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Letter to the Editor
Bohemian
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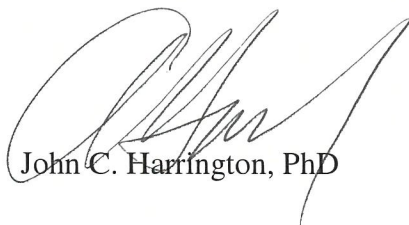
I enjoyed reading Tom Gogola's article "Making Bank."

In my former life as a legislative staff person in Sacramento, I was the consultant for the Senate Select Committee on Investment Priorities and Objectives, chaired by Senator John Dunlap, who represented part of Sonoma County, including Santa Rosa, as well as Napa, Solano, Yolo, and part of Sacramento County.

I wrote a bill creating a California State Bank after the Committee held interim hearings throughout the state. The lobbyist for the California Bankers Association (CBA) told me that "CBA does not want to see a pre-print bill hit legislators' desks." Suffice it to say CBA killed the bill and John Dunlap was defeated for re-election in 1978.

The 15 largest banks in this country hold a combined \$13.7 trillion in assets, almost doubling since U.S. taxpayers bailed them out in 2009, after almost destroying our national economy with their reckless financial behavior. These are the same banks that finance fossil fuel-caused climate change, and along with PG&E's negligence, is responsible for many of us to lose our homes, businesses, and lives in the wine country fires of 2017-18.

It is about time citizens of this state created our own public banks as well as a state-owned utility.



John C. Harrington, PhD