



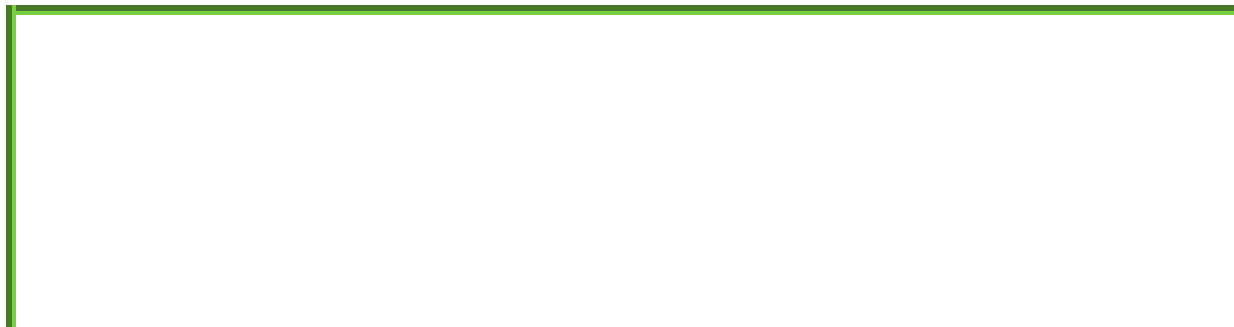
***Protecting our rural environment by promoting citizen participation  
in sustainable land use planning since 2006***

***The Community Action Project (CAP) administers the Calaveras Planning Coalition (CPC),  
which is comprised of regional and local organizations, community groups, and concerned  
individuals who promote public participation in land use and resource planning to ensure a  
healthy human, natural, and economic environment now and in the future.***

**Learn more at [www.calaverascap.com](http://www.calaverascap.com)**

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**Join Us!**

*Get a glimpse into what CPC membership is like by attending a meeting.  
There is no commitment, just show up and listen in!*

**Next Calaveras Planning Coalition Meeting**  
**November 1, 2021 3 P.M. - 5 P.M.**  
**New Members Welcome at CPC Meetings**

Organizations, groups, and individuals (known as associate members) may join the Calaveras Planning Coalition (CPC). Prospective members may attend two consecutive meetings before making a final decision on membership in the Coalition. The membership form is a pledge to support and advocate for the Coalition's eleven Land Use and Development Principles, which you will find on our website:

[www.calaverascap.com](http://www.calaverascap.com).

There is no membership fee. However, members are encouraged to donate to the Community Action Project/Calaveras Planning Coalition. Visitors and prospective members will, by necessity, be excluded from attorney/client privileged discussions.

If you are interested in membership, please email CPC Facilitator Tom Infusino, [tomi@volcano.net](mailto:tomi@volcano.net), to receive a membership form, agenda, and the Zoom meeting connection.

*To help prevent the spread of Covid-19 in our county, all CAP and CPC meetings will be held online via Zoom until restrictions are lifted by the Public Health Department.*

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**Board Of Supervisors November 9, 2021**

Agenda Upcoming

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**Planning Commission November 10, 2021**

Agenda Upcoming

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## Local News

### Calaveras County Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory Update

*From CPC Member Collen Platt, MyValleySprings.com*

Sierra Business Council consultants, Planning, and CCOG presented the “Calaveras County 2018 Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory” and accompanying reports to the Planning Commission on October 14, 2021.

A good 15-minute PowerPoint summary explaining the basics of the GHG report was followed by a detailed Q&A session. Commissioners had many questions for consultants about the data and numbers in the report, and how they were determined.

After two hours, commissioners still had many questions, so they continued the Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory discussion to a Wednesday, November 10, planning commission meeting.

The GHG reports and presentation can be accessed on the Oct. 14 Planning Commission page: <https://calaverasgov.us/Meeting-Calendar/ModuleID/3891/ItemID/960/mct/EventDetails>

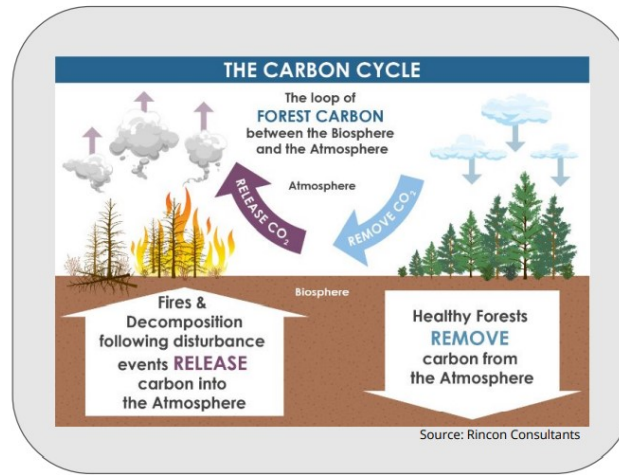
#### Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory and Reduction Plan

- Presentation

The Oct. 14 planning commission meeting video with Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory discussions can be watched on the CCTV YouTube video page below. The GHG presentation begins at 1 hour 2 minutes into the video.

10/14 PC Meeting video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bS5GfYdFHIQ>

# Wildfire Inventory



The 2020 Calaveras County natural and working lands **total carbon stock inventories ~ 74 million MT CO<sub>2</sub>e**.

In the scenario that the majority of County forests were to burn over multiple future wildfire events, it has an **emissions potential of over 8 million MT CO<sub>2</sub>** from the conversion of carbon stocks to atmospheric carbon.

Forest management can reduce the intensity and severity of wildfires, reducing the GHG emissions potential per acre of forested land from **by 57%**.

A slide from the GHG Inventory presentation

## Calaveras County Coronavirus Dashboard Data as of October 27, 2021

Total confirmed cases 3,842

Recovered cases 3,662

Active cases 97

Active hospitalizations 3

Deaths 83

## Op Ed - Who Will Save the Mokelumne Watershed?

Sean Krietch / Calaveras Enterprise / October 20, 2021

It sure is difficult to think in a crisis, but now that the autumn winds have cleared the smoke and heat, our human faculties return and we ask: In the Mokelumne watershed, who is responsible for reducing the risk of catastrophic fire? Who will fund the stewardship work needed to keep the forests that water the Mokelumne from turning to ash?

Since 2017, in response to the 2015 Butte Fire, The Upper Mokelumne River Watershed Authority, (UMRWA) redefined its goals and became the dominant Authority for fuels reduction and forest health projects in the Mokelumne Watershed. According to their website, "UMRWA is a Joint Powers Authority comprised of six water agencies (Amador Water Agency, Calaveras County Water District, Calaveras Public Utility District, East Bay Municipal Utility District (EBMUD), Jackson Valley Irrigation District and Alpine County Water Agency) and the counties of Amador, Calaveras and Alpine." Unfortunately, the largest landowners in the watershed, the U.S. Forestry Service (USFS), the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and Sierra Pacific Industries are not represented on the UMRWA board, nor do they attend board meetings.

Since 2017 UMRWA has put \$2.1 million to work reducing fuels on 2,600 acres within the watershed. This is a positive achievement but falls far short of the tens if not hundreds of thousands of acres that require stewardship.

At UMRWA's quarterly meeting on Oct. 1, we learned that there is a backlog of 50,000 acres of USFS lands within the watershed that need fuels treatment, and even once that land is treated, up to 10,000 acres will require fuels treatment every year. This does not even take into account the private forested land within the watershed.

UMRWA is in the process of building a comprehensive map of the watershed to develop a "plan that addresses watershed level needs." They are also consulting with Landmark Environmental Inc. on ways to move forward. Landmark staff gave an informative presentation, pointing out some of the obstacles to scaling impactful work in the forest. For example, "revenue thinning" is not currently permitted in federal forests. The push is to change the rules so that trees over 30 inches in diameter could be harvested and sold and that these "revenue treatments" would provide funds to pay for other forms of forest stewardship. EBMUD representative John Coleman, and UMRWA board president since 2000, commented that "if we could change the federal law that would allow the exportation of cut timber off of federal lands to outside the U.S., this could reduce some of the fuel load, while quite frankly, bringing some more employment back onto federal lands and improving forest health".

Is that really in the best interests of our local economy and ultimately of the watershed we inhabit? Forests already provide our communities and economies with clean air, clean water and recreation opportunities, do we really want them to pay for their own maintenance? History has taught us that extracting natural resources from a region to be processed and sold elsewhere provides no sustainable benefits to the local economy. It simply transfers the wealth elsewhere, almost entirely. This type of extractive economy is commonly associated with state failures in Africa and other parts of the world.

"The lack of leadership is horrifying. How many million-acre fires do we need to see in the West before it is recognized that something is systemically wrong?" said Rob Alcott, Executive

Officer of UMRWA. While Mr. Alcott is certainly not wrong, it seems that UMRWA is just as culpable as anyone else.

Funding is, of course, a key issue. EBMUD pays half of the UMRWA budget while selling Mokelumne River water to 1.4 million people, 97% of the population served from the Moke. Amador and Calaveras agencies pay half of the UMRWA budget and sell Mokelumne River water to 35 thousand people, 3% of the population served from the Moke.

On October 1, the UMRWA board voted to use \$100k from their reserves to increase the level of effort on grant applications for forest stewardship. Mr Coleman, the EBMUD representative, pointed out that UMRWA increases their base funding ninefold through grants. Unfortunately, even a ninefold increase in the base funding is only treating 1500 acres per year, far from the initial 50 thousand plus acre need.

We will not find the funds to steward the forest in the forest. We must look to the communities and economies that rely on the water and air that the forest provides for the stewardship funding. The population receiving the benefit of Mokelumne River water in the East Bay is over 30 times larger than the local population using this water. It is time for our local politicians to demand proportional funding for UMRWA. A funding adjustment based on population would increase EBMUD's contribution from \$80 thousand to \$3 million a year. This adjustment could then increase forest stewardship projects from the current 1,500 acres per year to over 28,000 acres per year.

The current scenario is leading the Mokelumne watershed to the same burnt fate suffered by the Calaveras in 2015 and the American this year. We still have a chance to steward the Mokelumne to safety. However, to do so will require the economies that use the water to proportionally pay for the stewardship.

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## Feds propose critical habitat, including part of Tuolumne County, for endangered Pacific fishers

*Guy McCarthy / Union Democrat / October 22, 2021*

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has proposed designating more than 42,000 acres in Tuolumne County as critical habitat for an endangered Central and Southern Sierra Nevada population of Pacific fishers, medium-sized mammals in the same family as weasels and otters.

The proposed area in Tuolumne County is along the southern edge of the county, east of Groveland and along Highway 120, according to federal Fish and Wildlife staff in Sacramento.

The proposed 42,177 acres in Tuolumne County are part of 554,454 acres of critical habitat in five other

counties proposed for the Central and Southern Sierra fishers. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is seeking public comment on a proposed rule to designate the critical habitat.

The area in question totals 866.33 square miles in portions of Tuolumne, Mariposa, Madera, Fresno, Tulare, and Kern counties.

There are about 100 to 500 Pacific fishers in the Central and Southern Sierra Nevada, according to federal Fish and Wildlife scientists. They live in low-to-middle elevation coniferous, mixed conifer, and hardwood forests from the Tuolumne River in Yosemite National Park, south to the Greenhorn Mountains in the Sequoia National Forest.

Male and female fishers roam large distances, and females use tree cavities for denning.

The proposed critical habitat area has not been finalized, and most of it lies within lands managed by the U.S. Forest Service and National Park Service.

A final designation of critical habitat would not affect land ownership or establish a wildlife refuge, wilderness reserve, preserve, or other conservation area, Meghan Snow, a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service spokeswoman in the Golden State capital, said this week.

The Central and Southern Sierra Nevada population of Pacific fishers were listed as endangered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service last year.

In May 2020, the Trump administration denied Endangered Species Act protection to Pacific fishers from the Central Sierra to the Canadian border but granted them endangered status in the Southern Sierra Nevada.

Habitat loss and fragmentation due to catastrophic wildfires are among the biggest threats to Pacific fishers, according to federal Fish and Wildlife. Tree mortality and prolonged drought are also concerns.

Logging and trapping have also reduced Pacific fishers, according to the nonprofit Center for Biological Diversity, which advocates for protection of endangered species and wild places.

The Center for Biological Diversity touted the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service announcement this week.

“With the increasing threats this tiny population faces, it’s crucial to protect the vulnerable habitat of these fishers now,” Justin Augustine, an Oakland-based attorney for the advocacy group, said Monday in prepared remarks. “While these new protections are good news for the Southern Sierra Nevada population, it’s disappointing that the service neglected to also protect habitat in the Northern Sierra to help fishers to fully recover.”

Pacific fishers once roamed forests from British Columbia to Southern California, but intense logging and trapping of the animals have left two naturally-occurring populations: the 100 to 500 fishers in the Central and Southern Sierra Nevada, and a larger population in Northern California and Southern Oregon.

Fishers have also recently been reintroduced into Washington.



The animals continue to be threatened by loss of habitat due to logging, wildfires, use of toxic rodent poisons by marijuana growers, and other factors, according to the Center for Biological Diversity.

According to the nonprofit advocacy group, a 2015 study that included scientists doing necropsies on deceased fishers found 75% of the animals had been exposed to rodent poison.

John Buckley, director of the Central Sierra Environmental Resource Center in Twain Harte, said the Center For Biological Diversity and other conservation organizations have for years called for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to list the fisher due to its limited population.

At the same time, “biologists with federal and state wildlife agencies have also pressed for strong protection for the fisher since the species suffered such a major loss of numbers over past decades,” Buckley said.

The U.S. Forest Service now attempts to provide suitable habitat for fishers and the American marten, a cousin of the fisher, when the Forest Service does logging and fuel reduction projects, Buckley said.

Buckley added that CSERC agrees it is appropriate for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to define where critical habitat is most needed by the fisher, and believes there are reasons to improve the accuracy of where the federal agency now proposes to identify that critical habitat.

How to comment

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service critical habitat proposal was published in the Federal Register on Tuesday this week, opening a 60-day public comment period. The federal government will consider comments from all interested parties received by Dec. 18.

The proposal, legal boundaries, and information on how to submit comments are available at [www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov) under docket number FWS-R8-ES-2021-0060.

A spokeswoman for federal Fish and Wildlife said Wednesday comments can also be mailed to:

Public Comments Processing

Attn: FWS-R8-ES-2021-0060

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

MS: PRB/3W

5275 Leesburg Pike

Falls Church, VA 22041–3803

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## Regional News

# California is spending billions on drought-related projects. And it's not borrowing to do it.

George Skelton / LA Times / October 25, 2021

State politicians have done something laudable, and it has gone unheralded. They haven't even bragged about it themselves. So, here's some heralding.

They've authorized spending about \$5 billion on drought-related water projects without charging it on the credit card.

They're going to pay cash. That will save taxpayers roughly twice the projects' cost for tacked-on interest.

Normally, the politicians pay for water endeavors with borrowed money. It's exceedingly rare when projects are funded with cash from the general fund, the state's main banking account. A bond proposal is placed on the ballot and voters approve it. Investors purchase the bonds, and the state repays the buyers with interest for 20 or 30 years.

And the state goes deeper into debt.

As of last November's election, the state was making \$7 billion in annual payments on \$80 billion in bonds. In addition, voters had approved \$38 billion in bonds that were not yet sold.

Then, in that election, Californians authorized \$5.5 billion more in bonds for stem cell research, costing a projected \$260 million annually for 30 years.

Like a family, it's wise for governments to avoid borrowing whenever possible.

Actually, Gov. Gavin Newsom and the Democrat-controlled Legislature don't deserve loud heralding for their pay-as-you-go decision. Keep it at low volume.

Cash financing not only was possible, it was prudent. The governor and lawmakers would have been unforgivably wasteful if they'd done the normal borrowing.

Tax revenue was pouring into state coffers like never before. There was an estimated \$38 billion in discretionary surplus money. And the state has stashed an extra \$14 billion in unexpected revenue since the current \$263-billion state budget took effect July 1.

Sen. Anthony Portantino (D-La Cañada Flintridge) had introduced a \$5.6-billion bond proposal for water supply, drought preparation, flood protection and wildfire prevention. He pushed it through three committees in the spring against weak Republican opposition, then shelved the legislation when it reached the Senate floor.

"I decided to take advantage of the [revenue] windfall and not put a bond on the ballot," Portantino says. "It was the fiscally responsible thing to do."

Portantino's policy proposals plus much more — 25 bills in all — were wrapped into what Newsom predictably crowed was "the largest climate action package in state history." The total cost: \$15 billion — basically paid in surplus cash.

The "water and drought resilience" piece was allocated \$5.2 billion to be rolled out over three years. Of that, roughly \$400 million is money left over from three old water bond issues. The rest is new cash.

The money will be spent on a wide variety of worthy projects. They range from helping small, low-income San Joaquin Valley communities dig deeper wells where holes have dried up, to potentially assisting affluent La Cañada homeowners in Portantino's district get off wasteful septic tanks.

Under Newsom's declaration of a statewide drought emergency last week, separate disaster funds can be used to haul in drinking water for little towns with empty wells.

No specific projects have been identified in the water package. Local entities must apply to state government agencies for the money, and often put up dollars of their own.

The move from septic tanks to sewers — not just in La Cañada but throughout California — would be a water saver. That's because sewer water can be recycled and used for landscaping, irrigating and golf courses. Septic waste seeps into the soil and contaminates groundwater with nitrates.

"It makes sense to capture the water instead of putting it into the ground where it's not being used," Portantino says. "And the water table is preserved."

He says 2,000 La Cañada homes are on septic tanks because the cost of hooking up to sewers is prohibitive — up to \$150,000 each due to steep hillsides and granite. The goal is to lower the homeowner cost to a more customary \$10,000 to \$25,000.

Sewer hookups are part of a \$1.3-billion item largely for wastewater infrastructure.

One huge problem in the San Joaquin Valley is that farmers have been overpumping groundwater for decades, and it's disappearing.

"We've been withdrawing without refilling," state water resources director Karla Nemeth says. "It's really important these groundwater basins be brought into balance."

There's \$300 million to help do that. By law, it must be achieved within 20 years.

That invariably will mean fallowing hundreds of thousands of acres. So, there's \$50 million "to help with land repurposing," Nemeth says. She suggests some farmers may want to switch from growing crops to planting solar panels as California moves more toward reusable energy.

Agriculture eats up 80% of California's developed water. One little almond drinks a gallon before reaching your mouth. Urban and industrial use consume only 20%.

The draining of San Joaquin Valley aquifers has caused the land to sink several feet in some places, badly damaging major water canals. There's \$200 million for canal repairs over two years.

Another big groundwater problem is in the San Fernando and San Gabriel valleys. Aquifers were contaminated by aircraft manufacturing. So, \$400 million was set aside for groundwater cleanup.

There's also a \$500-million kitty to immediately help local governments manage scarce water and provide drought relief.

"We're getting California prepared for a third dry year," Nemeth says.

But they're also preparing for possible heavy drenching, like much of California received in recent days.

There's \$638 million for beefing up flood control. Thankfully it's money on hand.

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## **Sunday's historic storm put the new McKinley Water Vault to the test: How well did it work?**

*KCRA / October 26, 2021*

Sunday's historic rainfall across Sacramento put a new underground reservoir in McKinley Park to the test. The highly contested McKinley Water Vault was built by the city to help reduce flooding in Sacramento's McKinley Park neighborhood. The City of Sacramento's Department of Utilities said the 6-million gallon vault was full by 5:30 in the evening Sunday during the storm. The neighborhood around McKinley Park experienced street flooding when water began overflowing from out of the storm drains. By 9:40 p.m., the vault began to empty. As of

Tuesday evening, pumps had reduced the water level inside the vault to about eight feet of water. The city says the vault is 18 feet at its deepest point and expects the vault to be nearly empty of water by Wednesday.

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## Climate change doesn't care if you don't think it's real. And Kansas City isn't ready

*Kansas City Star Editorial Board / October 27, 2021*

Did you know the air temperature reached 124 degrees in Portland, Oregon, last June? Or that the pavement in one area of the city reached 180 degrees Fahrenheit?

Did you know that emergency communications in the region broke down? That dozens of workers walked the streets, handing out water bottles and wet towels to residents? That pavement buckled?

Did you know the heat wave killed an estimated 500 people in the Pacific Northwest?

The world has argued about climate change for a generation. That debate is essentially over: Climate change doesn't care if you think it's real or not. It's here. Weather extremes, including blistering heat waves, torrential rain and shivering cold snaps, are inevitable.

Kansas City is not immune to climate calamity, and must do more to be ready.

That's the idea behind a resolution to be debated Wednesday at City Hall. It asks the City Council to declare a "climate emergency" — and then to act on the crisis with smarter planning and spending decisions, city development guidelines and legislative priorities.

"The Earth is already too hot for safety," the resolution says. Portland is evidence of that, as are rising sea levels on the coasts, violent storms, wildfires and drought. There is no time to lose.

Addressing the effects of a changing climate will be difficult, but not impossible. The shelves sag with studies and recommendations that address greenhouse gas emissions and climate change mitigation in our area.

Some of those studies focus on reducing the region's carbon footprint. The Mid-America Regional Council has offered a plan to end regional greenhouse gas emissions by 2050, for example.

Others have proposed more robust mass transit options or more efficient buildings. Walkable neighborhoods are on the table. So is increasing reliance on bicycles and other nonpolluting transit options.

All are good ideas. But Kansas City must plan for hotter summers now, particularly in so-called "heat islands" in the urban core. That means significant money for more shelters and health care workers in the next budget, not in some distant future.

Kansas City must plant tens of thousands of new trees over the next two or three years, a step that will take carbon from the air and eventually provide cooling shade in the inner city.

This year, the city has approved nearly \$40 million in street resurfacing projects — mostly using black asphalt, which will heat the city even more. Alternatives exist and should be considered.

Emergency preparedness plans should be reexamined for climate response and resiliency. The city should reach out to vulnerable residents this spring, before it gets too hot, so cooling alternatives can be found.

Some of this work has been done or is in progress. Kansas City has done a reasonable job of reducing greenhouse gases and should be applauded for that.

But the crisis is on the doorstep. Kansas City needs an all-of-government response to the immediate impact of a changing climate. A 1980 heat wave took more than 175 lives in Kansas City, a tragedy that could be repeated.

“There has to be a focus on communicating the urgency and preparedness to the average resident and especially vulnerable residents,” said City Council member Melissa Robinson, one of the resolution’s sponsors. “Our goal is to get everyone rowing in the same direction quickly.”

Once immediate needs are addressed, the city can turn to medium- and long-term mitigation efforts. Building codes must be updated and new construction made green: Already there is evidence the new terminal at Kansas City International Airport has been a missed opportunity for improved climate mitigation.

Incentivized building projects must meet tougher green standards. That new soccer stadium? The builders should ensure it’s carbon neutral.

“We are in an existential crisis,” said City Council member Andrea Bough, a co-sponsor of the resolution. She’s right. That means sustained, focused, real-world spending on climate change adaptation now, not 10 years from now.

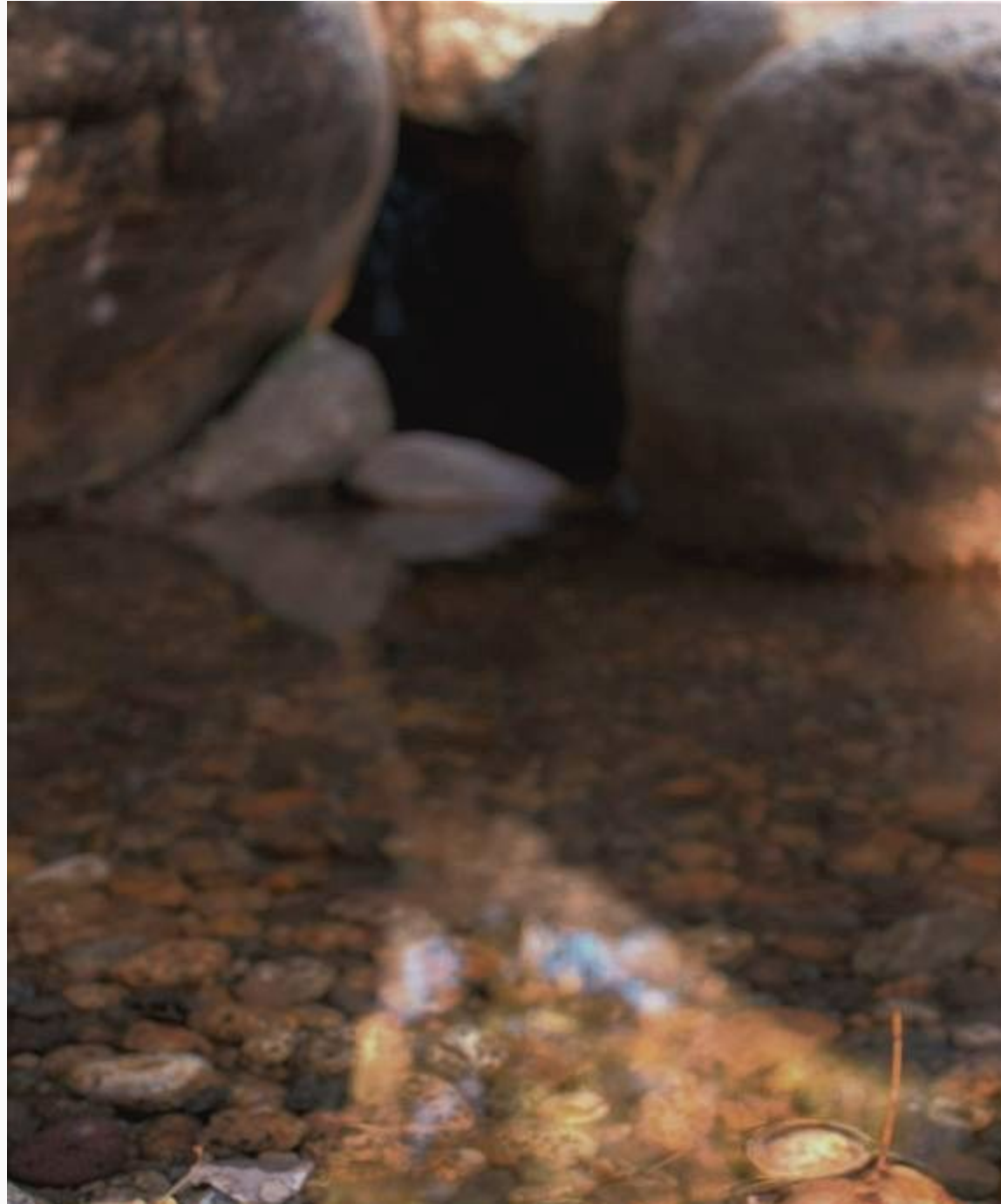
Portland was rocked by a record-setting heat wave just a few months ago. We may be next. We need to be ready.

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Sierra Nevada  
Conservancy  
Funding  
Opportunities  
Newsletter  
for October  
/November



*This is an electronic newsletter published every two months containing information on upcoming grant and funding opportunities for the Sierra Nevada region. The newsletter includes federal, state, and private foundation funders as well as additional resources and information related to grant funding. The Sierra Nevada Conservancy provides the Funding Opportunities Newsletter as a free resource under its Sierra Nevada Watershed Improvement Program.*





## The Arrowhead

*by Mary Oliver*

The arrowhead,  
which I found beside the river,  
was glittering and pointed.  
I picked it up, and said,  
“Now, it’s mine.”  
I thought of showing it to friends.  
I thought of putting it—such an imposing trinket—  
in a little box, on my desk.  
Halfway home, past the cut fields,  
the old ghost  
stood under the hickories.  
“I would rather drink the wind,” he said,  
“I would rather eat mud and die  
than steal as you steal,  
than lie as you lie.”

*from Why I Wake Early: New Poems by Mary Oliver ©2004 Beacon Press*

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