Up on the Roof, Solar Style: Miriam Gordon, California Director for Clean Water Action and Clean Water Fund, and her husband show off their Sungevity rooftop solar system. When Sungevity first offered the systems to Clean Water Action members, Miriam was among the first to apply. “I’d always assumed solar was not an option for our family, since we live in a foggy neighborhood. But as soon as our new system was installed we saw the meter running backwards — visible evidence that the panels were generating electricity and sending energy back to the grid.”

Now, several months into her Sungevity solar lease, Miriam remains an enthusiastic booster. “Our new solar system helps our family reduce global warming pollution. We’re also saving money on our electricity bills,” she reports. “Not having up-front costs to pay helped make this possible, and Sungevity even came to our house to make some efficiency improvements free of charge.”

New Sungevity customers receive a $750 gift card and the company donates an additional $750 to Clean Water Fund for each installed system. You can start by requesting an iquote for a free solar assessment of your home, http://sungevity.org/clean-water-fund. See page 6 for more on Sungevity’s Summer Solarbration promotion (the $750-$750 deal).
From the California Director of 
Clean Water Action and Clean Water Fund  
Miriam Gordon

DAVID VERSUS GOLIATH...AGAIN

Clean Water Action’s 2012 priorities focus on curbing environmental and health threats posed industry’s giants — big Ag, big Oil, and big Chem. These giants each pour what seems at times like unlimited “vote-buying” resources into Sacramento and Washington, DC.

But we are not afraid! Clean Water Action doesn’t “buy” votes — we win them! How? Through the power of grassroots organizing, the voice of communities and the public and our active member-base in California. This is our “ace in the hole.”

We had great success this year winning policies that will reduce nitrate pollution in groundwater. Our leadership has yielded new state regulations being developed that will require Central Coast agriculture to reduce excessive fertilizer application, a major pollution source. We’re working now to make sure similar groundwater protections are developed next for the Central Valley.

We are accustomed to squaring off with the chemical industry in California. For years now we’ve been fighting against exposure to toxic chemicals and plastic pollution in our waterways. Recent wins have addressed bisphenol-A in baby products, copper brakepads, lead wheel-weights. We’ve gotten the state to adopt a strong green chemistry program. We also took on the pharmaceutical industry, and this July won another victory in Alameda County. There, Clean Water Action helped pass the first-ever local ordinance requiring pharmaceutical manufacturers to create “take-back” programs for unused medications.

Last summer, in the aftermath of winning SB 568 (Lowenthal) in the Senate, with bi-partisan support, we got to witness a whole band of chemical and plastics industry lobbyists walk away from the Senate floor shaking their heads in disbelief. This is the groundbreaking legislation that would phase out foam food containers statewide by 2016. This year, it’s “all hands on deck” to pass the bill in the second house and get it to the Governor to sign into law.

We’re taking on a new giant in California this year, as companies such as Occidental, PPX and Veneco have rolled out plans to expand hydraulic fracturing (“fracking”) in the state. Underground rock layers known as the Monterey Shale, under the Central Valley and Central Coast regions, hold 64% of the nation’s on-shore oil resources. Using new extraction technologies, including fracking, these and other oil industry titans want to ramp up drilling in these regions with the largest seismic activity, groundwater aquifers supplying 90% of the Central Valley’s drinking water, and the nation’s worst air quality. These are enormous threats to drinking water, air quality, public health, and property values.

Clean Water Action is calling on the Governor to place a moratorium on fracking. This would allow time — before any new permits are issued — to consider whether public health and the environment can be adequately protected before any new permits are issued.

Big Oil is our newest foe — but with our members’ help and the power of grassroots organizing we can win protections for our water, our air, and communities all across California. The public’s voice is our slingshot, and it is a powerful weapon.

STOP FRACKING: Clean Water Action and allies brought hundreds of concerned citizens together for a July 25 rally in Sacramento. People from Bakersfield and Fresno to Santa Barbara and the Bay Area called on the Governor and state regulators to stop fracking in California.
**LEGISLATIVE UPDATE**

**Tackling Plastic Pollution, Fracking and the Human Right to Water**

Clean Water Action’s 2012 state legislative agenda seeks to advance environmental and health protections and maintain California’s leadership role on these issues at a time when Congress is voting repeatedly to weaken environmental safeguards. Current priorities include:

**Phasing out Foam and Plastic Pollution**

**SB 568 (Lowenthal)** — Foam food and beverage packaging is lightweight, breaks apart easily and gets widely distributed in the marine environment. Clean Water Action has been a leading advocate for eliminating foam take-out containers statewide since 2009. SB 568 would phase out the use of foam at food establishments in California by 2016. Clean Water Action won Senate passage in 2011 and is seeking passage in the Assembly this year. While state-level debate continues, momentum continues to build locally with more than 63 jurisdictions taking action to eliminate foam containers. Contact your Assembly person at cleanwater.org/action/support-SB-568.

**Human Right to Water**

One million Californians lack a safe and reliable water supply. Clean Water Action and allies have been working since 2009 for formal recognition of the **Human Right to Water** in California law and for actions to protect that right via these bills Clean Water Action co-sponsored bills:

**AB 685 (Eng)** — asks state agencies, the Governor, and Legislature to make a priority of providing all Californians sufficient clean and affordable drinking water to meet basic needs. Introduced in 2011 and passed the Assembly, the bill awaits action in the Senate.

**AB 1830 (V.M. Perez)** — would allow the state Public Utilities Commission to award restitution for tenants whose water providers overcharge them.

**AB 2208 (Perea)** — authorizes the state Department of Public Health, when considering funding proposals, to consolidate multiple community projects to meet safe drinking water standards.

**AB 2238 (Perea)** — creates a process for state and local agencies to address communities’ infrastructure needs comprehensively.

**Protecting and Restoring Groundwater Quality**

**AB 2174 (Alejo)** — Sponsored by Clean Water Action, would help prevent nitrate contamination by redirecting funding from an existing underutilized fee on commercial fertilizer to programs that help farmers reduce fertilizer use.

Other bills before state lawmakers would make it more difficult for the state and for Regional Water Boards to protect water quality. Clean Water Action opposes measures that would weaken current water quality programs.

**Fracking (see also p. 5)**

**AB 591 (Wieckowski)** — was intended to require disclosure of chemicals and amounts of water used in each fracking operation, but has been weakened by industry lobbying and now threatens to create harmful non-disclosure precedents. Clean Water Action seeks strengthening changes that would increase the public’s Right to Know in these areas.

**AB 972 (Butler)** — proposes a moratorium on fracking until the state develops a regulatory program, a position supported by Clean Water Action. In the face of industry’s rush to expand fracking, the state is unable to consider fracking’s many risks adequately. The moratorium should be tied to completion of studies on air and water quality impacts as well as the potential for increasing earthquake potential around wells.

**Chemical Policy**

**Budget Rider/Section 25257.5 (Feuer)** — would authorize the Department of Toxic Substances Control to assess a modest fee on manufacturers who are subject to Safer Consumer Products Regulations (see p. 4), to help pay for those regulations.
STATE SENATE BLOCKS RIGHT-TO-KNOW BILLS

In May, the State Senate refused to pass two bills that would have improved the public’s right to know about local environmental impacts, effectively killing the opportunity to strengthen environmental health protections in this session. State Sen. Fran Pavley led the fight on these bills and is expected to be a strong ally for increasing transparency and public involvement for environmental decisions in the future.

**SB 1054 (Pavley)**, falling three votes short of passage, would have required oil and gas drillers to notify nearby landowners and water users 20 days in advance of conventional drilling and 30 days before fracking. See how your Senator voted!

**SB 1146 (Pavley)**, which lost by only two votes, would have reversed a 50 year old law which makes it illegal for communities, engineers and others with a stake in local groundwater protection to be given data on newly-drilled water wells. Currently, the information on well construction, depth and soil types revealed by drilling may be submitted only to the state. See how your Senator voted!

CHEMICAL INDUSTRY BALKS AT MAKING PRODUCTS SAFER

The California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) will soon release its Safer Consumer Products (SCP) regulations for public comment. Clean Water Action has been involved in developing these regulations over the last four years.

The regulations will be the first in the nation requiring manufacturers to find safer “green chemistry” alternatives for toxic product ingredients. By stopping the use of toxic chemicals to eliminate unnecessary human and environmental exposures, this approach offers “the ultimate in pollution and disease prevention,” according to Clean Water Action staff.

While many forward-thinking companies have embraced the SCP regulations’ social and economic benefits, the chemical industry has worked to weaken them. They claim that the regulations will involve huge costs to industry and are job killers. Study after study has shown that these regulations will drive innovation and economic growth. Companies will save money when they eliminate toxic chemical use. These factors, together with reduced burdens for taxpayers who must otherwise bear the cleanup costs and health burdens associated with chemical exposure should by far outweigh industry’s compliance costs.

While California leads the nation in initiating this innovative program, there is virtually no funding to support it. The chemical industry wants to keep it that way. Industry lobbyists are vehemently opposing a budget rider introduced by Assemblymember Feuer to fund implementation through a modest fee on companies affected by the rules. Learn more and take action at www.cleanwater.org/ca.

Who’s That Knocking on Your Door?

Fact checker, king of the non sequitur, dedicated, math whiz, realist, and sharp dresser. These are just a few of the words that describe Alan Mazzuchelli, a dedicated door-to-door “field canvasser” for Clean Water Action since March 2005.

When his father passed away after a battle with mesothelioma (cancer caused by asbestos exposure), Alan knew he wanted to fight for protection from health-threatening environmental contamination. He’s been with Clean Water Action ever since. As every good canvasser knows, motivation to do this job changes with time and becomes a combination of many things. Today, Alan is motivated by his team of young co-workers and his desire for the victories Clean Water Action and its members can achieve by standing up to corporate polluters and holding them accountable.
DON’T FRACK OUR TAP!

Hydraulic fracturing, or “fracking” for oil and natural gas has been making headlines with horror stories of water, air and community degradation across the country. Despite industry’s claims that the practice is safe, people in other states have experienced many environmental and public health disasters. California has far too little water to risk making the same mistakes.

Fracking is already widespread in California, with more than 600 wells fracked in 2011 alone. The industry plans to continue its expansion, and the Central Valley, where 90% of drinking water comes from groundwater, is especially at risk. Deep shale drilling and fracking release methane gases and other air pollutants. Truck and heavy equipment traffic around drill sites increases health-harming particulates and smog-forming pollutants. Particulates and ozone pollution in the southern San Joaquin half of the Central Valley are already the highest in the U.S. Asthma rates there are triple the national average.

Despite more than fifty years of fracking in the Golden State, and the country’s fourth largest oil drilling industry, there is no regulatory framework for protecting water and air from the practice. There is little data on the industry in general, and the state does not even know where fracking has taken place so far.

Threats posed to drinking water, air quality and the potential for fracking to increase earthquake dangers all need thorough investigation by the state. Until that can happen, Clean Water Action is calling for a moratorium on fracking in California. Strong, protective legislation is needed. Both drillers and regulators must be held accountable for protecting precious air and water resources and local communities. Learn more and take action at www.cleanwater.org/ca/fracking.

Cartoon courtesy of Mark Wilson at EmpireWire.com

After 50 years, California still doesn’t know where fracking has been done in the state.

AGRICULTURE AND DRINKING WATER — TIME TO MAKE THE CONNECTION!

A new report from the Center for Watershed Sciences at the University of California at Davis [http://groundwaternitrate.ucdavis.edu/], provides a clear look at agriculture’s impact on drinking water supplies. Released in March 2012, this study for the State Water Board examines nitrate pollution and possible solutions and prevention measures for protecting groundwater.

Nitrate pollution, typically from nitrogen-based fertilizers, is a common groundwater contaminant. Exposure through contaminated drinking water can cause severe health impacts, including “Blue Baby Syndrome” or methemoglobinemia. Blood in affected infants loses its capacity to carry oxygen, and they can die as a result.

The report focuses the Salinas Valley and Tulare Lake Basin, two intensively farmed areas with serious groundwater contamination. Ninety-seven percent of the 2.7 million people living in these areas use groundwater for all or part of their water supply. Findings include:

- **96% of the nitrogen leaching into groundwater comes from agricultural sources** — the most significant source is fertilizer use.
- 254,000 residents are currently at risk for nitrate contamination.
- Current funding is inadequate to correct drinking water contamination.
- If fertilizer use is not controlled, 80% of the population in these regions will be impacted by 2050.

The State Water Board is now tasked with developing recommendations for state lawmakers later this year, based on the report. The report and information on how you can help reduce nitrate contamination in California are at www.cleanwater.org/ca.
AVEDA Does it Again! 2012 EARTH MONTH A HUGE SUCCESS

Thanks to Aveda, Clean Water is a beautiful thing! Salons all across California held fundraisers to engage their customers in supporting clean water in April. Through cut-a-thons, auctions, dance parties, and other creative fundraising activities, Aveda salons did an outstanding job raising awareness about the need for clean drinking water and raised money to support Clean Water Fund. This year’s theme, “Kids need Clean Water,” was represented by the artwork of kids in communities in developing nations that Aveda has helped to find clean sources of drinking water.

Clean Water Fund’s California Director, Miriam Gordon, had the privilege of being a judge at the 2012 Aveda Trashion show in San Francisco. Salons from all across northern California entered models showing off their creative use of recycled and reclaimed materials that would otherwise end up in the trash bin. Miriam said “it was a tough job judging the entries because each model showcased incredible style and creativity using recycled materials — but I LOVED it! The Trashion show is so much fun.”

Clean Water Fund sends a big THANK YOU to Aveda — they raised over $80,000 dollars to support our work in California in 2012. Amazing!

Why Go Solar Today? 750 Good Reasons

Electricity costs skyrocket each summer, whenever your air conditioning powers up to tackle the heat. Our members in California have a great chance to do something about this today. Our partnership with Sungevity makes it easier than ever to go solar with a rooftop solar electric system.

Here’s the 750-reasons deal:
1) Sungevity will give you $750 when you sign up for a zero-down solar lease, and 2) they’ll also donate $750 to Clean Water Fund.

- Good for the planet. And for your budget!
- You'll get $750. And so will we.
- You'll pay nothing up front.
- It’s the first step towards energy independence.
- Installation and maintenance are FREE, and your savings start on day one.

How It Works: Sungevity puts solar panels on your home for no money down. You pay a monthly lease rate—usually the same or less than your old electric bill. Best of all, you’ll get $750 for signing up, and we’ll get the same amount for Clean Water.

Ready to Go Solar? Visit sungevity.org/clean-water-fund to request your free iQuote and learn how much you could save.
Clean Water Action and Clean Water Fund gratefully acknowledge 40th Anniversary Sponsorship support from:

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More Ways You Can Make a Difference for Clean Water:

➤ **Online Actions:** Join Clean Water Action online to hold your U.S. Reps and Senators accountable. www.cleanwater.org/action

➤ **Monthly Giving:** Sustain your support for Clean Water Action with an automatic recurring gift. www.cleanwater.org/join/ways-to-give

➤ **Internet Searches & Online Shopping:** Generate donations for Clean Water Action with every internet search. Use the “add to search” link on this page: http://cleanwateraction.we-care.com/search

Clean Water Action’s **Online Shopping App** makes donations for every purchase you make at thousands of online stores. It’s free and automatic. http://cleanwateraction.we-care.com/getstarted

➤ **Make Your Opinions Count for Clean Water:** Sign up for SurveyMonkey. Contribute and each survey you complete means a donation for Clean Water. https://contribute.surveymonkey.com/charity/clean-water-fund
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