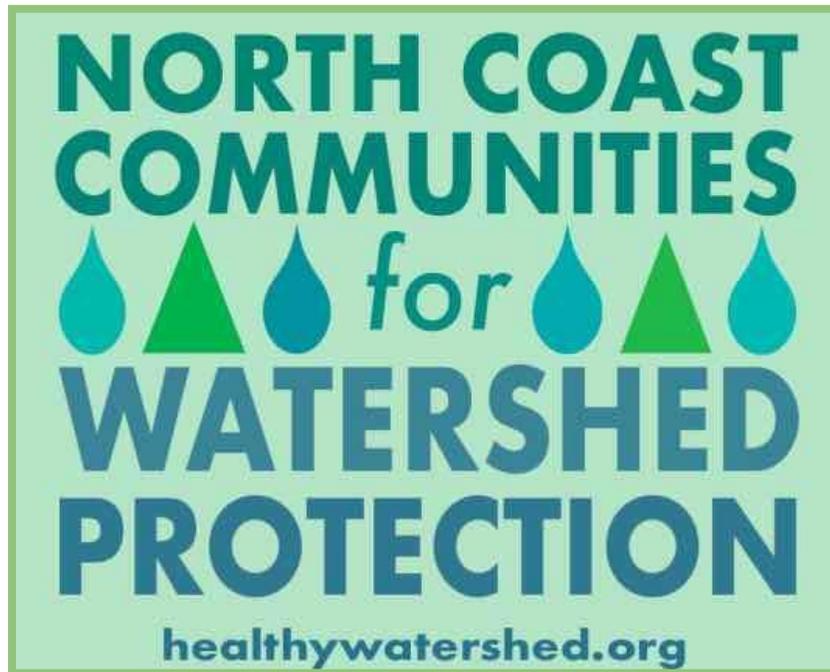


NORTH COAST COMMUNITIES FOR WATERSHED PROTECTION

Summer 2022 Newsletter

The Real Economics of Logging | Public Trust | Sign Our Petition!



Warm summer greetings, North Coast Community!

NCCWP (North Coast Communities for Watershed Protection) takes the stance — which is now widely supported by our community here along the North Oregon Coast — that there should be **no more logging and no more spraying in our drinking watersheds, regardless of land ownership.**

The time for talks of short-term, small efforts like expanded buffer zones, has passed. Right here in Oregon, there is already record-breaking weather every year; catastrophic floods and fires; there are already water shortages and pollination shortages; industrial forestry practices are already making people in our community sick.

As toxicologist Deke Gundersen [detailed in our most recent educational Zoom event](#), the practice of chemical spraying poses serious threats to community health. A recent graduate student of Deke Gundersen's, Bryn Clodfelter, published an early phase [study](#) in 2021 to assess the impacts of pesticides from logging on community health in Wheeler, which demonstrated a clear need for further study.

If things keep going the way they are without drastic shifts, the results will be disastrous for our community (and the whole planet). At this point, it is clear that the kinds of changes required for our long-term survival as a coastal Oregon community, and a world community, will not come from the top. They will have to come from a grassroots movement of individuals. An upswell of pressure and people power. This is what we want to build. We need your help to do it.

Please Sign and Help Share NCCWP's Petition

We have just launched a petition, "[Stop Clearcutting, Slash Burns and Pesticide Sprays Near Drinking Water Sources on the Oregon Coast](#)" aimed at building



momentum around protecting our forests and drinking watersheds. Please sign the petition and share it with everyone you know.

The aim of this petition is to garner support and spread awareness, because many people throughout Oregon and around the nation are unaware of the impacts of current industrial forestry practices in Oregon. Oregon has a reputation for being green and having healthy, pristine forests and watersheds. Sadly, this is no longer the truth, by a long shot. We want the eyes of our local communities, as well as the eyes of the world, to turn towards our forests and their watersheds. We aim to gather 10,000 signatures or more, and we will present the petition to local and state elected officials, timber corporations, and relevant agencies.

We see this petition as a stepping stone toward a potential future ballot measure effort. This time around, *anyone* from *anywhere* can sign the petition, as this one will not be used toward a ballot

measure, but rather as an awareness campaign to turn on the pressure and begin to create the needed sea change.

Please share it with your friends and family in other cities, states and countries! Our goal is to spread awareness far and wide around what is happening on the Oregon Coast and surrounding regions.

“The Truth about the Economics of Logging” Online Event

We are excited to offer an educational talk by Ernie Niemi, the president of Natural Resources Economics (a consultancy in Eugene, Oregon), at our upcoming educational community meeting! This event will take place on Zoom, September 13, at 6:30 p.m.

FREE ZOOM EVENT - TUES. SEPT 13

THE TRUTH ABOUT THE ECONOMICS OF LOGGING

WHY WE MUST RETHINK THE ECONOMIC VALUE OF TREES IN OREGON

IT'S TIME TO PROTECT THE GREAT PNW'S TEMPERATE RAINFORESTS FROM BEING USED AS MONEYMAKERS FOR THE TIMBER INDUSTRY. ECONOMIST ERNIE NIEMI WILL SPEAK ON WHY LOGGING IS NO LONGER AN ECONOMIC DRIVER. AND HOW TIMBER INDUSTRY PRACTICES JEOPARDIZE TODAY'S REAL ECONOMIC DRIVERS: QUALITY OF LIFE AND RECREATION IN OUR BEAUTIFUL NATURAL SPACES. NIEMI'S TALK WILL ADDRESS THE NEED FOR ECONOMIC CONSIDERATIONS OF CLIMATE AND BIODIVERSITY CRISES, AND PROVIDE TIPS FOR SPEAKING UP ABOUT THE VALUE OF OUR FORESTS.

ATTEND ONLINE VIA ZOOM

TUES. SEPT 13, 2022
6:30 - 7:30 PM

FEATURING GUEST SPEAKER
ERNIE NIEMI

ERNIE NIEMI IS THE PRESIDENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES ECONOMICS IN EUGENE, OREGON. HE HAS DOCUMENTED THE EXTERNAL COSTS OF TIMBER PRODUCTION IN THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST FOR 40 YEARS, WITH A SPECIAL FOCUS ON THE IMPACTS TO TIMBER WORKERS, THEIR FAMILIES AND THEIR COMMUNITIES.

REGISTER AT:
www.HEALTHYWATERSHED.ORG

NORTH COAST COMMUNITIES FOR WATERSHED PROTECTION
FOR MORE INFORMATION: ROCKAWAYCITIZEN.WATER@GMAIL.COM

For 40 years, Niemi has documented the external costs of timber production in the Pacific Northwest, with a special focus on the impacts to timber workers, their families and their communities, as well as impacts to other, non-timber sectors of the economy. He will speak with NCCWP about the realities of the economics of the logging industry as it currently stands, and realistic economic ways forward for our community that are not extractive and destructive. We look forward to seeing you there! (You can [register here.](#))

Niemi recently submitted a testimony to the Washington Supreme Court that explains the many valuable socioeconomic benefits that are lost when a forest is managed to maximize revenue from killing trees. The Washington Supreme Court

recently issued a unanimous opinion negating long-standing policies that declared State Forests must be managed to maximize logging revenue (which is a significant accomplishment on the part of the conservation community in Washington).



The following is an excerpt from Neimi's testimony:

Timber production generates external costs by contributing to the crisis in biodiversity and ecosystems.

The worldwide loss of biodiversity has received much less attention than climate, but it is also severe and existential to human life as we know it.¹³ Evidence for the harms associated with loss of biodiversity and ecosystems has emerged from research conducted and compiled by the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES), which stands parallel to the comparable institution, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC).

More than one-half of the economic activity measured by conventional indicators, such as the world's gross domestic product (GDP), is dependent on ecosystem services from nature.

Globally, about one-third of the world's forest area has been destroyed, more than 85 percent of wetlands have been lost, one-third of the topsoil has been degraded, freshwater species and vertebrate species have experienced population declines of 83 percent and 60 percent, respectively, since 1970. A major driver of these losses and trends has been the industrial exploitation of ecosystems to produce wood products and other materials.

Industrial timber production... imposes negative impacts on biodiversity and ecosystems...

Many of the negative impacts on biodiversity and ecosystems follow from practices, such as logging, which removes the majority of forest stands on a parcel and replaces them with single-aged stands of conifers (referred to as "regeneration harvest" or "variable retention harvest," but commonly known as clearcut logging), a common feature of industrial timber production in this region.

For example, clearcut logging in uplands has negative impacts on nature by reducing the flow of streams in late summer and raising the water temperature. Negative impacts on streamflows can play a role in reducing populations of salmon and other species that depend on cold water and increase the cost of restoring these populations to higher levels...

Other negative impacts on biodiversity and ecosystems also impose external costs. Smoke from burning post-logging slash can harm the health of humans, livestock, and wildlife, for example. Clearcuts and forest roads established to support timber production can become precursors for landslides. Logging of large, old trees degrades habitat for northern spotted owls, marbled murrelets, and other species dependent on these trees. Using chemicals to kill the growth of competing vegetation can degrade biological diversity. Each of these actions, and others that comprise biodiversity and ecosystems' ability to provide services and generate external costs.

Global efforts to quantify the external costs from negative impacts on biodiversity and ecosystem services have only just begun. The preliminary evidence, however, suggests such costs are significant. For example, the loss of biodiversity and degradation of ecosystems can contribute to the emergence of devastating diseases, the degradation of forest wetlands can diminish their ability to retard, even arrest wildfires, and industrial modification of ecosystems can diminish soils and degrade their productivity....

Continued timber production likely will have negative impacts on the future value of trust resources, retarding growth in, or even causing declines in the value of these resources. Continued timber production, for example, likely will increase the risk of wildfire on trust lands, slow forest growth, degrade the quantity and quality of streams on and below trust lands, and contribute to the loss of habitat for salmon and other species.

In other words, nature cannot sustain past and current levels of production of timber and other materials. The degradation is worldwide, so there is no opportunity for an industry to exhaust the extraction of materials in one location, then move to another for higher levels of productivity. Insofar as these global relationships apply to the trust lands, it is reasonable to anticipate that the rate of return from timber production on them will remain stagnant or, more likely, decline...

In sum, with continued timber production, the productivity and value of these resources will likely decline. It is reasonable, therefore, to ask if a greater emphasis on conservation and restoration would improve outcomes. ...

You can read the full testimony on our [website under Resources](#). [You can register here](#) to attend Ernie Niemi's educational talk with NCCWP on Sept. 13 on Zoom.



Look up at practically any hill or forested zone and you can see the reality of the clear-cutting situation in our North Coast watersheds. Sadly, this reality is not limited to our neck of the woods. As Joyce Sherman, River Steward on the Salmonberry river, and NCCWP volunteer, writes:

It's not just Oregon's North Coast that suffers from industrial timber harvest, but every part of Oregon's coast: 80% of the west side of the Coast Range is managed for timber harvest, most for industrial short rotations of 35-40 years between harvests. Short rotations never allow streams to recover their natural amounts of flow (Perry & Jones, 2016) — young trees require huge amounts of water in order to grow. Even in this unique year of a long wet spring that has led to coastal rivers being higher in May than at least in the last 30 years, there will be water shortages and zero stream flows reported later this year.

Reclaiming Our Rights to Public Trust

The extractive practices of industrial logging — including short rotations, clear-cutting and chemical spraying — have already proven to wreak havoc on the once-great forests, waters, wildlife and the health of too many community members. This is unjust, as water and air rightfully belong to us, the people of the

community. They are part of the public trust, as [Professor Mary Wood](#) details in a [recent talk given at Lewis & Clark College](#).



It is time to reclaim our public rights to these most basic and sacred of resources. NCCWP is excited and deeply honored to be hosting our own [online talk](#) with professor Mary Wood on October 17, where she will go into further detail about public trust as it relates to our coastal watersheds.

We hope you can make it to this special event—please mark your calendar!

Notes on Our Landscape

Current industrial logging practices are already destroying property and homes here on the Oregon coast by way of landslides and flooding.

They are already ruining otherwise pristine water sources with turbidity and chemicals that contaminate soil and water (severely impacting the health of many adults and children across the region, as resident Eron King [documented](#) along the Highway 36 corridor, where some of the heaviest timber industry pesticide spraying in Oregon has occurred).

Timber practices are also increasing the daily stress of our community members en masse, by turning our idyllic landscape into one covered in pockmarked, bald hills. The destruction of our landscapes is a constant reminder—whether conscious or subconscious—of the suicidal climate destruction that is directly contributing to the global climate disaster. This can lead to feelings of helplessness and doom, which often accompany the rapidly-increasing mental health issue known as [eco-anxiety](#).

Look up at Neahkahnie mountain today, or the hills of nearly every coastal mountain or watershed hillside, and you'll see how the landscape is rapidly morphing into a wasteland.

Karen Small, esteemed local artist and NCCWP supporter, wrote and painted the following:



“Bald Earth” by Karen Small

Bald Earth

By Karen Small

“The Act of Making is always greater than the act of destruction.”

-Wendell Berry, Sabbath, 1985, part five

The act of making is always greater.

The roots took hold long ago. Roots that once gripped the ocean floor; yanked, then tossed by a mean wild wave up onto the bald earth.

The making is greater.

They suffered with the howl of the wind and the scorch of the sun, but held on and rooted.

Eventually with much effort one grew a new shoot then another. Dirt began to form from her and from the slight cracks in the earth. Life had moved onto the bald earth.

She multiplied and made changes to adapt and survive. She reproduced into a multitude of plant beings, some tall, some infinitesimally small and oh the colors.

The ocean called to them to come back sending mists of messages but they were already rooted.

They told the ocean they might come back but they said that only so the ocean would continue to send the mist. They wanted the mist, they captured the mist, they held the mist in their needles and in their leaves and in their roots. They held the mist and later shared it with the beings that moved about who also had come from the ocean.

The baldness began to soften into rich dirt of earth folding into itself, creating holes and tunnel with the help of the animal earth movers.

Excitement prevailed. What new can we create?

The making is great.

The creating, the diversification, the newness of each day, of each new segment of life!

It went on and on. The making of new and rich fertile ground. Abundance.

The making is always greater.

It went on until the destruction.

Collapse

As the trees were cut for harvest, the ocean could barely hear the call of "Maybe we will come back." So she sent less mist.

They sprayed the earth so the plants could not grow.

They sprayed the earth so the animals could not come and eat the tiny trees they planted.

The sun came to the earth and pulled the mist back to the sky and turned it dry.

The ocean called louder. "Come back home!" They did and soon all was gone. The earth was bald again.

The making was greater than the destruction.

☾

You can find more of Karen Small's work at the Manzanita Library through September.

It is time we come together as a community, bold and unafraid, to protect the natural processes that are critical to our continued lives, and future generations of life.

The following was written for our NCCWP newsletter by artist, writer and environmental advocate Carl Whiting who lives in Wheeler:



Photo by Carl Whiting

The Beauty that Remains

By Carl Whiting

Hike a dusty logging road on the Oregon Coast, and you will find massive cedar stumps everywhere you look. For a hundred years, these silver giants have kept watch over the

coastal range like a community of ghosts, persisting in their age-old vigil among the shadows of scrubby farm trees. I'd guess the logging industry had hoped these ancient markers would've rotted away by now, scattering their silent testimony into the soil. And though it saddens me to see them, I am glad that they endure, year after year, stubbornly gripping the earth. If you allow your imaginative eyes to trace them up again to their full, majestic height, a ghost forest will shimmer for a moment before you. Walk among these stumps and they will show you the squared-off notches that were cut for the springboards. They will show you the scars of the labor it took to send their upper stories crashing to the forest floor.

A sociologist once said that when it comes to our identities, we are the stories we tell ourselves and others about who we are, and our attempts to live up to those stories. I can't help wondering what happens to a man's story when he looks behind him and sees only scattered, splintered stumps. It was Upton Sinclair who reminded us that "it is difficult to get a man to understand something when his salary depends upon his not understanding it." I know that these were just people trying to feed their families. But I still wonder what happens to a man's own story when he's tasked with cutting short the stories of a thousand towering trees. The trunks can be yoked up easily enough, dragged away through the salal and sword fern. But the stumps will remain. The oil in their wood will preserve them as they continue to whisper to each following generation: "We are still here. We're here to teach you your own history," they say. "We will persist on these hills, silvering in the sun, soaking up the rain, shining in the moonlight. We're not going anywhere. We feel you walking by. Come and join our congregation. Ours is the silent church of not forgetting. Run your hands over our silver sides and remember."

An arborist for the state came into my little gallery a week or so ago. I pointed out the window to the clear-cut flanks of Neahkahnie. The feller-bunchers have been feller-bunching again; mechanical carpet beetles tethered to the steep slopes of the mountain, chewing away at the spindly trees. With nothing to hold it back, thousands of years of topsoil will simply wash down into Nehalem Bay. I asked the arborist, "what if we stopped all this today? Would we ever be able to get back what we had? Could the forest of this coastal range become again what it once was?" "No," he said. "I don't think so. We've beat up these hills too much. A lot of the nutrients are gone. The moisture's too low because there's not enough cover to retain it. And we're fundamentally changing the climate. We can't get back what we had." He continued to look out the window. "But we could get *something*," he added. "We could get something better than what we currently have." I asked him what he thought it would take to find the will to make a collective turn as big as that. He figured we'd have to come up with another way of thinking about how we fit into all of this. "Tell ourselves a new story?" I asked. "Something like that," he said.

I was painting the other day when Nancy Webster came in smiling. If you know Nancy, you know there's no need to type that last part. She *always* comes in smiling. I'd been in a dark mood all morning, and it appeared I was doing my best to pass it on to Nancy. I told her that I used to talk to college students about climate change when I worked for environmental groups in Wisconsin. Back then I'd paint the challenge in hopeful terms, telling them they still had the opportunity to give the greatest gift that any generation could ever give the next; just the chance to lead an ordinary life on a livable planet. But

after watching how we've turned our democracy, and even a global pandemic into political footballs, I'm no longer confident in my own words any more. Nancy listened patiently and smiled her tired, bemused smile. "My mother worked to save Bull Run," she said. "I'm going to continue to work for our coastal watersheds. I don't know whether that will be enough. At this point, I suppose it's just the life I live."

I walked the logging road again early this morning, studying the gravel at my feet. What Nancy had said reminded of a phrase once attributed to Saint Augustine:

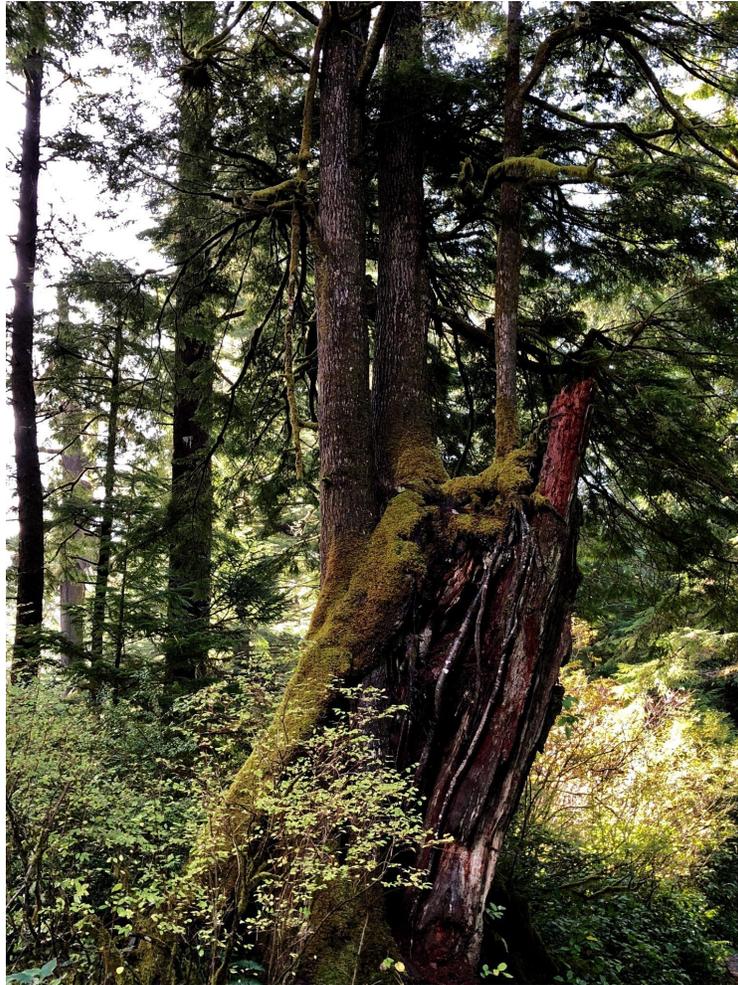


Photo by Carl Whiting

If I knew that tomorrow the world would fall to pieces, I would still plant my apple tree.

Somehow, those words always manage to lift my chin a little. When I looked up, a cedar sapling stood bright and clear at the edge of the road in front of me. The sun shone from directly behind it, lighting the dew that hung from its small branches so that it might have been clothed in diamonds. "Hey," said the little cedar, "I am right here. The sun is coming up, and this morning is gift for you that will never come quite this way again. Continue

on your way, face the challenges ahead, and try your best not to overlook the beauty that remains.”

Community Stories

In other news, NCCWP has been documenting several local unfolding timber cases in hopes of preventing pesticide spray operations near the homes of some of our North Coast community members. We have also been filming and collecting the stories of community members impacted by the practices of the timber industry. If you or your neighbor are concerned about potential spraying by timber companies adjacent to or near your property, land erosion and/or landslides due to timber practices, or any other related concerns, please reach out to us. We would love to catalog your story if you'd like to share, and we may be able to offer some resources.

Earlier this year, NCCWP gathered local community members who have been affected by the timber industry's practices, to provide testimonies to the Oregon Secretary of State (SOS)'s office for their performance audit on rural water supplies. The SOS audit is currently winding up its field work, and is scheduled to release its report in September. We are hoping for a good presentation of the evidence that NCCWP submitted during our sessions with the auditors. We continue to appreciate the invaluable testimonies presented by our witnesses.

NCCWP has been tracking an uptick in logging in the Cape Meares Coleman Creek Watershed. What follows is an update from community member Wendy Burroughs, president of the Cape Meares Community Association:

In October of last year [NCCWP was] among those in the community who were alarmed to learn that a clear-cut of 87.5 acres of private forest in Cape Meares Coleman Creek Watershed was in progress. Since that time, the Cape Meares Community Association (CMCA) has been in negotiations with the landowner. I am pleased to report that on August 8, 2022 a Letter of Intent (LOI) was signed for the sale of 119 acres of forest and 16 residential lots, giving the CMCA 365 days to secure funding. This LOI agreement states: “No further logging-related activities would take place, and no herbicide or other chemicals would be sprayed or deposited on the Property while the transaction was pending.”

It is a huge relief to see these words on the signed agreement. As I understand it this gets us to step 1 in watershed protection—a “willing Seller.” We are going to need all kinds of help for steps 2 through 1,000.

If you live in the Cape Meares area and/or are interested in supporting efforts to protect the forest and watershed there, please reach out to NCCWP. We are

especially looking for volunteers interested in helping to coordinate and spearhead efforts here.

“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has.”

-Margaret Mead

NCCWP is a citizen effort, through and through. Our group is proud of the fact that we have retained the rights to take a sovereign stance, and the freedom to speak up where it counts. Many environmental groups have signed compromises with the timber industry, which are now proving inadequate in protecting the health of our communities, forests and drinking watersheds. NCCWP stands strong in our commitment to protecting these public trust resources in their entirety, for all future generations to enjoy.

WE NEED YOUR HELP!

As always, we will need the help of our community to get the word out and create a surge of momentum around our efforts in the coming months.

What we need most now is people willing to dedicate time and energy to organizational tasks, flyering, petitioning and social media. (If you do not already, please follow NCCWP on Instagram: [@nccwatershedprotection](#)).

FLYERING:

If you are available to help us flyer prior to our educational events, meetings and other campaigns, please reach out! We could especially use your help passing out flyers in the next week or two, leading up to Ernie Niemi's talk!

SOCIAL MEDIA STEWARDS:

We are specifically looking for a dedicated social media intern—or volunteer (whichever title suits you best—to help us build our social media presence so that we can reach more people with our messages. If you have experience with growing social media platforms and/or are enthusiastic about social media, please reach out directly to April Clark: april.nccwp@gmail.com.

PETITION AWARENESS CAMPAIGN:

We are looking for people willing to help us canvas in-person, door-to-door, at farmers markets, and possibly in front of supermarkets. Please reach out if this is something you would be comfortable and willing to help with in the coming months!

The aim of our current petition is to spread awareness of our cause throughout—and beyond—our community, and begin to build a massive wave of public support. We will present the petition to local and state elected officials and relevant organizational leadership. If you haven't yet, please [sign our petition](#) and share it with your friends!

COMMUNITY / CAMPAIGN ORGANIZERS:

We are also looking for a volunteer or two with **campaign organizing experience**, who has time and energy to help us with our awareness campaign, petition efforts, and beyond. Please reach out if this is something you are interested in doing!

If you are interested in helping with any or all of the above volunteer priorities, please email us directly: rockawaycitizen.water@gmail.com.

With love and gratitude,
NCCWP

North Coast Communities for Watershed Protection (formerly Rockaway Beach Citizens for Watershed Protection) is a grassroots group working, through education and advocacy, for better protections of the water we drink, the air we breathe, and the forests that sustain us.
healthywatershed.org | www.facebook.com/NCCWATERSHEDPROTECTION

Comments or questions? Contact Nancy Webster: rockawaycitizen.water@gmail.com