

Fueling the Fire Continues from page 4

drug addicts, lazy bums, has served to keep the real people and their humanity from becoming known to the public. The dominant narrative that homelessness is being taken care of and that we are getting people "housed" is a ruse. In fact, the powers that be - to date- have focused not on solutions to homelessness but rather on making it invisible by disbursing and disrupting viable Communities, individuals and families, pushing them to the

extreme margins, and scattering them and their support systems. People on the street with no alternative place to go, whose rights are being violated daily, are being subjected to conditions that will only exacerbate the problems faced by all municipalities and Humboldt as a whole if the shelter crisis is not embraced."

An activist from another era, gave a warning that the establishment is hypocritical in action, stating, "For you have neglected the weightier provisions of the law: justice and mercy and faithfulness; but these are the things you should have done without neglecting the others."

(Matthew 23:23)



A Volunteer who stated she was fired from the food bank for having a "heavy hand" in giving to the houseless and hungry in our community said, "It is really ironic that this fire happened where it did...if we all really knew how much food was lost we would understand the greater travesty." she added: "There was hundreds of pounds of rice that had been there for over 10 years, that I wasn't allowed to give away. While we had tons of people begging for food, they would be turned down. The management hated backpackers and out-of-towners, and I couldn't believe it, because we had so much food to give. Its really tragic because the people in the community thought they were donating to the food bank to distribute to those in need, but management was really particular about who they would help. Management told older people to come in once a week, the younger ones were told only once a month. "

-SHAKTI

contact: publiceye@greenfuse.work to sign the petition to demand a shelter crisis in Humboldt County.



OIL ZOMBIES RETURN TO RICHARDSON GROVE

Greetings ... like the walking dead the Caltrans project to re-align Highway 101 through Richardson Grove returns to threaten the State Park, its ancient redwoods and safety on our rural roads all for the purpose of allowing access to more Interstate-size trucks. However, thanks to our allied environmental organizations the Environmental Protection Agency (EPIC), the Center for Biological Diversity (CBD), Californians for Alternatives to Toxics (CATS) and our savvy, hardworking attorneys, a lawsuit was filed on June 23, 2017 to again challenge the unneeded and damaging project.

The Richardson Grove project is one of a number of projects Caltrans is pursuing to open the North Coast to Interstate-size trucks. Highway 299 has already been opened. Interstate-size trucks have access from Redding to Humboldt County. Another project along Highways 197/199 from Grants Pass to Crescent City threatens Jeddiah Smith State Park and the Smith river.

In addition to threatening our ancient trees, endangered species and increasing greenhouse gases (CO2), Interstate-size trucks are the most dangerous and damaging vehicles on the road today. If you think our rural roads are in terrible shape now, just wait until these big trucks take their toll. Right now the gross weight limit is 80,000 lbs. However, in the anti-regulation climate of the Trump administration the push is on to increase the gross weight limit. alarming statistic states that 60% of big-rig truck accidents occur on rural roads! When a big-rig and a car collide there is a 97% fatality rate for the auto occupants. .

Caltrans routinely ignores these potential threats, refusing to acknowledge that there will be an increase in truck traffic. If that is the case, why are they spending millions of dollars on these coordinated projects in total disregard for the safety of area residents? While larger trucks might benefit a few businesses there has been no objective analysis in the documents to substantiate that claim or to justify the cost now approaching an estimated \$30 million.

Opposition is already ramping up once more to protest this insanity. Indigenous and environmental activists completed the "log walk" and float from Richardson Grove to the Caltrans maintenance station in Redway on Sunday June 25 where a rally was held and the log passed along to activists who will transport it to the Mattole where actions are underway to protest logging activities by Humboldt Redwoods Company. The log will then be transported further north to the Klamath to protest the Jordan Cove LGN pipeline project. The log is symbolic of the interconnected threats to our environment.

We'll keep you posted on opportunities for public comment. If you are moved to donate please access EPIC's website at wildcalifornia.org and earmark your donation for Richardson Grove. Many thanks!

Very truly yours, Barbara Kennedy

"CALTRANS keeps pushing this nonsensical project that would do terrible damage to ancient redwoods in our state park, with no benefits to the community,"

said Aruna Prabhal, an attorney at the **Center for Biological Diversity**. "There's just no compelling traffic or safety reason to destroy these beautiful trees. The changes CALTRANS claims it's made to the project won't protect more than 100 giant redwoods from being damaged or killed."

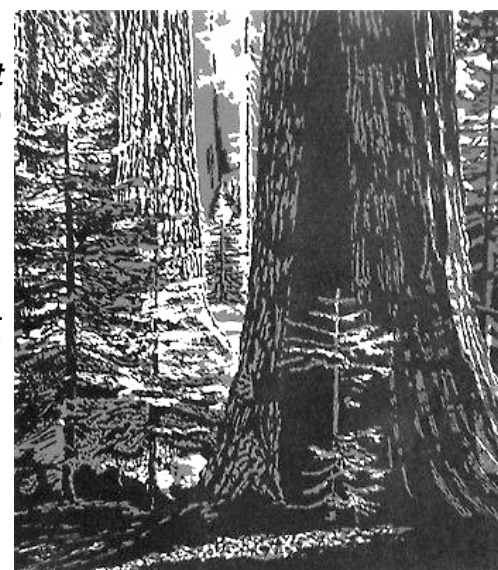
The "**Richardson Grove Operational Improvement Project**" would cut into and pave over the roots of more than 100 of Richardson Grove's ancient Redwoods, including trees up to 2,000 years old, 18 feet in diameter and 300 feet tall. **CALTRANS** first proposed the project in 2007, claiming the highway-widening is needed to accommodate large-truck travel. However, **CALTRANS** acknowledges that Highway 101 through Richardson Grove is already designated for larger trucks and does not have significant safety problems. CALTRANS continues to rely on inadequate environmental review.

"**CALTRANS** has continued to push forward, ignoring previous court warnings about the need to honestly evaluate the effects of its road widening on old-growth redwoods," said Tom Wheeler, executive director and staff attorney for **EPIC**

"Caltrans does not seem to get that- We the people, by law, have a place at the table when important decisions are made affecting our environment..."

said Patty Clary, executive director of Californians for Alternatives to Toxics. The suit was filed by; the Center for Biological Diversity, EPIC, Californians for Alternatives to Toxics, Friends of Del Norte, and longtime local residents Bess Bair, Trisha Lee Lotus, Jeffrey Hedin and David Spreen.

The suit challenges Caltrans' violations of the California Environmental Quality Act, and inadequate evaluation of environmental impacts, a misleading conclusion that the project would have no significant impact on the environment, and a flawed determination that none of the proposed highway alterations would threaten the stability of any old-growth redwoods.



"...Went to the action protesting the widening of the highway through Richardson grove state park. An interesting day, interesting people showed up. An African man from Cameroon, representatives of local tribes, from up north and south of us too. elders and youth included, earth first activists, and a redwood log that has been carried many miles by hand, by all sorts of people for different stretches of its journey, which started in Willits, and is headed for the Mattole watershed and beyond. We floated the log in a canoe from Tooby park to the CALTRANS yard by the Renner station.

It will spend the night in Redway and continue its journey down the Eel to Bull creek and into the Mattole.

The man from Camaroon gave a great impromptu speech, and I cannot do it justice by retelling it.. Africans are often very eloquent speakers...we need to get together with neighbor's, and build community, when we do that the power is in our hands not the hands of the authoritarian power structure that controls the world, by suppressing indigenous knowledge of how to take care of the earth.

Protesting and conflict doesn't have much effect, we need to by pass the current power structure by creating community where we make our own decisions. The Yurok Elder talked about the Hopi prophecy, of the different races coming to gather to create a new world.

She talked about four oak trees in Willits that CALTRANS cut down for no good reason. It made me glad to hear her speak up for four individual trees. And the Yurok youth spoke about not using the term reservations. call them ancestral lands. They are water Keepers, and it was their first time branching out into the role of forest keepers.

I came away feeling better."

-Trout Fisher