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**Volume 8, Issue 5 - July 5, 2018**

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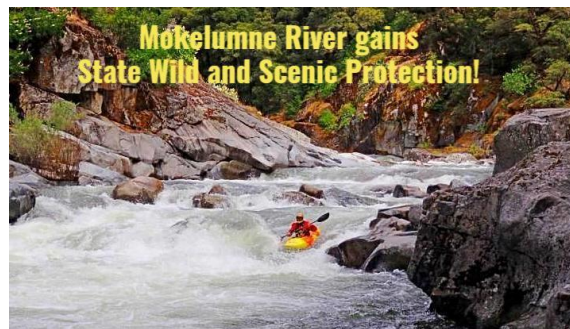
## **FOR Action**

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### **Mokelumne River Protected As Wild & Scenic In State Budget Bill**

*By Steve Evans, Wild and Scenic Program Consultant*

The Mokelumne River in Amador and Calaveras Counties became California's newest Wild and Scenic River when Governor Jerry Brown signed the natural resources budget trailer bill in the last week of June 2018. Protection of 37 miles of this magnificent river in the Sierra Nevada foothills – from Salt Springs Dam to a point just upstream of Highway 49 – became a reality after



decades of advocacy by Friends of the River, Foothill Conservancy, and other conservation groups. The unusual legislative vehicle used to protect the river – the natural resources budget trailer bill – became possible due to a rare consensus between conservation groups, water agencies, and the California Natural Resources Agency (CNRA).

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

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## State Wild & Scenic River Safety Net Clears Legislative Hurdles

By Steve Evans

AB 2975, the bill proposing a state safety net for federal wild and scenic rivers in California passed the California Assembly in late May and cleared the Senate Natural Resources and Water Committee in late June. Sponsored by Friends of the River and authored by Assembly member Laura Friedman (D-Glendale), the bill provides state protection if Congress or President Trump acts to remove some or all of a river from the federal system or weakens the protection provided by federal law.



### Action Needed – Please Email Your State Senator Urging Passage Of AB 2975

Email your state Senator TODAY urging him or her to vote yes on AB 2975 (Friedman).

[Find Your Senator](#)

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

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## Get Involved!

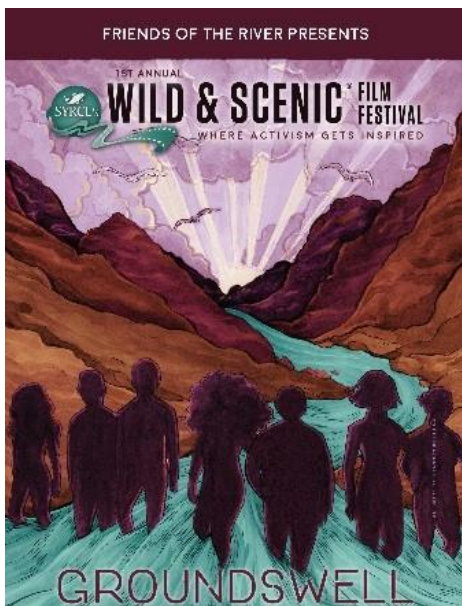
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Thank you to our volunteers who have helped make this season happen so far! Want to get active with FOR? Join the Google Group where we announce opportunities. (Email [Toby Briggs](#) to be added to the list.)

**Upcoming volunteer opportunities—**

If you do not know someone, email [Toby Briggs](#) and she can connect you.

- **July 21<sup>st</sup> Opinion Leader Trip (South Fork American) Rafting**  
Guides needed Contact Scott Arrants
- **July 22<sup>nd</sup> [Advocacy Outing](#) (Cosumnes River) Canoeing**  
Canoe volunteers needed Contact Judy Roberson
- **August 4<sup>th</sup> [Wild and Scenic Celebration](#) (Coloma and Cool) Event**  
20 general volunteers needed! [Fill out Google Form to sign up!](#)
- **August 26<sup>th</sup> Opinion Leader Trip (South Fork American) Rafting**  
Guides needed [Contact Toby Briggs](#)
- **September 8<sup>th</sup> Friends and Family (South Fork American) Rafting**  
All volunteers invited [Contact Toby Briggs](#)
- **September 9<sup>th</sup> Gear Love Day (Camp Lotus) Rafting gear clean-up (close of season)**  
10 Rafting and general volunteers needed [Contact Toby Briggs](#)
- **October 20<sup>th</sup> [California River Awards](#) (San Francisco) Fundraising Event**  
5 General Volunteers needed [Contact Brittney Schilpp](#)



## **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!

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

films selected by FOR with a cold beer and hot popcorn in your hands. (Bring your bib and receive a free stainless steel cup!)

Food Truck opens at 6:30pm

Come early for delicious grub by Mee Mah's Mediterranean Grill

Beer and Wine on Sale. Bring your own reusable cup or purchase a commemorative stainless steel pint cup!

When: Saturday Aug 4, 2018 7:00 pm

Where: Cool Community Hall

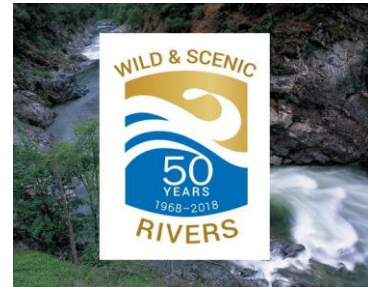
1701 Hwy 193, Cool, CA 95614

[Buy Bibs and Tickets](#)

## 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!



## Join the momentum!

We are focusing on **citizen 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.

- July 28<sup>th</sup>—Fresno Area
- August 25<sup>th</sup>--Modesto



[Sign up to canvass here!](#)

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**Ever wonder who the amazing individuals are that give their free time to support the important work that FOR does? Here are a few of those volunteer folks below.**



- *A special shout out to the Canoe Team—***Mark Robinson, Tom Biglione, Rod Hall and Judy Roberson** who are instrumental in connecting Sacramento Area folks to the Lower American and Cosumnes River through outings and classes!
- *Excellent work by the Basic Guide Training committee—***Nick Agazarian, Richard Weiss, Jeremy Anderson, Steve Evans (River Jedi) and Brian Kallen**—who created a 9-day intensive rafting training to raise up 9 new guides and to everyone who trained, cooked, shuttled and generally showed up to make things run!
- *Deep appreciation for the RATS who have dug in and contributed to the FOR community* - Thanks to **John Downs** who has already collected over 350 signatures in 1 ½ months and gave a Guide Education Dinner talk in Coloma! **Molly McBride** coordinated our first Kamala Canvass in Rocklin and gave an advocacy talk at a canoe outing on June 24th. **Robert Jaramillo** supported multiple events outside of the Sacramento Area and plans to do more!

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## **2017 Annual Impact Report**

Friends of the River has released our 2017 Annual Impact Report. Check out our accomplishments and milestones over the last year.

[2017 Annual Report](#)

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## **River Currents**

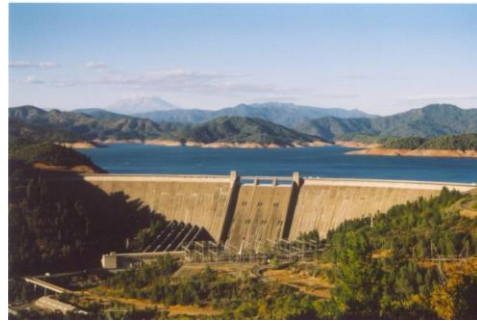
by Ron Stork, *Policy Director*

[View Full River Currents Article!](#)

## Full article includes...

### **Auburn dam joint powers authority disbands**

The proposed giant dam on the American River at Auburn has always been a political dam — relying on the kindness of politicians to funnel it taxpayer money. As can be seen with recent water bonds, this can be a popular thing. But sometimes even politicians can give up...



### **Much ado about nothing at the California Water Commission**

Watching the supplicants for Water Commission funding scratch and scrape for relative advantage in the battle for the \$2.7 billion dollar Proposition 1 pot of gold can be entertaining; well, for people like me anyway...

### **And sometimes the California legislature does the right thing**

The end of June was a good week in the legislature. The Mokelumne River was added to the California wild and scenic rivers system, and AB 2975 narrowly cleared the State Senate's Natural Resources Committee...

### **It's all about the money**

Let's face it, the Carter/Reagan reforms of federal water policy — that federal water and power projects had to pay the government back — was the big reform effort that came about in my generation. And my generation saw how this reform completely reshaped the pork-barrel politics that had sparked the New Deal and postwar dam-building era, an era that reduced many a western river to a concrete dam and reservoir bathtub ring. The reforms (and lack of good new dam sites) put an end to that era...

### **Shasta Dam maneuverings**

If you might remember from previous River Advocates, the Secretary of the Interior informed the Congress that it intended to break ground next year on the \$1.3 billion Shasta Dam raise project. (The Secretary did fail to mention, of course, that the project was illegal under state and federal law. The new Administration does not seem to trouble itself with such things.)

### **A gracious gesture**

For South Fork American rafters, Camp Lotus has often been a home away from home. It's owner, Bill Center, died last year.

Bill and his wife, Robin, had been in the center of a number of historically important actions affecting the community of river lovers. Among those actions was helping to craft the settlement agreement that provided some certainty about boating flows on the South Fork American and its tributaries.

It was a long and tough negotiation with the Sacramento Municipal Utility District (SMUD). It could also have created long-lived unresolved tensions among the parties that signed the settlement agreement.

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

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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, Toby, and Kellie

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