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Friends of the River Names New Executive Director

Paul Tebbel, former Environmental Affairs Director for Patagonia, returns to California

Friends of the River, California's statewide river conservation group, has chosen its new Executive Director: Paul Tebbel. Many people remember Paul's name and are eager to welcome him back to California. He was active in California environmental issues in the early 1990s as the first Environmental Affairs Director for Patagonia.

"I believe that the need to protect our water resources will only get more critical and in California that means taking care of our rivers," says Paul. "I am honored to be part of this highly effective conservation organization and look forward to working with everyone in FOR to protect our rivers."

Since his Patagonia days, Paul spent 10 years in Nebraska, building up the Audubon Society's Rowe Sanctuary. While there he also served as Audubon's representative in Platte River negotiations. For the past two years he has served as executive director of The Wildlife Center, New Mexico's largest wild animal hospital and wildlife education center.

"We're thrilled to have Paul taking the reins at Friends of the River," says JoAnne Skinner, chair of FOR's Board of Directors. "We know his past experience in California environmental issues, combined with his proven ability to build up organizations, bodes well for the future of FOR and for the rivers in California."

He will begin at FOR in mid July. In the meantime, FOR continues its campaigns to preserve, restore, and sustain rivers throughout California, from the Klamath River on the Oregon border to Pine Valley Creek near the Mexican border.

"Paul will bring strong new ideas to bolster and expand our river conservation campaigns and public outreach," says Steve Evans, FOR Conservation Director and interim executive director. "He's already active in the transition, and the FOR staff is looking forward to working with him."

For more information about Paul and Friends of the River, visit www.friendsoftheriver.org. For photos or more details, contact Communications Director Tony Bogar at 707.227.9239 or tony@friendsoftheriver.org.