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Volume 8, Issue

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## FOR Action

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### It wasn't over until it was over, and still isn't

*By Ron Stork, Senior Policy Director*



Well, you can't say it wasn't entertaining. The California Water Commission met for three long days to set the maximum amount of funding the supplicants for \$2.7 billion in Proposition 1 funds would be eligible for. Some went away satisfied. Some were disappointed or crushed...

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

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### Tunnels update

*By Bob Wright, Senior Counsel*

Behind every fraud there is at least one big lie. There are two big lies behind the Delta Water Tunnels now called the California WaterFix. **The first big lie is that taking huge amounts of water out of**

the Sacramento River upstream from the San Francisco Bay-Delta would be good not bad for the Delta, the Bay, and the fish. The second big lie is that the water exporters would pay for all of the massive project even though the only cost benefit study done for the project shows that the costs would exceed the benefits by a factor of four to one. The trick the project proponents are up to is to get the project started and then soak the taxpayers and urban ratepayers to finish paying for the boondoggle.



The big lies are evidenced by the rider in the House of Representatives, Section 437 in the Interior Appropriations bill that would exempt the Tunnels from federal or state judicial review. The rider states,

- Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Final Environmental Impact Report/Final Environmental Impact Statement for the Bay Delta Conservation Plan/California Water Fix (81 Fed. Reg. 96485 (Dec. 30, 2016)) and any resulting agency decision, record of decision, or similar determination shall hereafter not be subject to judicial review under any Federal or State law.

If the Delta Water Tunnels were going to be good for the environment and really paid for by the exporters, there would be no need for the proponents to take the drastic, anti-law step of trying to immunize this massive, expensive public works project from all judicial review. Independent judicial review over the executive branch of government is a hallmark of a healthy democracy. Its absence is a symptom of a slide downward toward tyranny.

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## Meet the new RATS Cohort!

*By Toby Briggs, Engagement Coordinator*

FOR is excited to introduce you to our [second RATS cohort this year](#). The three-day training included great speakers like: Mark Dubois, Martha Davis, Barry Nelson and Jonas Minton. Staff also shared their expertise throughout the training. Special thanks also to the FOR volunteer guided day of rafting down Chili Bar.

Join these advocates in their work this summer—come canvass!



# Get Involved!

## Join the momentum!

We are focusing on voter education and demonstrating the groundswell of people who want Senator Kamala Harris to protect rivers and the environment and push back against the anti-environmental bills being proposed in the House of Representatives.



You can **come help canvass** districts where Congressmen are promoting environmentally destructive bills. **No experience needed!** We can train you in a morning and partner you with a RAT.

- June 10<sup>th</sup>—Rocklin (Sacramento Area)
- July 28<sup>th</sup>—Fresno Area
- August 25<sup>th</sup>--Modesto

[Sign up to canvass here!](#)



Save the date! *August 4<sup>th</sup>*

## Wild and Scenic Celebration

*Can you believe the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act turns 50 years old this year?* Join us to celebrate the Act and the hard work by advocates to protect these unique rivers and the rivers themselves!

The day-long celebration offers you a chance to show your support by wearing your "I support Wild and Scenic Rivers!" bib (like what runners wear at races) on your PFD while boating on your choice of river on August 4<sup>th</sup>. Each bib represents a donation to keep the momentum for river protection going and the work to continue to designate rivers. Show your support to others and share your story. [No need to be local to the Sacramento Area.]

Join us in the evening for a **Wild and Scenic Film Festival** at the Cool Community Hall (on Hwy 49 btwn Auburn and Placerville). Come view almost 2 hours of amazing short and feature films selected by FOR with a cold beer and hot popcorn in your hands. (Bring your bib and receive a free stainless steel cup!)

Save the Date!

**California River Awards**  
Saturday Oct 20, 2018 6:00pm  
City Club, San Francisco

Please join us for the California River Awards as we celebrate the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the **Wild and Scenic Rivers Act** and the many heroes who worked on state and federal Wild and Scenic campaigns. As always, you can expect delectable food, fine wine, and unique silent & live auctions!

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## Upcoming Events

- **June 9<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup>--[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 9<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup>--[Basic Guide Training](#)**—We are recruiting people who want to become FOR volunteers and learn to protect rivers through guiding and education.
  - **June 16<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup>--[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.
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## River Currents

by Ron Stork, *Policy Director*

[View Full River Currents Article!](#)

Full article includes...

### **Musings on the California Water Commission drama: Voting matters**

The drama was staged when a Commission member who was sure to be in the Temperance Flat Dam (TFD) camp resigned a few months ago. He has not been replaced. That left the Commission evenly split between the “challenge the experts and drive up the maximum eligibility numbers” and the “respect the experts and regulations” camps...

### **A Temperance Flat Dam crystal ball**

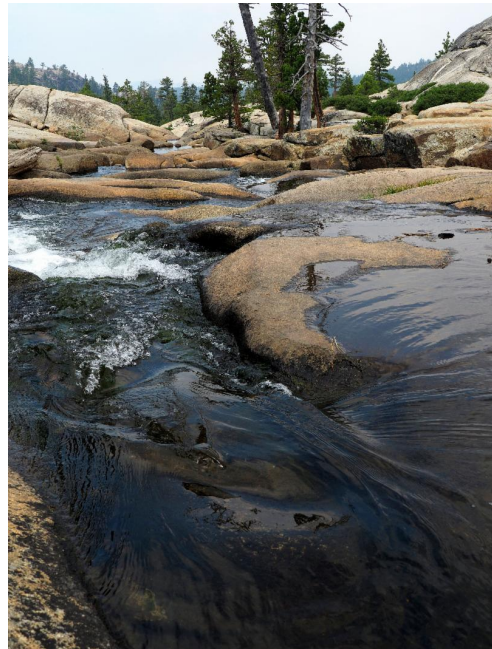
Since most in the Authority have vowed to fight on, what will they do? Here’s my prediction...

### **What else does the Water Commission vote mean?**

Three projects were eliminated from competition. The remaining eight projects’ maximum funding determinations and applicant requests are just a bit more than \$2.7 billion (they differ a little). The Commission is now undertaking the ranking phase of its process...

### **Shasta Dam raise in the press**

As you may recall, the San Luis and Delta Mendota Water Authority recently voted to direct their general manager to contact the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation to undertake discussions to cost-share, under the WIN, a twenty and a half raise of Shasta Reservoir. Westlands and



the Silicon Valley's Santa Clara Water District are the heavies in the Authority...

## 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the National Wild & Scenic Rivers Act

A good-sized band of national river activists showed up at River Network's River Rally at Lake Tahoe last month a day early. The subject, wild & scenic river respect and what to do about it...

### And speaking of the California legislature

Friends of the River is "sponsoring" a bill to offer an expeditious means to put national wild and scenic rivers into California's system if the Congress and the President target these rivers for dedesignation. has cleared its Assembly policy and fiscal committees, the policy committee by a one-vote margin provided by a member who had not intended to vote for the bill...

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

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### Technological heads up:

We have updated our website to a secure site. You will notice our website's address is now <https://www.friendsoftheriver.org>. This will make our site more readily found in Google searches and add extra protection for those browsing the site. Most users will not notice a difference.

As we transition all of the documents linked to webpages, you may need to add a "s" to the http address if you receive an error message if using an older link. You will not experience an issue if connecting to documents through the FOR webpages.

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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, and Toby

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

