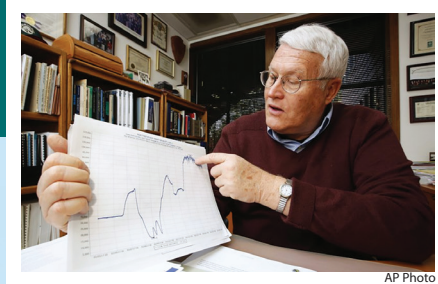




Friends of the River 2017 Annual Impact Report



Mission: Friends of the River protects and restores California Rivers by influencing public policy and inspiring citizen action.

About Friends of the River: Friends of the River was founded in 1973 during the struggle to save the Stanislaus River from New Melones Dam. Following that campaign, we grew to become California's statewide river conservation organization. Friends of the River is dedicated to preserving and restoring California's rivers, streams, and their watersheds and advocating for sustainable water management.

Friends of the River is nationally recognized as an authority on the adverse impacts of dams on rivers and ecosystems and is the most effective grassroots organization working on behalf of rivers. We have led successful campaigns for the permanent protection of many outstanding California rivers and streams - including the Kings, Kern, Merced, Tuolumne, upper Klamath, West Walker, East Carson, Sisquoc, and Big Sur Rivers, as well as Sespe Creek and Cache Creek.

Board of Directors

- Bob Cushman, Chair
- Jeff Depew, Vice Chair
- Marian Bender, Treasurer
- Richard Weiss, Secretary
- John Yost
- Scott Armstrong
- Jann Dorman
- Kevan Urquhart
- Jennifer Huber
- Donnelle Morgan

Staff

- Eric Wesselman, Executive Director
- Ronald Stork, Senior Policy Advocate
- Robert Wright, Senior Legal Counsel
- Toby Briggs, Engagement Coordinator
- Brittney Schilpp, Development Director
- Kelsey Long, Program and Development Assistant
- Steve Evans, Wild and Scenic Program Consultant
- Arminda Montoya, Contract Accountant

We Thank You!

Friends of the River receives support from individuals, corporate giving and foundation grants. We could not do what we do without these generous contributions. We would like to send our deepest gratitude to the foundations who provided more than \$114,000 of support this year:

The Appleton Foundation

The Campbell Foundation

The William and Flora Hewlett Foundation

The Goldman Foundation

The Rose Foundation

Your help has been invaluable in making Friends of the River a powerhouse for river protection!

Letter from Executive Director and Board Chair



Eric Wesselman, Executive Director

river groups, tribes, businesses and fisheries organizations to coordinate our efforts and leverage our combined strength. We sponsored legislation in Sacramento with the goal of protecting federal Wild & Scenic Rivers through state law; we can no longer rely on the federal government to protect these rivers. FOR's work with allies and stakeholders also culminated in legislation introduced last year to protect more than 277 miles of streams and rivers in California as Wild & Scenic. This legislation faces a tough road in this Congress, but our sights are set on a new Congress in 2019!

To build grassroots support for these threatened rivers, we expanded our River Advocacy Training School (RATS) that produced twenty-seven river advocates in 2017. After going through an intensive training, these RATS engaged hundreds of people in our work through community events, media outreach, organizing river activities and FOR's California Rivers Day at the Capitol.

We also advocated for positive water solutions that are climate resilient, cost-effective, and river-friendly. We supported legislation to make water conservation a way of life in California, promoted sustainable water solutions through a series of opinion editorials around the state, and built grassroots support for these positive solutions through our network of River RATS.

In the middle of this busy year, FOR ramped up our fight to save the San Francisco Bay-Delta from the massive twin tunnels project thanks to our in-house legal team, led by Bob Wright. FOR filed litigation to stop the tunnels last summer and we are keeping up the pressure on the State Water Board to deny the permits as we run out the clock on this Governor's term.

We have a great team at FOR, but you make this work possible. Thank you! With support from people like you, we are passionate about moving our work forward in 2018 and excited to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Wild & Scenic River Act along with FOR's 45th anniversary!

On behalf of California's rivers, thank you and best wishes,

Eric Wesselman

Bob Cushman

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Eric Wesselman'.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Bob Cushman'.

Executive Director

Board Chair

2017 marked Friends of the River's 45th year working to protect and restore California's iconic rivers. Throughout that time, our strength has always come from the FOR family—thousands of people like you who believe rivers are treasures to be cherished, not resources to be exploited. It was this family that protected more than 2,000 river miles as Wild & Scenic since 1973, saved rivers from disastrous new dam projects, and helped restore those harmed by hydropower projects. People like you did this through grassroots activism, providing financial support, and lending a hand as a volunteer. *Thank you!*

The election of Donald Trump had a significant impact on our work last year. After years of severe drought fueled an intense push to build new dams, the Trump administration and this Congress are pushing a truly disturbing anti-environmental agenda that threatens the rivers we hold dear. With several rivers like the Bear, Merced, Sacramento and San Joaquin now threatened by plans for new dams, FOR took our work to a new level in 2017.

FOR is serving as an umbrella for organizations across the state. Last year we organized a coalition of more than 20



Bob Cushman, Board Chair

Public Policy and Advocacy



Storage response group

Policy Update by Ron Stork

Storage Response Group

Friends of the River continued to convene the storage response group, addressing the threat of previously dead-beat dams revived by the prospect of \$2.7 billion in state bond funds to be targeted for “water storage” projects.

Friends of the River and its allies continually engaged with Calif. Water Commission, the agency in charge of handing out money for the “public benefits.” We were not surprised by the initial findings of Commission staff that the “public benefits” for these dams and other storage projects were much over-rated. But at the same time we recognize the intense pressure on the Commission to look the other way and shovel the money out the door. Alas, some of our rivers remain in peril.

Federal Wild & Scenic Legislation Introduced in 2017 *By Steve Evans*

2017 was a banner year for the introduction of legislation in Congress to significantly expand the National Wild & Scenic Rivers System in California. California’s Federal Senators and key members of the House authored and introduced legislation in Congress to protect as Wild & Scenic more than 277 miles of streams and rivers in California.

Two bills introduced in 2017 by Senator Dianne Feinstein, Senator Kamala Harris, and Rep. Paul Cook propose Wild & Scenic protection for segments of the Whitewater River, Deep Creek, and Surprise Canyon Creek, as well as adding a segment to the existing Amargosa Wild & Scenic River in the California Desert. Legislation introduced by Rep. Judy Chu proposes to protect segments of the San Gabriel River and Little Rock Creek in the magnificent San Gabriel Mountains. Senators Kamala Harris and Dianne Feinstein also teamed up with Rep. Salud Carbahal on legislation to add to the federal system segments of upper Sespe, upper Piru Creek, Indian, Mono and Matilija Creeks, as well as tributaries to the existing Sisquoc Wild & Scenic River, in the scenic Central Coast region. Given the level of hyper-partisanship in Congress, it seems unlikely that these

Oroville Dam Report

Friends of the River’s hydroelectric program was thrown into the maelstrom of media attention when Oroville Dam’s spillway broke and the emergency spillway nearly failed, causing the evacuation of 188,000 people in the Feather River Basin.

The reason was simple, for more than a decade we had been warning the Department of Water Resources (the dam owner) and the dam’s regulator, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, of the vulnerability of the hillside to erosion and the dangers that posed to the infrastructure of the dam.

This year we talked to countless reporters to help them understand the issues, providing a briefing for and testified before the legislature, produced more filings before the Commission, helped produce a report on the spillway incident and the lessons from the Feather River basin, including the opportunities for “green” floodwater management projects.



bills will move forward this year, but the simple fact that they were introduced in these politically divided times represents a success. Look for their reintroduction in 2019.

More than 25 years of work by Friends of the River along with federal agencies, local elected officials, community leaders, and members of Congress helped build the foundation for the introduction of these bills.

Program Activities

RATS Winter 2017

The River Advocacy Training School (RATS) continues to thrive in its second year 3rd cohort. FOR trained more than ten more River Advocates in January 2017, totaling 27 RATS since the program's inception. RATS connected with over 300 people through movie night, children's plays, a Dutch Oven Dinner, tabling and a Keep it Wild! event held in Mariposa, CA. Their support enabled us to schedule 38 legislative visits during California Rivers Day, lead 2 days of Paddle to the Capital and add expert volunteer support to the canoe and rafting programs.

Four of the 27 total RATS were honored at the California River Awards for their outstanding work.

- Dakota Goodman for building a UC Berkeley campus presence
- Carlos Zambrano for his work engaging high school students and building partnerships
- Dean Bernacchi for the Keep it Wild!-Merced River campaign
- Jeremy Anderson for contributions to the rafting program



California Rivers Day

Over 20 organizations came together on May 3, 2017 to meet with legislators about pressing issues facing rivers. Sixty people attended 38 constituent meetings and made 57 additional drop-ins supporting wild and scenic legislation and local issues. The day started with a briefing and breakfast. The fast pace of meetings made for a flurry of activity at the home base in the basement café of the Capitol building. The day concluded with a picture on the Capitol stairs.

Thanks to the sponsors of the day: Protect American River Canyons, Foothills Water Network and South Yuba River Citizens League & appear on the California Rivers Day sticker handed out that day.



Paddle to the Capital

Celebrating its second year, Paddle to the Capital connected over 100 people to rivers and raised \$9,500. Over 200 volunteer hours were donated to support the event through guiding, coordination, River Fairy stops and transportation. The event was an amazing 6-day intersection of our different programs and an opportunity to reach out to the public about river conservation issues.



Rafting Program

The season started with record highwater levels on the South Fork American River in January and February continuing into July. It was exciting to train guides at those historic levels. FOR took guests rafting once the water levels came back to normal levels. Last year FOR took a total of 164 people on river trips.



Canoeing Program

Launching a new event type last year, the canoe program offered 5 Advocacy Outings. Each canoe trip was available to all levels of paddlers and features a speaker who is a local expert on that river.

- Peter Buck, Director of Natural Resources (former), SAFCRA and
- Tom Gohring, Executive Director, Water Forum
- Mary Maret, Nat.Resource Specialist, Sacramento County Parks
- Rob Titus, California Department of Fish and Wildlife
- Brian Wardman, Principal Eng., Northwest Hydraulic Consultants
- Dan Airola, Naturalist, Audubon Society

FOR continues the tradition of training canoers in the fundamental skills that underpin strong paddling. The canoe program engaged 80 paddlers in 2017.



Other Activities

Events

Capital River Awards

The ninth annual Capitol River Awards celebrates impactful legislators working on behalf of rivers. Eighty guests joined us in honoring two legislators. We were proud to honor Assemblymember Laura Friedman who championed a bill to protect state Wild and Scenic Rivers and legislation implementing water conservation. We also honored Senate President Pro Tempore Kevin de Leon for his fierce advocacy for the environment and work on state legislation to protect against federal rollbacks. The evening was held at the Capitol Plaza Ballrooms in downtown Sacramento.



California River Awards

For the 15th year, river lovers gathered for the California River Awards to honor some of the incredible individuals who have made an enormous impact in the fight to protect our rivers. Former FOR Board of Directors member and early staff member Harriet Moss was presented with the Mark DuBois Awards for her role as a fearless fundraiser and visionary who helped FOR build the capacity to win victories for rivers throughout the state. We also honored four volunteers from our River Advocacy Training School, affectionately known as RATS. These RATS have taken river advocacy far and beyond FOR to their local communities, schools and even to the state and federal level to prove that ordinary individuals from various backgrounds can stand up for endangered river species and clean water with abundant success.



Harriet Moss & Mark DuBois

Through the generous donations of those in attendance, including the 45 event sponsors, and 56 auction donors, Friends of the River raised over \$150,000!

Legal Action in 2017 *by Bob Wright*

This year Friends of the River (FOR) lead strategy and tactics conference calls with the attorneys challenging the Water Fix Delta Tunnels project approvals. The project would destroy the already degraded San Francisco Bay-Delta Estuary by greatly reducing freshwater flows through the Delta by taking water upstream from the Delta instead of from the south Delta as is presently done.

FOR is leading a coalition of 10 public interest groups to terminate the Water Fix Delta Tunnels project and consider real alternatives. FOR continues to insist that alternatives like the FOR and Environmental Water Caucus alternative,



Bob Wright, Senior Legal Council

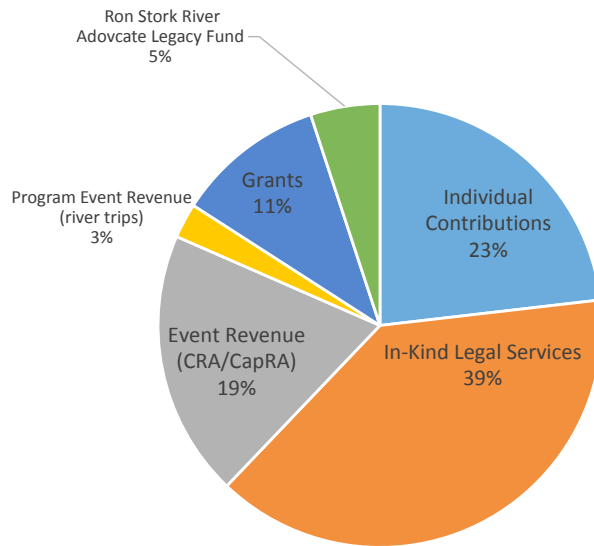
A Sustainable Water Plan for California (2015), that would increase freshwater flows through the Delta by reducing exports, be included as an alternative in the project.

Action taken in 2017 includes preparation of 10 Coalition letters to the Delta Stewardship Council (DSC) and appearances at DSC and Delta Independent Science Board public meetings in March, April, May and June 2017. FOR is the lead plaintiff in the lawsuit filed in August challenging the July 2017 approval of the Delta Tunnels project by the California Department of Water Resources (DWR). The lawsuit alleges that the Environmental Impact Report (EIR) on the project violates the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). For many reasons, central among them being the failure to develop and circulate for public review and comment, is a lack of the required range of reasonable alternatives to the project.

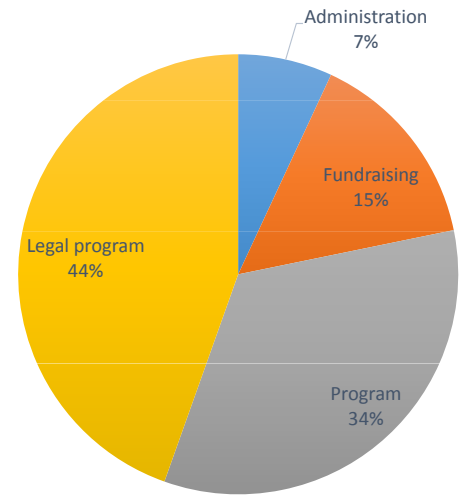
Financial Snapshot



Revenue \$1,063,780



Expenses \$922,946



Ron Stork River Advocacy Legacy Fund

Friends of the River (FOR) is proud to announce a partnership with the Placer Community Foundation, in establishing the Ron Stork River-Advocate Legacy Fund. As a Senior Policy Advocate for FOR, Ron's award-winning work over the years has helped establish FOR as a leader in the protection and conservation of California's rivers. In addition to FOR's own work, Ron's work is relied upon by numerous organizations throughout the state. This permanent Endowment Fund, held by Placer Community Foundation, was created to support the mission of Friends of the River, and in particular our River Policy Advocacy work.

Make a Gift

The Foundation accepts gifts of cash, public traded securities, real estate, life insurance, and other personal property. All gifts qualify for maximum tax advantage under federal law.

For questions regarding gifts to the Ron Stork River-Advocate Legacy Fund, please call the Foundation's office at (530) 885-4920 or email info@placercf.org. Additional information can be found at:

www.placercf.org/give-to-fund



How much “new” water will \$10 billion deliver?

Shasta Dam Raise

Cost: \$1.3 billion
 Capacity increase: 634,000 acre-ft
 Increased Deliveries: 51,300 acre-ft

Centennial Dam

Cost: \$490 million
 Capacity: 110,000 acre-ft
 Increased Deliveries: 3,800 acre-ft

Sites Dam

Cost: \$4.67 billion
 Capacity: 1.8 million acre-ft
 Avg. Yield: 447,000 acre-ft
 Increased Deliveries: 273,000 acre-ft

Will these water storage projects produce adequate deliveries of “new” water to Californians?

California uses an average of **42 million acre-ft of water** each year.

These 6 projects will cost tax payers **\$10.215 billion** while increasing water deliveries by **only 1.25%**

Building more dams will do little to increase our water supply. **It's time to invest in innovative water solutions** that deliver water to users while protecting our rivers.

To learn more about how we can *Point Positive* toward 21st Century water solutions visit

www.friendsoftheriver.org

San Francisco

Los Vaqueros Dam Raise

Cost: \$795 million
 Capacity Increase: 115,000 acre-ft
 Increased Deliveries: 87,000 acre-ft

San Luis Dam Raise

Cost: 360 million (field costs only, doesn't incl. construction or design costs)
 Capacity Increase: 130,000 acre-ft
 Increased Deliveries: 43,000 acre-ft max, 7,000 acre-ft min

Temperance Flat Dam

Cost: \$2.6 billion
 Capacity: 1.26 million acre-ft
 Increased Deliveries: 70,000 acre-ft

Map: nationalatlas.gov
 FOR, February 2018

Key Terms

Increased deliveries: reported as average annual NED or locally preferred project deliveries of “new” water
Capacity: potential volume of a full reservoir

Data Sources

Centennial Dam: 2017–18 Nevada Irrigation District reported by the California Water Commission
Los Vaqueros Dam Raise: 2017-18 Contra-Costa County Ca Water Commission application
San Luis Dam Raise: 2013 USRB San Luis Reservoir Expansion Draft Appraisal Report
Sites Dam: 2017-18 Sites Water Project Authority Ca Water Commission application and draft EIS/EIR
Shasta Dam Raise: 2015 Reclamation FEIS
Temperance Flat Dam: 2014 Reclamation DEIS/Feasibility Study