

# Redwood Nation Earth First!

Dear Supporters,

The Injunction protecting Richardson Grove is set to run out in February 2012 and we are organizing for direct action. We face corporate and government anti-forest foes on the national, state and local levels. This is the biggest campaign for Redwood Nation Earth First! since Headwaters. Our nonviolent activists need your support as we scale up for a response that can't be ignored.

To recap, Caltrans is moving to implement what they call a "Road Improvement Plan" aka "R.I.P." for Richardson Grove. This would widen highway 101 along the narrow corridor through our beloved State Park, literally ripping the roots of over one hundred ancient redwoods and cutting down eighty-seven other trees unlucky enough to stand in the project's mile long "impact zone."

Gouging out the Grove's tight curves would allow access for the humungous sleeper-cab trucks that are currently restricted -- the kind companies like Wal-Mart prefer. Local trucking companies oppose the plan, which will crush their investment in the smaller semis they've successfully adapted to navigate the Grove.

We are up against the American Trucking Association. This powerful and wealthy national transportation lobby makes sure that Federal funding is shoveled into the Surface Assistance Transportation Act (STAA). If this imbroglio goes through, STAA standards would also mandate other big truck accommodations, including truck stops, huge turn-outs and other blights on the landscape that would make 101 look more like I-5.

Caltrans plans to spend ten million Federal and State dollars on this project. In June, even as Caltrans was being hauled into court by the Environmental Protection & Information Center and others for a restraining order, the State Transportation Improvement Project fund allocated the State's \$5 million share of the project.

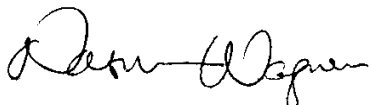
The trees that could be destroyed aren't the only thing at risk if this plan goes through. Trucks carrying non-essential big-box cargo run counter to the local movement towards a greener, more sustainable economy. We oppose the use of highway 101 as a conduit for corporate profit at the expense of our local economy and ecology.

To keep the issues in the spotlight and get the word out, EF! Ecotrans has been readying with local Garberville and Redway activists, maintaining an ongoing visible presence at the Grove, organizing demos and training activists for nonviolent direct action.

We congratulate EPIC and all the lawyers on their first round knockout in court, but as Judi Bari used to say: "Never rely on an injunction to save the forest!"

Thanks everyone for your generosity. Your support keeps our resistance alive.  
Hey! Occupy Wall Street, come Occupy the Grove!

Solidarity,



Naomi Wagner  
Redwood Nation Earth First!

On **June 24**, a busload of Mendocino and Humboldt county activists went to Sacramento to demonstrate at Caltrans' main office. As curious office workers looked down on the protest from the second story windows of the fortress-like façade, EF! activists wearing day-glo orange Ecotrans EF! vests and hardhats hoisted a 20-foot-long banner one and a half stories high with the message: "Caltrans! Rip No Roots!" The Coalition to Save Richardson Grove delivered thousands of pro-tree signatures to Governor Brown.

At our **Memorial Day Weekend Demo** on **June 30**, Ecotrans activists stationed themselves at intervals on the north end of the Grove holding black-on-yellow "Everything is Grovey" signs that read: "slow down...you move...too fast...you got to... make the...forest last!" Motorists responded enthusiastically with cheers, waves and victory signs.

On **July 1**, activists attended court in San Francisco to support Plaintiffs EPIC, Citizens for Alternatives to Toxics, Center for Biological Diversity and four private parties. Plaintiffs won an impressive victory in Judge Alsup's Federal Court, thanks in part to expert witness Dr. McBride, UCSF Berkeley Professor of Forestry and Landscape Architecture, who testified that the impacts of soil disturbance and compaction on the ancient trees would amount to root suffocation. The hearing resulted in a Temporary Injunction that not only halts Caltrans' plan until early February 2012 but also prevents contracts from being put out to bid.

This **August**, Garberville activists set up a "Truth Booth" in a long tent at the south end of the Grove, offering tourists shade and refreshments, links to the Preserve the Grove movement, fact sheets with information about Caltrans' proposal and the opportunity to sign up for nonviolent direct action.

At the **Labor Day Demo** on **September 5**, more signs and banners and an expanded Truth Booth caught the eyes and ears of motorists over the holiday weekend. Imagine how the presence of huge trucks would affect campers and cyclists in the Grove!

**September 24** was **Global Movement Day**, and Ecotrans, the Truth Booth and the Garberville Bike Coop offered loaner bikes and organized a community bike ride through Richardson Grove to synchronize with the 350.org-sponsored event.

On **October 2**, also in concert with 350.org, we greeted almost one hundred international riders taking part in **Climate Ride** as they passed through Richardson Grove along the Pacific Coast Trail on a 320 mile ride from Fortuna to San Francisco to raise awareness of climate change and to promote alternative modes of transportation.

