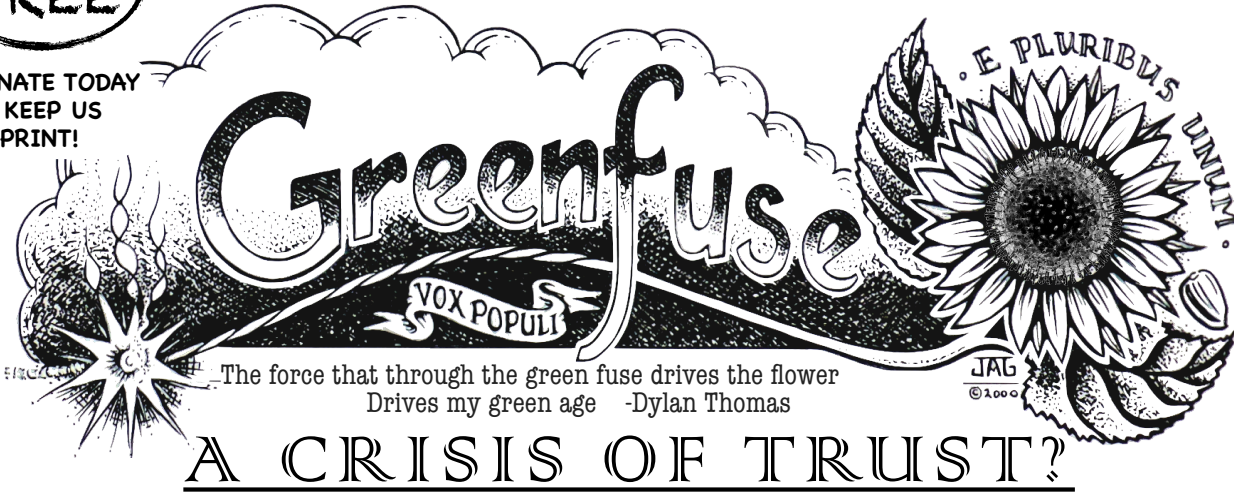


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## A CRISIS OF TRUST?

Trust in all our institutions has been in decline since reaching a peak in the 1960's. Over time Institutions tend to become less attractive, less competent, more bureaucratic. As our culture, media, and politics move away from centralized authority, we're back to our roots- with the modern equivalent of fireside story telling, creating Boogeymen to blame, to struggle against, and institutions become prime suspects.

We consume (and produce) information differently than previous generations. When viral social congruity trumps intensive study, experience, knowledge, and a reliance on reality- trust is too easily lost. Trust demands a belief in reliability and truth.

Some things are obvious. Do we really need the newly provided **Pandora Papers** to know the ultra wealthy use the system to hide their wealth? It may be a given, but only the details, investigated and analyzed, can confirm things like: The US is the No. 2 destination for **kleptocratic capital**, which ends up in surprising places like Delaware and Wyoming and South Dakota, essentially sequestered money beyond the reach of tax authorities in perpetuity, making the United States the weak link in the system of global financial transparency. Even with their secrecy exposed, despite our chagrin, our opinion of those practices doesn't matter, the facts don't change. Believe it or not, reality is based on facts, of course nothing stokes conflict with the opinions of others, like heartfelt belief.

**The Saga of Richardson Grove is back.** Years ago I wrote an essay on the subject and submitted it for print in these pages. It was dismissed by Editor Kathy and Publisher Paul, deemed **heretical**, hence, a bone of contention. I suggested that the **Caltrans** project to realign **101** in Richardson Grove should be fought in terms of **being an unnecessary fiscal boondoggle**, I believed that it would be more to the point to lobby then Governor Brown to declare a special exemption for California's first redwood park, and maintain it's historical proportions. This I reasoned would ultimately be about as effective as lawsuits that cause lengthy (and more costly) delays.

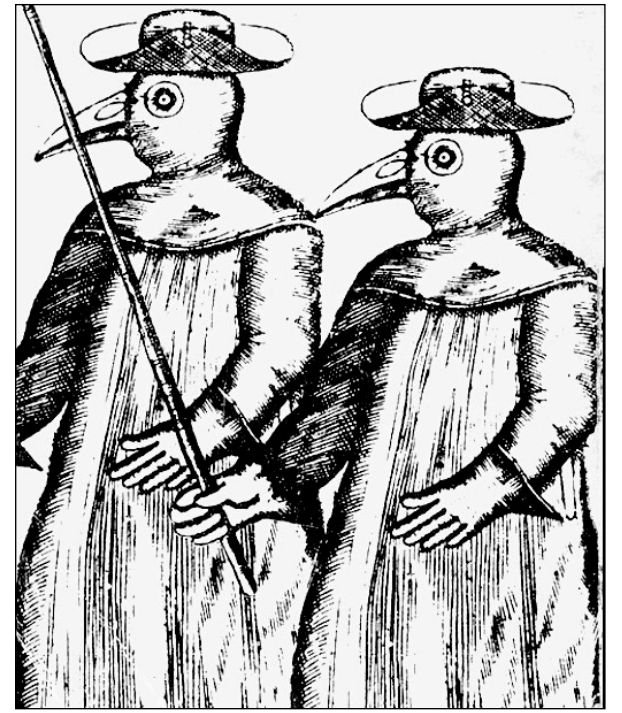
**Paul is probably rolling over in his grave as I write-** but, the slogan **"SAVE RICHARDSON GROVE"** has always struck me as hyperbole, manipulative eco-fear to rally people in support of lawsuits, and was not an honest characterization. We may not like the change to the road proposed, but in the end Richardson Grove will continue to stand.

Next year will celebrate the grove's centennial as a state park, which began in 1922 with 120 acres. Today the park has grown to **1,800 acres**. The first road through Richardson Grove, which became US 101, was constructed in approximately 1915 and first surfaced, most likely with gravel and oil, in 1927. The route is not ideal for modern traffic, nevertheless has served us well ever since. Given the demands of population and commerce, the road will also continue to stand.

The latest documents, reconstructed by court order, include that the proposed realignment project affects 1.1 miles of 101 through Richardson Grove. The net increase in impervious surface for the project would be 0.17 acre, and the disturbed soil area is now estimated at 0.67 acre. Disturbed soil and fill required for the realignment were reduced by eliminating originally proposed 2-foot shoulders, where not essential, to achieve the *Project Purpose and Need*, continuing a lack of accommodation for pedestrian or bike traffic through the grove, which ironically mitigated one aspect of concern and creates another. Despite it all, Caltrans concludes: *"with the minimization measures proposed, 3 old growth redwoods could potentially have a short-term visible reduction in foliage density; 99 old growth redwoods would experience minor and inconsequential changes to tree health; and the remaining 7 trees would have no decline in foliage density or tree health."*

I continue to believe there is no mechanism to adequately prevent the project as environmental concerns are mitigated and plans are approved, reliance on environmental law points to the dilemma: **Clearly the project is not needed.** But there is no process to advance the opinion **"We just don't trust your motivations."** or like big trucks! Clearly, our roads are already here, they serve our needs. And allow access to the goods and services we consume- **"The Roads Must Roll"**

Despite all the strife, or lack of it, when extensive projects happen, like the critical transit links to the north and east, we get used to it and the roads continue to be useful. Closer to home there was the **Confusion Hill Slide** area. Few complained about massive bridges on logged virgin territory with slopes just as steep on the west side of the river. After the *emergency* project, the bridge, retaining walls, and road work south, look pretty good, and are perhaps a safer stretch of the road that is likely to continue to cut through the area forever.



The hotly contested Willits by-pass was nonessential and destructive of natural habitat, **true**, but the road has healed in nicely, and the utility of the bypass is a boon to most drivers.

Time passes, and changes happen. The historic destruction of the former redwood grove just south of the Humboldt County line, once contiguous with the state park, created a view-shed we take for granted as our natural landscape in this generation. A blink in the life of a redwood. And as Caltrans documents about the grove: Redwood trees have extraordinarily resilient root systems, after 90 years of highway traffic, and more than 15 million cars and trucks over the redwoods' root zones during the past decade alone. The old growth redwoods alongside US 101 appear mostly to be in good health.

We do trust Caltrans to build and maintain safe infrastructure we use daily, but, *can they be trusted?* Trust and verify were the watchwords at the end of the Cold War. Attention to detail when the inevitable work begins may be all we can hope for.

In another sign the times are changing: after several years with no confirmed director, the **Bureau of Land Management** finally has a new head. Biden's nominee Tracy Stone-Manning, who has been serving as the senior advisor for conservation policy for the **National Wildlife Federation**, was narrowly confirmed by the US Senate, even though many considered her an eco-terrorist. In 1989 she was an **Earth First! Activist** in Idaho **"conspiring with tree-spikers."** Enough senators placed their trust in her even as she broke a trust when she was granted immunity and testified against two men she knew, who were eventually convicted of the spike crime.

**Pandora let out all the evils from the jar to infect the earth; hope alone remained to assuage humankind.**

With apologies to trusted friend Paul for my heresy.  
- **Joshua Golden**

## The Ballad of the Water Protectors



A new **Columbus** is about to pump oil through **Line 3**, the last tar sands pipeline. That is the colonial-like corporation **Enbridge**. In one narrative, the Canadian corporation **Enbridge** won. **Columbus** conquered anew, proof that **might and money** remain the rulers. Then, there's another.

**The Ballad of the Water Protectors.** A movement born in the battles in northern Minnesota and North Dakota, a movement that will grow and transform the economy of the future.

How do we know this? Well, no one wants to finance more tar sands. Other telling signs, and some new red flags, include:

The Canadian oil industry estimated that a lack of pipeline capacity reduced the industry's income by tens of billions of dollars before the pandemic started. The tar sands industry couldn't afford to approve and build new extraction facilities during the curtailment, and now, in part due to the pandemic, it still can't.

A recent joint report by the Indigenous Environmental Network and Oil Change International, found that Indigenous resistance alone has stopped or delayed greenhouse gas pollution equivalent to at least 25% of annual U.S. and Canadian emissions.

As a result of low oil prices, reduced income and divestment, tar sands industry capital expenditures crashed. Almost all its capital spending over the past five years was used for maintenance of existing extraction facilities, not development of new facilities.

**Put another way, the pipeline opposition campaign stopped the tar sands industry dead in its tracks.**

After piercing an aquifer in January — an aquifer that is still bleeding 100,000 gallons of water a day — Enbridge covered it up for as long as it could until it was caught and fined \$3.3 million by the Department of Natural Resources. This is the kind of people we are dealing with.

We also learned the pipeline isn't even adequately insured. The Minnesota Public Utilities Commission required Enbridge to obtain \$200 million of "environmental impairment liability" insurance, in addition to general corporate liability coverage of \$900 million, and to include the state of Minnesota and several American Indian tribes as additional insureds on its policies. But Enbridge recently submitted a report to the Public Utilities Commission saying it will likely not be able to obtain this insurance "in the near future."

No insurance is not only dangerous but illustrates again that the tar sands party is over. The most expensive tar sands pipeline will be the last one to the U.S.

In 2018, due to a lack of pipeline capacity, the government of Alberta ordered tar sands and other crude oil extraction facilities to curtail production, initially by 325,000 barrels per day. This order meant that each month about 10 million barrels of oil (and the carbon within it) stayed in the ground. Although Alberta gradually ramped down the curtailment, it lasted almost two years. Thank a water protector for that.

We also delayed the Line 3 project by four years (Enbridge's initial in-service date was 2017), such that any new tar sands development efforts are now facing the near-term prospect of reduced oil demand resulting from the escalating adoption of

electric vehicles and climate change policy developments, such as the Canadian carbon tax.

Delaying Line 3 by four years means that the tar sands industry now faces a global crude oil market environment that is much less favorable than in 2017.

Meanwhile, a Code Red has just been issued for the planet in the latest U.N. Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change report. With this warning, Minnesota's approval of the line, from the Public Utilities Committee to the courts, makes us look like archaic climate crisis co-conspirators.

We also look increasingly like a police state, especially in northern Minnesota. The repressive police brutalization of Line 3 opponents using rubber bullets, chemical sprays and "pain compliance" have come to the attention of the United Nations Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD) for "Violations of Anishinaabe Human Rights from Enbridge's Line 3."

This new investigation is likely to expose again into the future what a truly rotten idea the escrow account established by Enbridge and the PUC to militarize the north in the name of defending Line 3 really was. Did we learn something from our whippings?

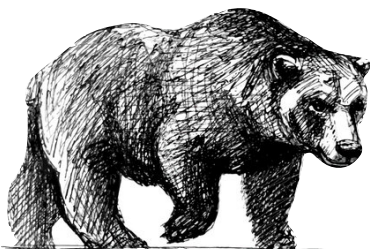
**It's time to end conquest and begin survival. Code Red for the environment means that we need to move away from fossil fuels and to organic agriculture, and to local and efficient energy. Fortunately, tribal nations are leading the way in the north. It's time to quit acting like Columbus.**

**Winona LaDuke [honorearth.org](http://honorearth.org)**

## Botched Bear Urine Boil

After burning more than 8,500 acres, forcing the evacuation of more than 4,000 residents, destroying 185 buildings and costing some \$25.6 million to suppress, the Fawn Fire north of Redding was officially declared contained.

Alexandra Souverneva had been hiking to Canada on September 22nd and workers at a quarry reported seeing a woman acting strangely and trespassing near the Mountain Gate community in Northern California, she reportedly became thirsty and found a puddle of water in a dry creek bed,



she believed the water had been contaminated with bear urine, so she tried to filter the water with a tea bag, she related that didn't work so she attempted to make a fire to boil the water. She stated it was too wet for the fire to start, and drank the water anyway and then continued walking uphill from the creek bed.

Souverneva later walked out of the brush near the fire line, approached firefighters and told them she was dehydrated and needed medical help. Souverneva was found with with CO2 cartridges, a lighter and a vaporizer containing a green leafy substance- she admitted to using that day.

Souverneva, 30, faces a felony arson charge with an enhancement of committing arson during a state of emergency, she could face up to nine years in state prison.