



# THE ECHO

## ENVIRONMENTAL VOICES

### NEWSLETTER

JULY/AUGUST 2018

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## **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.*

## **EVENTS**

- **EV WEDNESDAY NIGHT CONFERENCE CALLS**

"Environmental Voices is hosting Wednesday Night Conference Calls.

We will be discussing various environmental and health issues like GMOs, 5G, Geoengineering, Vaccines and much more. This is an excellent networking opportunity for your organization to discuss critical health and environmental issues and educate others. Please join our conference call. We need your support.

Time: 8:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. (PST)

Phone: 1 (515) 739-1015

Code: 678272192#

If you can't get through, please call me on my cell phone (916) 595-7197.

- **JULY 6, 2018**

**Environmental Voices - Friday Night Dinner Meeting:**

*RSVP: Please be sure to **RSVP** me no later than 7/4/2018 by calling or texting me at (916) 595-7197 or sign up on our Environmental Voices Meet-Up Group at:*

<https://www.meetup.com/Environmental-VoicesMeetup/events/251667896/>

*The reservation is under Deborah Whitman and we will be located in Station #2.*

Date: July 6, 2017 (Friday)

Time: 7:00 p.m. 9:00 p.m.

Location: Old Spaghetti Factory

[1910 "J" Street](#)

[Sacramento, CA](#) 95677

Menu: <http://www.osf.com/pdf/menus/Sacramento.pdf>

I hope you will give your support and join us. These are very important network and action dinner meetings. Please call or text me at (916) 595-7197 if you have questions.

- **JULY 28, 2018**

**GEOENGINEERING WATCH EVENT**

**Shasta County Fairgrounds  
Anderson, CA.**

**3:00 p.m. - Doors at Fusaro Hall will be open to the public.**



*Geoengineered skies in Shasta County, California. Photo credit: Jovyde Wigington*

**On Saturday, July 28th, 2018**, a critical public awareness event has been scheduled at the [Shasta County Fairgrounds in Anderson, California](#) (1890 Briggs St). The event will be in the Fusaro Hall which has seating for approximately 800. Verifiable evidence will be presented to the public on the ongoing global climate engineering / geoengineering programs that are wreaking havoc on the atmosphere, environment, and human health. **This is a FREE public education event organized and funded by Geoengineering Watch.org and GEM FAIRE Inc.** There is no admission fee and free informational materials (including [commercial DVDs and 20 page booklets](#)) will be handed out at the event. Those attending the Geoengineering Watch event need only to state so at the Shasta County Fairgrounds entrance in order to gain free entry. Doors to the Fusaro Hall will open to the public at 3 p.m. on Saturday, July, 28th. Numerous experts include former state and federal government biologists, an EPA whistleblower, and a former commercial airline pilot. All experts will present data that conclusively proves ongoing climate engineering programs are:

- Obscuring otherwise blue skies all over the globe
- Contributing to global ecosystem and species die-off
- Completely disrupting the hydrological cycle (rain cycle) all over the planet
- Destroying the ozone layer which is causing off the chart levels of UV radiation
- Contaminating our air, soils, and waters with highly toxic heavy metals
- Causing extreme and unquantifiable environmental and human health impacts
- Are being carried out illegally under the guise of "national security"

For more information visit:

<https://www.geoengineeringwatch.org/upcoming-northern-california-climate-engineering-awareness-event/>

<https://www.shastadistrictfairandeventcenter.com>

## ARTICLES & INFORMATION



- **GMO's - USDA COMMENT DEADLINE JULY 3, 2018**

*A Message from Pamm Larry, Director of GMO Free CA*

Here are some resources for commenting. The only thing I'll stress again is that it's vital that folks make comments at the following link <https://www.regulations.gov/comment?D=AMS-TM-17-0050-0004> for their voices to be counted. Also, please fill in names as we are hearing that anonymous comments are not considered. Also, signing petitions don't really count, either. Petitions are great for stores and such but not the government. So although large organizations are sending out petitions, USDA could count it as just ONE comment, even if 500K have signed. So, please take just a few minutes and go directly to the site and comment.

More info on how to comment with step by step instructions:

<http://www.gmofreeca.org/the-dark-act-is-out-how-to-comment>

A video that gives my take on what's important in the regulation and how I feel about it:

<https://www.facebook.com/labelgmosposts/1840911152626275>

Center For Food Safety:

<https://www.centerforfoodsafety.org/press-releases/5321/proposed-regulations-for-gmo-food-labeling-could-leave-millions-of-americans-in-the-dark>

We have until July 3 to get 100 times more comments than there currently are.

If we don't have tons of comments, then the agencies think it's not that important to us. Please, please comment!!

For more information visit:

<http://www.gmofreeca.org/>  
<http://www.goodfoodbrigade.org/>



- **TRUMP ADMINISTRATION REVERSES OBAMA OCEAN PROTECTION PROGRAM (San Francisco Chronicle)**

While most eyes have been on the nation's southern border, the White House this week rolled out a new policy for the coasts, reversing an Obama-era program that sought greater protection of the high seas and angering environmentalists from New England to California.

An executive order signed by President Trump late Tuesday eliminates an uncelebrated but far-reaching review process put in place eight years ago among state, tribal and federal agencies to better coordinate ocean policy in the wake of the devastating Deepwater Horizon oil spill.

In a prepared statement, the Trump administration cited a need to “streamline” government and bolster domestic energy production and national security at sea.

“President Trump is reducing unnecessary bureaucracy and regulatory uncertainty which serve as headwinds for America’s ocean industries,” read a statement from the White House.

But conservation groups were quick to lash out at the president’s action. They said the order was doing away with an effective means of collaboration on such issues as fishing, shipping and offshore oil drilling, and would render states voiceless on weighty coastal matters.

“It’s a power grab,” said Richard Charter, a Bodega Bay resident and senior fellow at the Ocean Foundation. “This is a precursor to not only expanded offshore drilling and ocean mining, which we all know is coming, but any activity in the ocean that now falls under the exclusive control of the White House.”

Charter and others also said the new policy, while still only a framework with no immediate mandates, would make it harder for states and other regional players to pursue action on conservation and climate change.

President Barack Obama’s oceans policy was largely a response to the 2010 Gulf of Mexico industrial spill that unleashed hundreds of millions of gallons of oil and ravaged marine life. The directive called on state and federal governments to work together to promote “healthy ocean ecosystems.”

Read more at:

<https://www.sfchronicle.com/news/article/Trump-administration-reverses-Obama-13012047.php>

- **THE TWO BIGGEST CHALLENGES TO GROUND-WATER RECHARGE IN CALIFORNIA**

**THE WET WINTER** of 2017 brought an opportunity to test groundwater recharge – the intentional spreading of water on fields to percolate into the aquifer – as a tool for restoring groundwater levels and helping basins comply with the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA). This is especially important in the San Joaquin Valley, which has the biggest imbalance between groundwater pumping and replenishment in the state.

A key question for many valley water managers is how much water will be available for recharge in the long term. By law, only river flows in excess of what is required for environmental purposes and to supply existing water-right holders are available for recharge.

A recent report by the PPIC Water Policy Center estimated how much water would be available in the San Joaquin Valley over the long term. Two earlier studies – one by two scientists at University of California, Davis and the other by the Department of Water Resources – estimated a maximum of about half a million acre-feet on average, which is about a quarter of the valley’s estimated deficit. The PPIC study updated these estimates in the context of current

conditions and concluded that an average of more than a million acre-feet of San Joaquin River flows may be available.

There are two big challenges to getting more water into underground storage in the valley:

- Most water for recharge becomes available during short periods. These periods usually coincide with floods, when recharge infrastructure – such as canals, pipelines and recharge basins – is already working at full capacity. In 2017, for example, more than half of the available water would need to be diverted in February and March, with diversions above 30,000 acre-feet on most days (see figure). To put that into perspective, the California Aqueduct – the state’s largest conveyance system – has a maximum capacity of 26,000 acre-feet per day. While such daily volumes are lower than the overall volume of water moved in the valley during the summer irrigation season, seasonal floods are concentrated in relatively few areas where conveyance limits are likely to be a challenge.
- Most of the available flows are in the northern half of the valley, while most of the overdrafted basins are in the drier south. This highlights the need to evaluate the capacity of large system-level water conveyance systems, such as the Friant-Kern Canal and the California Aqueduct, to move more water from north to south for recharge purposes.

Winter and spring months provide a short window for recharging aquifers in California’s San Joaquin Valley, as shown by research from U.C. Davis and the Department of Water Resources. (Courtesy of Jonathan Parker, Kern Water Bank Authority)

The State Water Board – which oversees surface water rights – has the last word on this issue. Given the nature of California’s “flashy” river systems – in which very high flows develop rapidly during the winter and spring – the board will need to develop a simple, quick way to determine when river flows exceed water required for the environment and water-right holders.

We can’t count on groundwater recharge to single-handedly end overdraft in the valley, but efforts to expand recharge in wet years will be helpful. The most pressing issues are to determine how much water is legally available and how best to put this water into the ground. Assessing the infrastructure needed for capturing flows during floods is an essential piece of this puzzle.

Read more at:

<https://www.newsdeeply.com/water/community/2018/06/21/the-two-biggest-challenges-to-groundwater-recharge-in-california>



(iStock)

- REPORT FINDS  
INDUSTRIAL CHEMICALS  
IN WATER SUPPLY MORE  
TOXIC THAN THOUGHT**

A family of industrial chemicals turning up in public water supplies around the country is even more toxic than previously thought, threatening human health at concentrations seven to 10 times lower than once realized, according to a government report released Wednesday.

The chemicals are called perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl. They were used in such goods as fire-suppressing foam, nonstick pans, fast-food wrappers, and stain-resistant fabric and carpet, but are no longer used in U.S. manufacturing. Water sampling has found contamination in water around military bases, factories and other sites.

Exposure at high levels is linked to liver damage, developmental problems and some forms of cancer, among other risks.

A draft of the report, by the Department of Health and Human Services' toxicology

office, had set off alarms within the Trump administration earlier this year. A January email from a White House official, released under the Freedom of Information Act, referred to the findings as a "potential public relations nightmare."

The draft went under months of government review before Wednesday's publication, but the key finding — that the chemicals are dangerous at specific levels much lower than previously stated — was not changed.

The EPA, which scheduled a series of hearings on the chemicals, said last month that it would move toward formally declaring the two most common forms of PFAS as hazardous substances and make recommendations for groundwater cleanup, among other steps.

U.S. manufacturers agreed in 2006 to an EPA-crafted deal to stop using one of the most common forms of the chemical in consumer products.

The findings will likely lead state and local water systems with the contaminant to boost filtering.

"The more we test, the more we find," Olga Naidenko, a science adviser to the Environmental Working Group nonprofit, said Wednesday.

Read more at:

<https://www.kqed.org/science/1926167/report-finds-industrial-chemicals-in-public-water-supply-more-toxic-than-thought>

- **PUSH TO BAN CORAL-KILLING SUNSCREENS GOES NATIONAL**



*The Environmental Working Group's 12th annual sunscreen guide finds that the majority of sunscreens sold in the U.S. offer inferior sun protection. (iStock)*

An environmental group has petitioned the federal government to ban two coral-killing chemicals from sunscreen and personal care products, just weeks after Hawaii passed a law banning their sale due to alleged toxic effects on marine life.

On Wednesday the Center for Biological Diversity petitioned the Food and Drug Administration to ban products containing oxybenzone and octinoxate, noting that even a miniscule amount of oxybenzone is toxic to corals.

"The science is clearer every day that coral-killing chemicals are in our sunscreens," says CBD biologist and lead attorney Emily Jeffers. "This is a nationwide problem and applies everywhere, even to people who don't live next to the ocean. Whatever sunscreen people apply rubs off into

water sources, which eventually flow back into the ocean."

Climate change is already wreaking havoc on coral reefs, says Jeffers, and the added stress of chemical contamination is only deepening the crisis.

A widely cited 2015 study found that oxybenzone and octinoxate, which function as UV blockers, disrupt marine life and contribute to coral bleaching, which occurs when heat stress drives out nutrient-rich algae, which is the coral's food source.

Once extremely rare, incidents of oral bleaching have increased fourfold over the last three decades.



*Studies find that corals are bleaching due to high water temperature. (iStock)*

Not everyone agrees that the two chemicals are to blame for the destruction of coral reefs. Trade groups for cosmetics and over-the-counter drug companies have pointed to other culprits such as global warming and overfishing.

Following the ban in Hawaii, the Consumer Healthcare Products Association accused the state's legislature of compromising the safety and welfare of

residents by effectively banning at least 70 percent of sunscreen products currently on the market.

Read more at:

<https://www.kqed.org/science/1924274/push-to-ban-coral-killing-sunscreens-goes-national>

## • **BIG DROP IN CHEMICAL LEVELS IN GIRLS WHO SWITCHED COSMETICS**

Teenage girls who switched cosmetics for just three days had a big drop in certain chemicals in their bodies, according to a new study from researchers at UC Berkeley and Clinica de Salud del Valle de Salinas.

The team looked at four chemicals used in cosmetics, shampoos and lotions. These chemicals, known as "hormone disruptors," can interfere with estrogen and testosterone in the human body. The four chemicals were:

- **phthalates** -- found in nail polish and fragrance
- **parabens** -- a preservative used in cosmetics
- **triclosan** -- an antibacterial agent
- **oxybenzone** -- a sunscreen agent

In the study, 100 Latina girls in the Salinas area swapped their cosmetics and other personal care products for new ones that did not include the four chemicals on their labels. Researchers took urine samples before and after the three-day test.

Overall, the girls showed a 25-45 percent drop in the levels of the four chemicals.

### **Reducing Exposure**

Lead author Kim Harley, associate director of UC Berkeley's Center for Environmental Research and Children's Health, said this type of approach had never been studied before.

"We hoped that if we changed to lower-chemical products, we would see significant reductions," Harley said. "So that was positive for us, that we found that you really could reduce your exposure to these chemicals through these changes."

The study was published in the journal [Environmental Health Perspectives](#).

Harley said there's "a lot we don't know yet" about the effects of these chemicals in the human body, but some human research shows "they are associated with neurodevelopment problems in children, respiratory problems like asthma in children and obesity problems."

The reason the study was done on teenage girls is because they tend to use more personal care products than adult women and because adolescence may be a time of particular risk.

"Adolescence is a time of rapid growth and development," Harley said. "It's physical growth, reproductive development, brain development, all happening in adolescence."

Read more at:

<https://www.kqed.org/stateofhealth/156734/big-drop-in-chemical-levels-in-girls-who-switched-cosmetics>

## • LOSS OF EARTH'S INTACT FORESTS SPEEDS UP

Earth's intact forests shrank annually by nearly 90,000 square kilometres -- an area the size of Austria -- from 2014 to 2016, 20 percent faster than during the previous 13 years, according to findings presented at a conference in Oxford this week.

Despite UN-led efforts to halt deforestation, nearly ten percent of undisturbed forests have been fragmented, degraded or simply chopped down since 2000, according to the analysis of satellite imagery.

Average daily loss over the first 17 years of this century was more than 200 sq km (75 sq miles).

"Degradation of intact forest represents a global tragedy, as we are systematically destroying a crucial foundation of climate stability," said Frances Seymour, a senior distinguished fellow at the World Resources Institute, and a contributor to the research.

"Forests are the only safe, natural, proven and affordable infrastructure we have for capturing and storing carbon."

The last forest frontiers also play a critical role in maintaining biodiversity, weather stability, clean air, and water quality.

Some 500 million people worldwide depend directly on forests for their livelihood.

So-called "intact forest landscapes" -- which can include wetlands and natural grass pastures -- are defined as areas of at least 500 sq km (200 sq miles) with no visible evidence in satellite images of large-scale human use.

Concretely, that means no roads, industrial agriculture, mines, railways, canals or transmission lines.

- 'Certainly worrying' -

As of January 2017, there were about 11.6 million sq km (4.5 million sq miles) of forests worldwide that still fit these criteria.

"Many countries may lose all their forest wildlands in the next 15 to 20 years," Peter Potapov, an associate professor at the University of Maryland and lead scientist for the research, told AFP.

On current trends, intact forests will disappear by 2030 in Paraguay, Laos and Equatorial Guinea, and by 2040 in the Central African Republic, Nicaragua, Myanmar, Cambodia and Angola.

"There could come a point in the future where no areas in the world qualify as 'intact' anymore," said Tom Evans, director for forest conservation and climate mitigation at the Wildlife Conservation Society.

"It is certainly worrying."

In tropical countries, the main causes of virgin forest loss are conversion to

agriculture and logging. In Canada and the United States, fire is the main culprit, while in Russia and Australia, the destruction has been driven by fires, mining and energy extraction.

Compared to annual declines during the period 2000-2013, Russia lost, on average, 90 percent more each year from 2014 to 2016.

For Indonesia, the increase was 62 percent, and for Brazil it was 16 percent.

The new results are based on a worldwide analysis of satellite imagery, built on a study first done in 2008 and repeated in 2013.

Read more at:

<https://www.afp.com/en/news/2265/loss-earths-intact-forests-speeds-scientists-doc-1699wm1>



## **Environmental Voices**

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**Please consider the environment before printing this newsletter**

*A single tree absorbs up to 48 pounds of carbon dioxide every year, and can sequester one ton of carbon dioxide by the time it reaches 40 years old!*

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