

July 1 2020 - June 30 2021

Impact Report



Dear Friends,

As our keystone project, we organized in 2013 to challenge the proposed Crystal Geyser Water Company (CGWC) beverage bottling plant. At that time the project would have proceeded without an environmental review even though there was considerable community concern about suspected significant environmental impacts of plant operations. Now, after 7 ½ years of persistent effort by W.A.T.E.R. and the community, CGWC has terminated the project! Read how we are continuing the legal challenge to the woefully inadequate Environmental Impact Report (EIR) .

More than a year ago, W.A.T.E.R.'s Board of Directors began a strategic planning process to define what our organization could help accomplish for our community in the coming years, beyond the bottling plant project. Throughout this fiscal year, the Board has been meeting regularly (via video conference) to develop a 5 year strategic plan that articulates a healthy vision for our communities' participation in the global effort to resuscitate planet Earth, starting right here at home. We anticipate releasing the Plan early this fall.

Please read on as this Impact Report highlights this year's victories and outlines our ongoing efforts. We are very grateful to work with our communities to carry out this essential work.

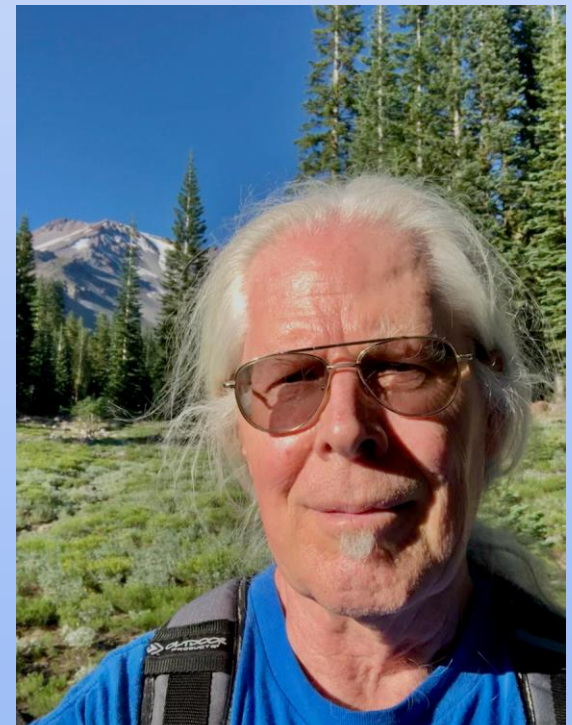
With Gratitude,



Frank S. Toriello,
President, Board of Directors

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IMPACT: CGWC is Leaving...A HUGE Victory!

In May of 2021, CGWC revealed they will not open the bottling plant and the property was put up for sale. Success was possible due to W.A.T.E.R.'s dedicated volunteers, community support, well attended public meetings, EIR comments, grants and financial donations. This outcome demonstrates that grassroots citizen engagement works! We are hopeful that the property will be used by a new owner for a purpose that benefits the Mount Shasta Community.

In this fiscal year, we continued our challenge of the flawed Environmental Impact Report (EIR) approved by Siskiyou County, and the associated permits granted to CGWC by the County and Mt. Shasta City. We believe it is essential to continue this case to prevent this EIR from potentially being transferred to another bottling entity.

In April, W.A.T.E.R. and the Winnemem Wintu Tribe filed opening briefs in the California Third District Appellate court. Our final brief was submitted in July, 2021.



CGWC removes equipment from plant exterior, hinting at a possible withdrawal of the project.

Above, October 2020

Below, February 2016, equipment in blue is highlighted to show the equipment that was removed this past autumn.

IMPACT: Water Bottle Refill Station for Parker Plaza

This autumn, a drinking fountain and water bottle refill station will be located at Mt. Shasta's Parker Plaza. Here, community members and visitors can reduce their plastic pollution footprint by refilling their own reusable water bottles with pure Mount Shasta water!

Thanks to our local leaders, funders, and supporters for saying "YES" to this \$12,500 project:

- Approval by Mt. Shasta Beautification Committee and City Council
- Plastic Oceans International's 'Rethink. Refill.' Program (\$5,000)
- McConnell Fund of Community Foundation of the North State (\$4,974)
- W.A.T.E.R. for the remaining funds to complete the project
- Many supportive community members




On June 4, W.A.T.E.R. Board Member Raven Stevens delivered the check for the water bottle refill station to Mt. Shasta City Planner Juliana Lucchesi.

Plastic Free Siskiyou County

A Petition to Local Siskiyou County Retail Outlets:
Please Carry More Non-plastic Products!

Report of Final Petition Results

August 2020



W.A.T.E.R.

We Advocate Thorough Environmental Review
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The refill station is part of a broader program by W.A.T.E.R. to encourage community members and visitors to reduce plastic pollution:

- W.A.T.E.R. collected and shared tips for how to reduce common household plastic waste.
- In September, W.A.T.E.R. released a Report of a petition program designed to encourage local retailers to add more non-plastic products to their merchandise, and offer more environmentally-friendly products.
- The Report was circulated to local retailers to make them aware of their customers' desires to obtain sustainably-produced merchandise while shopping locally.

IMPACT: W.A.T.E.R. Assists Winning Community Efforts

1. The City of Weed, CA, Secures Water Rights

In 2016, the community of Weed began challenging Roseburg Forest Product's (RFP) attempt to take over the City's most important municipal water source--two cubic feet per second from Beaughan Springs that the City had relied upon for over 100 years. As the likely ultimate beneficiary of RFP's water grab, the water bottling company Crystal Geysler-Roxane (CGR, a sister company to CGWC, located in the City of Weed) became a secondary focus in the challenge.

Community pressure on the two companies worked to bring RFP and CGR to the table to negotiate with the City. On March

11, 2021 the City of Weed approved a three-way deal between the City, RFP, and CGR whereby CGR purchased water rights from RFP and is selling to the City the rights to 2 cubic feet per second of Beaughan Springs water for \$1.2 million. While this is an imperfect outcome, given that the City now has to pay for water that many believe it already owned, the City will indisputably own the water rights in perpetuity.

Since the beginning, W.A.T.E.R. supported the citizens group, Water for Citizens of Weed California (WCWC) as they worked diligently to save Weed's water rights. W.A.T.E.R. participated in Weed City Council and Planning Commission meetings, provided letters of support to various agencies, participated in demonstrations, and helped defer the costs of mailings to inform community members. In July, 2020, we published a guest opinion piece in the local paper countering CG-R's advertised claims of being responsible community citizens by identifying their egregious corporate operating tactics. We are proud to have participated in the efforts organized by WCWC and congratulate them for this successful outcome!



2. Mt. Shasta Community Prevents Concrete and Asphalt Crushing Project

Since the summer of 2019, Southern Oregon Ready Mix had been pursuing zoning changes from Siskiyou County for a concrete and asphalt crushing and grinding operation just north of the City of Mt. Shasta along Interstate 5. The project plan proposed little to mitigate likely air, water, noise, and visual pollution from the project that could impact the Mt. Shasta community. As the project worked its way through the County Planning Commission's rezoning process in 2020, letters poured in from citizens and groups objecting to the project and its lack of concern for the community and environment. Among the comments were long letters from W.A.T.E.R, tightly argued with facts and history. The Planning Commission continued the issue through several meetings to "address public comments received". In February, 2021, the County Planning Department received a letter from the company announcing withdrawal of their application. Thus, the active vigilance of the community had a very positive effect. Public participation worked!



IMPACTS in Process and Coming Soon!

W.A.T.E.R. has continued these ongoing efforts to help protect the environment that supports our local communities:

City General Plan Update—As the City of Mt. Shasta worked through its General Plan update process, we participated in every public hearing and made in-depth comments to strengthen environmental protections in the proposed Stormwater Master Plan and Water Resource Element.

NGO Groundwater Collaborative—W.A.T.E.R. participated in this state-wide collaborative that focused on strengthening Bulletin 118- a key state document defining water resource areas that the state regulates. We worked to have our volcanic aquifers covered under the state’s Department of Water Resources’ jurisdiction.

Pacific Power Line Undergrounding— With a guest opinion piece in the local paper and letters sent to many local and state officials we advocated for undergrounding the 1.5 miles of transmission lines associated with Pacific Power’s Lassen Substation project to protect the south county area from power line related wildfire hazards.

Shasta Dam Raise—As the US Bureau of Reclamation continued to move forward with plans to raise the Shasta Dam, we submitted a letter condemning the project for its violation of California State, Federal, and International laws.

Timber Harvest Plans—Given the importance of local forest management for climate crisis mitigation, water resource protection, and drought and wild fire resilience, W.A.T.E.R. weighed in on Timber Harvest Plans and collaborated with community members and other organizations such as the Sierra Club in promoting forest management strategies that prioritize public safety over private profits.

McCloud Update—For over a decade, the community of McCloud has been the target for water/beverage bottling companies that seek to “purchase” water from the McCloud Community Service District’s (MCSD) spring water sources, even though the sources and infrastructure are not adequate, during drought, to ensure the community’s needs are met. This year, yet another company came knocking on the District’s door and has prompted the District Board to draft changes to the existing water ordinance. Concerned that the proposed ordinance changes will “give away the farm,” W.A.T.E.R. has followed these activities and is working to protect the MCSD’s water sources as a public trust.

Regional Water Action Group (RWAG)—We continued participation in quarterly meetings with this local coalition of Tribes, municipalities, agencies, and non-governmental organizations dedicated to improving the water infrastructure needs of our Upper Sacramento River watershed region.

Local Air Quality and Groundwater Elevation Monitoring— With the cooperation of local homeowners, we continued to monitor air quality and groundwater elevation in the area surrounding the former bottling plant and west of Interstate 5 with three years of air quality and eight years of water level data. The data provide baselines for potential future activities at the bottling plant, and the water level data provide much needed information for understanding the impacts of drought on the local aquifer.

The **IMPACT** Beyond Our Control:

Covid-19 has significantly impacted our operations. Whereas the Board of Directors has continued to meet via teleconferencing and thus has been able to carry out many of our operations and fund raising efforts, and we have participated in agency public hearings and meetings via teleconference when it has been available, unfortunately we have not been able to interact with the community in all the ways we would like. We have had no in-person community forums, no tabling at local events (many of which have been cancelled anyway), no presentations to other organizations. However, we have continued to communicate via our website, e-newsletter, and Facebook page. We look forward to the not-too-distant future when we will be face-to-face and elbow-to-elbow with you in carrying out W.A.T.E.R.'s mission.



Volunteer Profile: **Bayla Greenspoon**

As a transplanted “city girl” originally from Montreal, Canada, Bayla has long enjoyed the power of nature to heal and provide opportunities for strengthening the body, mind and spirit.



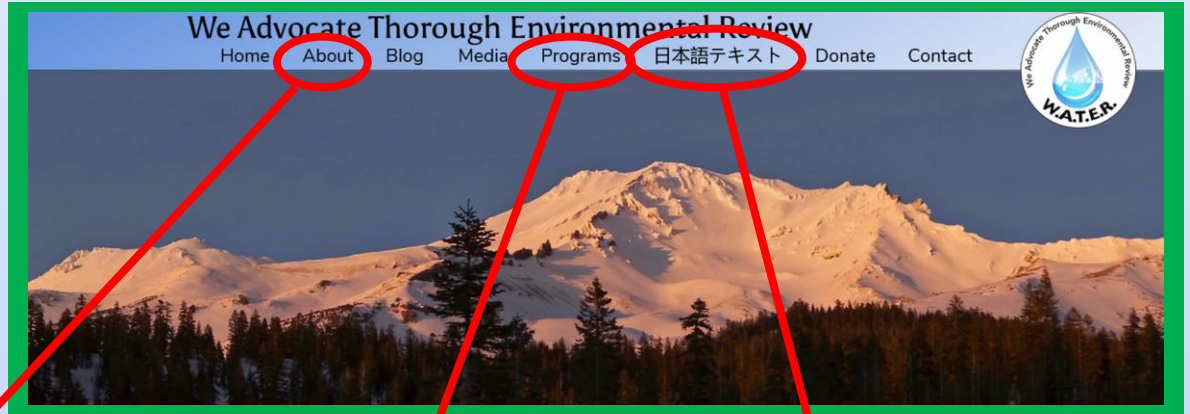
She is so grateful to have landed in the beautiful community of Mt. Shasta, and wants to do all she can to ensure that the local environment is protected and honored. As a retired educator, she holds children dear to her heart and envisions sustaining pristine wild places for them to enjoy for many years to come.

Bayla is President of the Gateway Neighborhood Association (comprised of community members who live in the area surrounding the formerly proposed CGWC facility) and has been volunteering with W.A.T.E.R. since our inception. She organized a very successful fundraising raffle for W.A.T.E.R., and is always on call to provide editing and writing.

Thank you Bayla!

W.A.T.E.R.'s New Website!

- Easier to find information
- Lots of fantastic photos of our beautiful area!
- Japanese language content
- See it at cawater.net
- Check it out for regular updates!



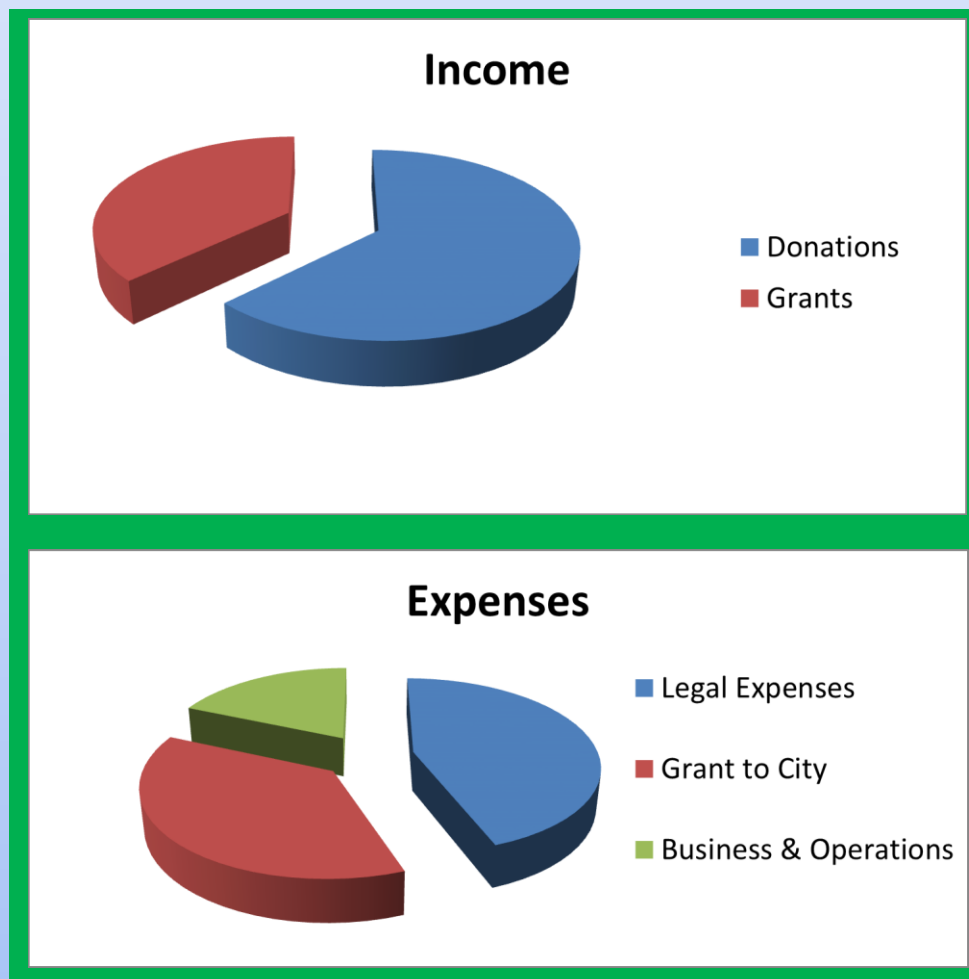
Financial Report, July 1, 2020-June 30, 2021

Income:	26,775
Expenses:	<u>26,866</u>
Net Revenue	-91

End of Year Assets: \$53,991

Many, many thanks to:

- Wonderful individual donors from our community and around the country
- Plastic Ocean International
- McConnell Fund of Community Foundation of the North State
- Community Foundation of the North State for organizing North State Giving Tuesday
- Myra Villella Consulting LLC for overseeing our financial accounting.



About Us

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

- Frank Toriello, President
- Bruce Hillman, Treasurer
- Geneva M. Omann, Secretary
- Raven Stevens, Member
- Daniel Axelrod, Member
- Diane Lowe, Member



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