

May 2025 Newsletter

Volume 55 #5



Another Earth Day in Fremont

Saturday April 18 was a great day at the Fremont event center. Chair Caroline Harris was manning the TCEC table along with our growing group of volunteers. We continue the legacy work of saving the wetlands



LEAF in Full Scale Action

LEAF President Elaine Owyang coordinated 18 tables for Earth Day and Bruce Cates standing tall!

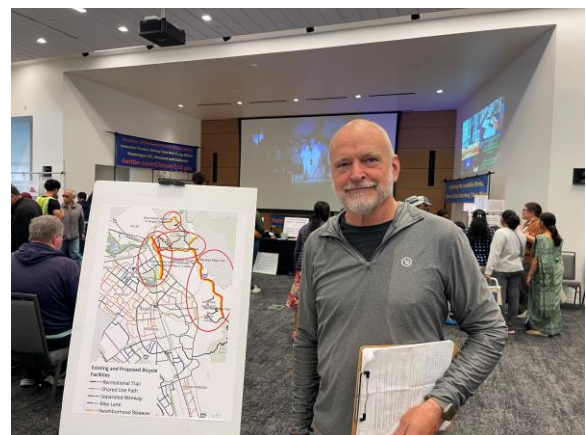




Fremont Urban Forestry



Ohlone Humane Society **on Earth Day**



Steve Skala - Environmental Sustainability Commission

And William Yragui – Sierra Club, Mission Peak Conservancy

LEAF Event – Music in Niles on May 17! 2PM till...



Did you know?

Getting old has it's advantages. When you turn 70 years old, Republic Services offers a 50% rate discount on your waste and recycling pickup rates. And better yet, when you turn 80 the cost is free. That is correct--no charge when you turn 80. How do you take advantage of this generous offer? You can download the form online, at [Republic Services.com](http://RepublicServices.com). Fill it out and return by mail or in person. Three cheers to Republic Services for helping seniors deal with\ rising costs. Reduce, recycle, reuse!!!

Thanks to Kay Emmanule for this info!

Here is the link to the senior discount rate

[Republic Services discount rate for seniors](https://www.republicservices.com/sites/default/files/legacy_documents/Muni/California/Fremont/Fremont-CA-Senior-Discount-Application.pdf)

https://www.republicservices.com/sites/default/files/legacy_documents/Muni/California/Fremont/Fremont-CA-Senior-Discount-Application.pdf

Senior Residents Discount Program Application

Senior resident discounts, if granted, will apply to weekly garbage, recyclables and organic materials collection services. To qualify, account holder must be 65 years of age or older, be head of household, and reside at service address. The provision for senior resident discounts is found in the City of Alameda's Solid Waste and Recycling Ordinance, Chapter XXI, Section 21-20.4c.1:

Fire Risks in Union City



Los Angeles Fire

To learn more about TCEC's comments see the attached letter. The public is encouraged to attend the City Council meeting on May 27, 2025, at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers at City Hall, 34009 Alvarado-Niles Rd., Union City, CA 94587.



Tri-City Ecology Center
3375 Country Drive
Fremont, CA 94536

Sent via electronic mail only

communications@unioncity.org

City Manager's Office

25 April 2025

34009 Alvarado-Niles Road, Union City, CA

Re: Comments on High Fire Hazard Severity Zone for Union City Hills - Increase in vulnerabilities

Dear City of Union City Mayor Singh, Union City Council Members and City Manager:

Tri-City Ecology Center engages in protecting and saving ecosystems and communities against natural hazards as part of a strategic priority for a fiscal sustainable and climate resilient tri-city area.

We are in support of the California State Marshal recommendation to change the Union City hillsides to a High Fire Hazard Severity Zone. Over several years, the California Department of Forestry & Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) performed modeling and analysis to determine a higher fire hazard severity in Union City using the latest technology and science while also considering land use changes and significant extreme wind event data.

Tri-City Ecology Center understands local governments cannot downgrade any areas identified by California Department of Forestry & Fire Protection, CAL FIRE, yet CAL FIRE did not perform modeling and analysis for Union City's Hillside Area Plan – a planning area – for future development with significant land use changes.

If the concerns raised above have not yet been analyzed, then we urge the Mayor, City Council, City Manager and City of Union City to analyze, address and mitigate these concerns.

Respectfully submitted,

Caroline Harris, Chairperson

Liz Ames, Vice Chairperson

info@tricityecology.org

cc: fhszinformation@fire.ca.gov



Fremont's Lake Elizabeth

Mission Peak Conservancy

William Yragui

Letter to the Editor

We write with concern about our city's misplaced priorities and inconsistent environmental stewardship. Recently, when sheep remains were discovered at the Fremont Amtrak station, our mayor quickly labeled it "disgusting and vile," commanding the Chief of Police to investigate. Yet, when five tons of dead fish were removed from Lake Elizabeth during the July 4th weekend, city leaders didn't express similar outrage or call for an investigation. These fish perished due to oxygen deprivation in overheated waters—a preventable ecological disaster resulting from years of the city and county allowing the lake to silt up and become increasingly shallow. While we appreciate the city plans for aerators and pausing fish restocking, these reactive measures highlight a disturbing pattern of environmental negligence and lack of coordination with the County Flood Control District. Mutual finger-pointing followed by inadequate remediation leave the fish in peril.

Ecologic Editor Note – This letter to the editor has been shortened to comments on Lake Elizabeth. To read the full letter please go to A comment on the critique of Lake Elizabeth came from a citizen attending a recent Environmental Sustainability Commission meeting. City staff responded to the fish die-off by saying that an outside agency reviewed the lake water quality issues and noted the lake is shallow, overheats easily, and the City plans to add aerators, as Yragui alludes to. The more active management would include dredging the lake. to deepen it. Many Fremont citizens remember the time when the lake was enjoyable for swimming, boating, and not dangerous to water life. Because the City say dredging would cost more than a million dollars they do not wish to make dredging a priority. TCEC hopes that the Lake will be restored as a natural recreational resource!

UFF does it again – 20 trees at Silliman Center



Trees planted:

3x Coast Live Oak
4x Kwanzan Cherry
4x Japanese Green Maple
1x Japanese Red Maple
3x Weeping Redbud
3x Chinese Pistache 'Push'
2x Sweet Bay Laurel

No-Till Vegetable Gardening

By Guy Duran

Manager Garden of Blessing

calbayarea@yahoo.com



I remember it well. 2015. It was a brisk morning, at a lovely double sized lot, in E Palo Alto... that was covered in waist high weeds. I was tasked, along with a couple of other younger green minded guys, to transform that weed infested lot into a productive permaculture paradise. I was already retired and was doing a lot of gardening at my own home in the fashion I was always taught, which was basically Rototilling or double digging. These guys were talking about the no-tilling method, which up to that point, I had barely heard of.

One thing I learned across the many years I was involved in gardening, since I first started, was to be cautious of these supposedly “miracle” products, and ideas. Sure... “increase your production 100% with 50% reduction in water consumption”. Easy. There are many many false concepts floating around out there in the gardening world to say the least. So when this no-till concept came around I was a little leery. In my mind I was wondering how one could plant a seedling in soil that has not been “prepared”. Even once I started to incorporate the practice of no-till into my gardening I was insistent from the start that one had to at least rototill in the beginning to get the ball rolling.

Fast forward 2025. What a difference a few years make folks. I’ve been practicing this no-till stuff now for just over a decade and I’ve learned a lot. Also, I should say, completely sold on it. Oh yeah, for sure. Sold my rototiller and hung up the broad fork... ancient tools of the trade, haha. Well then, let's take a closer look at what all this no-till gardening stuff is about.

Humans, being so smart, always come up with ideas of what is the best way to do things. But as many of us know, Nature already figured out this stuff millions of years ago. Daa. When it comes right down to it, No-till gardening is basically letting Nature do its job. No-till gardening allows the microorganisms established by Nature to stay in place and do the job they were intended to do, helping plants grow. Folks, there is a whole world living right there in the first six inches of your soil with extremely complicated arrangements of living organisms that interact with plants. Simply stated, when you turn the soil, you upset this arrangement. I'm not saying all of a sudden that rottertilling is "terrible bad", but I can say with certainty that not rototilling is better. Just leave it the way Nature wants it. For benefits to start with, production. Yes, I believe that no-till increased my production. This I attribute to increased soil health. Some other benefits to no-tilling include reduced labor, reduced weeding, less watering, reduced soil compaction, increased carbon sequestration, and of course it creates a healthy garden ecosystem. 10 years ago I would have laughed if someone tried to sell me that. But I am here to tell you today, I'm a believer.

Learning how to practice no-till gardening is not very difficult but would take up too much bandwidth for this article. I'm just here to sell you on the concept. There are many videos on streaming platforms available to help you with how to get started and how to maintain your no-till plots. I learned a lot from Charles Dowling on YouTube who has many great no-dig videos. Once started it's just a question of continuing to add organic matter to the top of your beds to maintain those microorganisms. So yeah, easier than regular gardening.

I currently manage a Community Garden and encourage all the plot gardeners to practice no-till and for sure, I practice nothing but. I'm always available to show the garden and work with others to introduce you to no-till gardening.

Ecologic Goes Nuclear!!!

Read here to learn what is going on in Wyoming. Is it ecologic? Is it practical? Will it be important in the upcoming **years of global heating? We await your response....**



The TerraPower's [Natrium](#) plant, had a win coming in the form of a state permit for construction of nonnuclear portions of its advanced liquid sodium reactor. In 2030 it would be the first-of-its-kind advanced reactor that uses liquid sodium as a coolant instead of water, which enables improved fuel utilization, enhanced safety features, and a simplified design to reduce materials needed to construct the plant. The 345-MWe reactor has an integrated energy storage system that allows for a boost to 500 MWe briefly if needed for grid resiliency.

Editor's note – I asked Nuclear chemistry scientist Ron Adamson of Niles Discovery Church what his thoughts were of using nuclear energy. He responded with some help from ChatGPT with a poem and a song. Click to hear...



Swarm Season Again – Call 510 898 – 6696 for Swarms of Bee Problems

- This swarm below could be your first hive!



Great News – The current board elected leadership – Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary and Treasurer - were recently given another term. Voting will now be every two years rather than one year. Congrats to their leadership and thanks for their work!

SPECIAL For TCEC Members! World Centric compostables

7" plate - was \$3.70 - now \$3.20

10" plate - now \$5.16

11.5 oz bowl - was \$2.70 - now \$2.95

8oz no tree hot cup - now \$3.45

9" cold cup - now \$3.84

10 oz cold cup - \$6.25

16 oz cold cup - now \$5.98

Teaspoon, fork or knife - now \$1.60

3 gal kitchen pail bag - now \$2.85

and 13 gal kitchen pail bag - \$3.15

Orders May be picked up at 3375 Country Drive, Fremont, on Thursdays between 11 AM – 2 PM, or by special arrangement. When purchasing please fill out an order form and pay by cash or check. Sorry, we don't have change. This benefit is for TCEC members only.

Questions? Please text Bill Palleschi at 510 396 6694 or email her at is billpalleschi@gmail.com, and please cc: Caroline Harris at caroline.harris@earthlink.net

BECOME A MEMBER

WANT TO JOIN TCEC?

If you want to become a member please click [HERE](#) to fill out this form and mail a check to 3375 Country Drive, Fremont, CA 94536. To learn more about TCEC please visit our website at <https://tricityecology.org/>. The Board meets on the first Thursday of each month on Zoom

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84244552454?pwd=ekNQbnZQVkJ5WUxKazlsQitrSUVvQT09>

Meeting ID: 842 4455 2454 Passcode: 407039

We'll love to hear from you. If you have any suggestions or want to contact us, please use [THIS](#) form.