

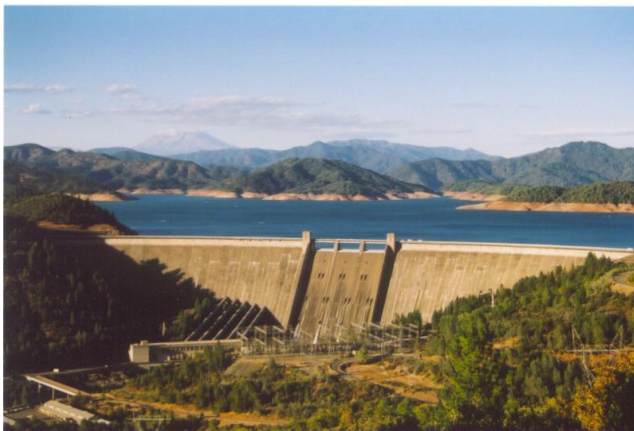


Volume 8, Issue 3

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FOR Action



Powerful Scofflaws Pursue Shasta Dam Raise — Still

by Ron Stork, Policy Director

Since it's been **against the law** since 1989 to expand Shasta Reservoir, something even conceded by Reclamation in its 2014 final EIS to do just that, our request would seem a friendly one. Instead, the general manager of SLDMWA Jon Rubin in a

Fresno Bee op. ed. blasted California Natural Resources Secretary John Laird for assuming conclusions of law without evidence. His arguments were without legal relevance or merit, but red meat for Fresno's dam-hungry political establishment.

[Click here](#) to read the full article!

State Safety Net For Federal Wild Rivers Passes First Legislative Hurdle

Earlier this month, the Assembly Natural Resources Committee passed AB 2975 (Friedman), a bill that establishes a state safety net for rivers in California that are part of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System. AB 2975 will be heard by the Assembly Appropriations Committee next and it must pass the full Assembly by June 1 to be considered in the State Senate.

[Click here](#) to read the full article!



How much "new" water will \$10 billion deliver?



Water Commission Staff Responds to Supplicants' Appeals

By Ron Stork, Policy Director

Chapter 8 of the California Water Bond of 2014 provided for an unprecedented \$2.7 billion of free taxpayer money for reservoir or groundwater storage projects that find favor with the California Water Commission. After passage, the Commission established regulations on how to give the money away for the so-called "public benefits" of projects.

On April 20, 2018, a key milestone of those regulations was completed — a staff determination of the public benefit ratios (PBRs) and implied maximum conditional eligibility for funds for the supplicants' projects. The Commission

itself will make the final PBR determination, putting their fingers on the scales for or against the staff's findings in a three-day Commission public hearing in Sacramento on May 1 – 3.

[Click here](#) to read the full article!

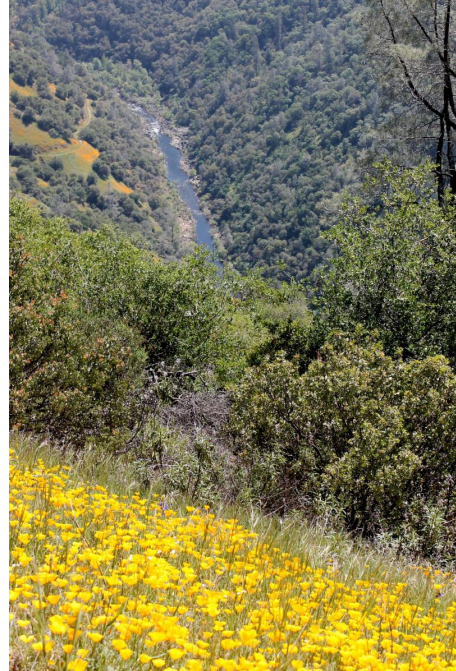
Final State Report Recommends Wild & Scenic Protection For The Mokelumne River

By Steve Evans, Wild Rivers Project Consultant

The California Natural Resources Agency (CNRA) in mid-April released a final [report](#) recommending the addition of 37 miles of the Mokelumne River to the California Wild and Scenic Rivers System.

The report, delivered to the Legislature and Governor Edmund G. Brown Jr., recommends adding five Mokelumne River segments to the system due to their extraordinary recreational and scenic resources. It also recommends special provisions to address local water concerns, including protecting an existing water rights application and allowing future planned local water development projects if adverse impacts on the river are avoided.

[Click here](#) to read the full article!



Get Involved!

The 2nd Annual
River of Song

With
LAURIE LEWIS & TOM ROZUM + BLAME SALLY + THOMPSONIA (Eric, Suzy & Allegra Thompson) + **JENNER FOX**

★
a benefit concert celebrating California's life-giving waters

Join us for a concert benefitting Friends of the River!

The concerts are in key areas for current river issues. Special thanks to the musicians who are using their talents for activism! Please support these amazing evenings through your attendance!

- The **San Joaquin River** is also recommended for [Wild and Scenic status](#), however on the same stretch [Temperance Flat Dam](#) is also being proposed. Fresno is a key place to build support. All funds support the resistance to prevent the dam from drowning this wild section of river.

Buy tickets - June 2nd - Fresno!

- The Mokelumne River water flows into East Bay Area homes. The upper section of the river were recommended for [Wild and Scenic status](#) this month. The next step is for the legislature to vote on it.

Buy tickets - June 7th - Berkley!

What you can do with a Wednesday!

On May 9th you can use your Wednesday to help lobby your local representatives to support two bills that protect California rivers at the 4th Annual

[California Rivers Day!](#)

Have you ever met with your state senators or assembly members?

No experience needed we can prepare you and partner you with knowledgeable leader. It's more rewarding than you might imagine!



[When you register](#), we schedule appointments for you with your representatives. Join us!

A promotional banner for the Big Day of Giving. The background is a teal-tinted landscape with three hot air balloons. The text "Big Day of Giving" is in the bottom left corner. The date "05.03.18" is in the top right corner. The main text "24 Hours to Give Where Your Heart Is" is centered in a large, white, sans-serif font. The banner is framed by yellow lines.

Mark your calendars!

May 3rd is Sacramento Region's Big Day of Giving. Friends of the River is participating in this 24-hour, *online giving challenge to promote the work*

we're doing in our local area to protect our rivers from exploitation and preserve them for future generations.

Boost your giving power by making an online gift with your Golden1 Credit or Debit card and a portion of your donation will be matched by Golden 1 Credit Union. Your donation can also be boosted by being one of the first donors to make a donation on May 3rd at the stroke of midnight!

Donate through our online portal at:

Big Day of Giving

May 3, 2018

www.bigdayofgiving.org/friendsoftheriver



Become a volunteer!

With the summer season about to burst open and boating season beginning, it is a great time to join our community as a new volunteer or rejoin us after a hiatus. We have opportunities to increase your canoeing or rafting skills to help others connect to rivers and the issues that threaten them. We are seeking those with an activist heart. We also appreciate the expertise that folks bring from their experience. Reach out to learn more.

[Email Toby Briggs.](mailto:toby@friendsoftheriver.org)

- **Love to cook?** We are seeking a handful of folks who know their way around a (camp) kitchen to support RATS training on May 17-21 *and* throughout the summer to help out on rafting weekends. [Email Toby Briggs](mailto:toby@friendsoftheriver.org) to express your interest.
- **Are you a logistics whiz?** Our river movement needs folks who are great at trip organizing! No rafting or canoe skills required—just a love for details and an enjoyment of coordinating folks. [Email Toby Briggs](mailto:toby@friendsoftheriver.org) to express your interest.

Upcoming Events

- **Sat, April 28th—Season Kick-off Event**—Join us for a fun afternoon of advocacy updates, rafting skills (throw bags, tie-downs, rescue review), how to be a head guide and a BBQ Potluck at Scott's place in Sacramento, CA. All volunteers welcome. [Email Scott Arrants to RSVP.](mailto:scott@friendsoftheriver.org)
- **May 12th-13th—Rusty Guide Training**—a weekend to brush off the rust and get some new-to-FOR raft guides checked off! [Email Toby Briggs](mailto:toby@friendsoftheriver.org) to express your interest.
- **June 9th-10th--Canoe Fundamentals Class**—This 2-day + 1 evening course (on 6/8) provides a solid foundation to for any paddler—even those with a little experience. The course is held on Lake Natoma and taught by experienced instructors.
- **June 9th-17th--Basic Guide Training**—We are recruiting people who want to

become FOR volunteers and learn to protect rivers through guiding and education.

- **June 16th-17th—[Friends and Family Weekend kick off](#)**—To celebrate our volunteers who actively work to protect rivers, we invite you to bring your friends and family for a day of shared cost rafting fun. FOR provides dinner on Saturday evening. Sign-up using the link above.

River Currents

by Ron Stork, *Policy Director*



[View Full River Currents Article!](#)

Full article includes...

Watching the bill factory

One of the jobs of the California legislature this year is to protect California from the abandonment of environmental responsibilities once the job of federal agencies...

And over at the Water Board

California has abundant opportunities to participate in our democratic institutions. One of those places is at the State Water Resources Control Board. So Friends of the River and the Sierra Club decided to put on four witnesses at the Board's proceeding...

Scary stuff from Reclamation unchained

With the coming of Trump and the power of the San Joaquin Valley Congressional delegation, the U.S. Department of the Interior's Bureau of Reclamation is throwing aside the trappings of an environmental service provider and returning to its roots...

Tuolumne River boater takeout

Taking advantage of potentially weakened federal agencies in the Trump Administration, the Turlock and Modesto Irrigation Districts have challenged the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) conditions for an improved boating takeout in Lake Don Pedro on the Tuolumne River...

[Click here](#) to read the April *River Currents* article
by Ron Stork

Thank you for supporting rivers by staying informed. We can't wait to see you at our next
event or talk!

Sincerely,
the FOR Staff--Eric, Ron, Brittney, Bob, Toby, and Kelsey

[Website](#) [About](#) [Our Work](#) [Get Involved](#) [Donate](#) [Contact](#)

