valleys upstream from the Sonoma County Water Agency drinking water collectors. These valleys are characterized by highly permeable alluvial soils and shallow groundwater resources. We advocate for stewardship of this public trust resource as our valleys form the drinking water aquifer that supplies the towns of Geyserville, Healdsburg, Windsor and the customers of the Sonoma County Water Agency.

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