



Annual Report July 1 2018- June 30 2019

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Mission Statement

The primary objectives and purposes of W.A.T.E.R. shall be to:

- 1) advocate for preservation of natural resources and a healthy environment;
- 2) advocate for long-range community planning and regenerative practices to protect all citizens and to promote a thriving community;
- 3) communicate these concerns to local government officials and agencies;
- 4) encourage community-wide participation through educating the public about these issues;
- 5) defend these issues with public interest litigation activities if necessary.

Message from the Board President

Dear Friends and Supporters,

We Advocate Thorough Environmental Review (W.A.T.E.R.) is a grassroots, non-profit organization dedicated to protecting Mount Shasta's water and other natural resources from privatization and depletion by extraction for corporate profit, protecting groundwater from contamination by industrial activity, and protecting the environment from other inappropriate and polluting industrial/commercial activities. We envision a community that stewards our natural resources, engages in local governance to control its destiny, and provides for the needs of all people. We envision a community where the rights of minorities and Indigenous Peoples are woven into the fabric of the community at large. We envision an economy that provides living wages with jobs that allow community members to develop their full human potentials and that facilitate a connection with nature, all while regenerating and sustaining our natural resources and environment. We could not do this work without your support and input. We are grateful for your trust, support, and the opportunity to lead the community in this essential effort.

With Deep Respect and Gratitude, Bruce Hillman, Board President

California Environmental Quality Act

We strategically utilize the California Environmental Quality Act as a framework for public participation and oversight of potentially polluting industrial activities to promote healthy stewardship of Mt. Shasta's alpine environment and water, upon which millions downstream depend.

To this effect in FY2018-2019, W.A.T.E.R. and the Winnemem Wintu Tribe as co-petitioners continued the legal challenge of the Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the Crystal Geyser Water Company project near the City of Mt. Shasta. The EIR that was approved by Siskiyou County was far from adequate in answering the many questions raised by the community regarding environmental impacts of the beverage bottling operation. We also took legal action against the City of Mt. Shasta for approving a sewer permit for the bottling operation, an approval that was based on the flawed EIR approved by the county. Our legal team submitted briefs in February and March, 2019, and, court hearings were held in May and June for the County and City Cases, respectively. As of June 30, 2019, the court had not yet ruled.



Along with many other community members, we participated in the CEQA process for several additional area projects by submitting letters evaluating study documents and speaking at City Council and Planning Commission meetings and hearings:

- Mt. Shasta City Sewer Interceptor Line Upgrade
- A proposed truck stop in Weed, CA
- A proposed car wash and ministorage facility in Mt. Shasta City, CA
- The proposed raising of the Shasta Dam (wish that was “razing”).

Our goal is to protect local natural resources and promote a healthy environment for our communities.

Collaboration



We seek every opportunity to work with other organizations locally and throughout the State to leverage resources and maximize our effect and to build a vibrant movement for social and environmental justice.

December 18 dawned as a rainy, blustery day in Springfield, OR, but by 10 am the clouds parted and the sun shone on approximately 100 demonstrators at the headquarters of Roseburg Forest Products in Springfield, OR. The citizens were there to demand Roseburg, owners of a forest products production facility in Weed, CA, cease its efforts to seize a significant portion of the City of Weed's water supply and drop a SLAPP (Strategic Lawsuit Against Public Participation) suit against a citizens group, Water for Citizens of Weed, CA, and nine individuals who participated publically to protect that water supply. Because of our opposition to privatization of public water sources, four W.A.T.E.R. Board members participated in the demonstration and we helped defray travel expenses for Weed citizens. The event was planned by the Weed citizens group in coordination with Protect the Protest, Greenpeace, and the Civil Liberties Defense Center in Eugene, OR.

Impacting Policy

We are a thread in the ever-expanding web of community groups and organizations that are working for positive social, economic, and environmental policy changes.

- We participate in the City of Mt. Shasta's General Plan Update process providing input on issues related to environmental protections that will support a healthy economy and our community.
- We are a member of the Upper Sacramento Regional Water Action Group, a collaborative effort that competes for grants from the Department of Water Resources for local water infrastructure improvements, thus we are able to influence the prioritization of projects that protect water quality and quantity in our region.
- We participate in efforts of the State NGO Groundwater Collaborative and the Sierra Water Working Group, groups that work with State legislators to fix loopholes in laws and promote legislation to protect California groundwater.



Community Engagement

In June W.A.T.E.R. organized a Community Forum entitled, “Water and the Environment around the Mountain,” engaging community groups and a local Tribe to educate the public about water resources and environmental issues facing our mountain ecosystem. The forum included a presentation from W.A.T.E.R. on what is happening with the challenge to the Crystal Geyser project EIR; a Winnemem Wintu talk about how using AB52 in the CG lawsuits and the Shasta Dam raise can protect the sacredness of water at the source, downstream and beyond; a report on the situation with the Roseburg water grab of the City of Weed’s water source from Water for Citizens of Weed, CA; an update from the McCloud Springs Alliance on the plans for a water bottling plant in McCloud and the community’s response; an update from the Mount Shasta Bioregional Ecology Center about the Medicine Lake Geothermal project and lawsuit. The presentations were followed by a discussion of what steps we as a community can do next to promote preservation of the environment in our region. As one such step, W.A.T.E.R. launched a “reduce plastic pollution” campaign.



W.A.T.E.R. participated in a variety of Community Events in our area:

- Redding Whole Earth and Watershed Festival
- Mt. Shasta Earth Day Celebration
- Siskiyou Science Festival
- Resilient Communities Forum
- McCloud Mushroom Festival



W.A.T.E.R. provides information, updates, and educational material via an on-line presence with the following:

- Web Site: cawater.net
- Facebook Page: [mtshastawater](https://www.facebook.com/mtshastawater)
- Email Newsletter: mountshastawater@gmail.com

Growing Seeds

In September, Ryoko Seguchi from the Sui Do! Network in Japan and friends from the Bay Area joined us in discussions about the environmental impacts of pollution from PET bottles, the type of bottles most frequently used for bottled water and beverages. Ryoko presented data showing that drinking tap water has a significantly lower environmental impact than bottled water. In response to that data, Sui Do! (in English, “Tap Water Do!”) was launched in Japan to promote the use of tap water instead of bottled water. The campaign focuses on engaging local governments in developing publically accessible “water oases” (places within cities with easily accessible drinking fountains and water bottle refill stations), and promoting life styles that are not reliant on commercially bottled drinks.

As a result, W.A.T.E.R. has introduced two new efforts in our local area: we are working with other community groups and Mt. Shasta City to install water bottle refill stations in public spaces, and we are educating the public about ways to reduce plastic pollution.



W.A.T.E.R. Board members, volunteers, and community members meet with representatives from the Japanese organization, Sui Do!



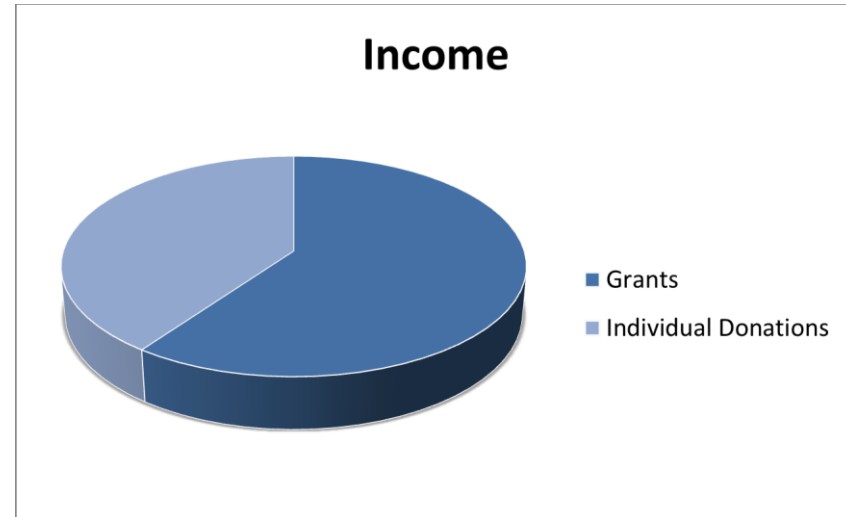
Financial Report

Fiscal Year July 1 **2018-** June 30 **2019**

Total Income: \$54,515

Total Expenses: \$63,308

End of Year Net Assets: \$36,031



Thank You!!!

Our heartfelt thanks go to the many individuals who have supported our cause with donations. Many thanks to the Shasta Regional Community Foundation for organizing the North State Giving Tuesday on-line fundraising event. We are grateful for grants from the Rose Foundation, Lush Cosmetics Charity Pot, and the Jessup Family Fund of the Marin Community Foundation.

Board of Directors

All board members are founding members of W.A.T.E.R.:

Bruce Hillman, President

Frank Toriello, Vice President

Roslyn McCoy, Treasurer

Geneva M. Omann, Secretary

Raven Stevens, Member

Daniel Axelrod, Member

Diane Lowe, Member

Looking Forward:

March 2020 will mark the 5 year anniversary of W.A.T.E.R.'s incorporation as a California Nonprofit Public Benefit Corporation (501c3).

Thus, while we continue the existing litigations and programming, we will also engage in Strategic Planning to take on the many environmental, social and economic justice challenges of the next 5 years.



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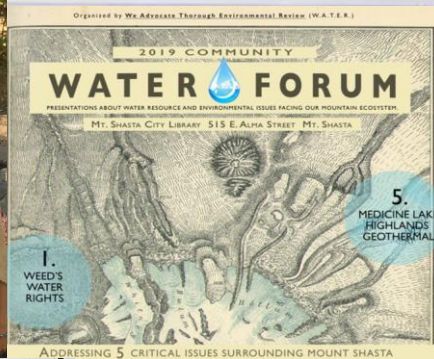
We Advocate Thorough Environmental Review is a 501(c)(3) corporation.
Your donation is tax deductible.

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What is Water's Superpower?



For more information see:
cawater.net