



Volume 9, Issue 1 - January 11, 2019

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News and Updates



Meet our new RATS Cohort!

We are excited to introduce you to our sixth cohort of River Advocates! As always, it's a great mix of folks with varied backgrounds and experience in advocacy, but a shared sense of desire to act, and a love of rivers and the natural world.

Take a moment to read about the 9 new RATS!

[Meet the RATS](#)

Take Action!

Support the future of Friends of the River

Friends of the River has a long history affecting state water policy, advocating for sustainable water management and inspiring grassroots action. You can contribute to this legacy by helping us invest in the future of the

organization. **The Ron Stork River Advocate Legacy Fund** was established as a permanent endowment to honor the long-time river advocacy work of Ron Stork. Ron's award-winning work over the years has helped establish FOR as a leader in the protection and conservation of California's rivers.



Your contribution to the Fund, held by Placer Community Foundation, will help to sustain our work today and prepare for continued and unforeseen challenges that lay ahead.

The Foundation accepts gifts of cash, public traded securities, real estate, life insurance, and other personal property. Donors may make current gifts, or also arrange a future gift to the Fund through other charitable vehicles. 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. **Gifts to this fund can be made online at <http://placercf.org/friends-of-the-river/>**

Get Involved!

Everyone is invited to an evening at Camp Lotus! January 26th | 7 pm | Lotus, CA

Want to learn more about FOR's work this year, what our rafting and canoe programs are doing and see some great river films? The evening is also a great chance to connect with other FOR folks and meet our RATS.

RSVP by emailing Toby Briggs tobybriggs@friendsoftheriver.org

Annual Rafting Planning Meeting—February 2nd | 10 am-3 pm | Sacramento.

If you are interested in being an active and positive force in crafting our upcoming season, we hope you will join us.



We will build the calendar for rafting events, explore areas of growth and learn more about FOR's goals for the program.

RSVP by emailing Toby Briggs tobybriggs@friendsoftheriver.org

River Currents

By Ron Stork, *Policy Director*

[View Full River Currents Article!](#)

Looking forward to a new Congress

While the Republicans picked up two net seats in the Senate, giving the President a good shot at two more years of handpicking lifetime appointments to the federal judiciary, the House of Representatives went to the Democrats...



And whither goes extending the WIIN for seven more years?

In the waning days of the last Congress, Senator Feinstein, Governor Brown, and then House Majority Leader McCarthy said we've got a deal. Let's extend the provisions of the Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation Act of 2016 (WIIN) for seven more years...

The other grand big deal

The mega deal was eagerly awaited by some, dreaded by others. The Brown Administration had promised that they would hammer out some deals and hand them to the State Water Resources Control Board so it would be easy to adopt the decades-delayed update to the Bay-Delta Water Quality Control Plan...

Westlands Shasta Dam shenanigans

After speaking to the State Water Resources Control Board in Sacramento on the update of the Water Quality Control Plan, a few of us headed off to Redding. The Westlands Water District (the largest irrigation district in the U.S.) was holding an open house/scoping meeting there for its EIR Shasta Dam raise project...

It goes on your permanent record

This summer, a number of us assembled for a gala rafting trip down the Electra and Middle Bar runs on the Mokelumne River to celebrate the passage of a Mokelumne River state wild and scenic rivers bill.

Lots of people showed up. The water did not. The trip was cancelled...

Oroville Dam drama behind the scenes

The Oroville Dam spillway incident filled the headlines in February of 2017. The Department of Water Resources (DWR) is "finishing" the reconstruction of the spillways this winter a cost somewhat north of a billion dollars...

Reflections on a little peace on the Merced River

Let's be honest. Representative Denham and McClintock's efforts to de-designate part of the Merced Wild and Scenic River caused some sleepless nights and some long days at Friends of the River. Wild and Scenic Rivers are supposed to get more respect.

But with Jerry Brown's signature on AB 2975, the new year (that's when newly enacted statutes take effect), and a new House of Representatives, breathing on this one is easier....

Westlands Water District goes rouge too

Last week the country's largest irrigation district announced the start of its environmental impact report for its Shasta Dam Raise Project.

Pretty bold move since this project has been illegal for nearly three decades. The state's wild and scenic river statute is pretty clear about this...

The same old reflections on shy people helping to save rivers

Images and videos can be powerful. And gathering them doesn't require public speaking courage. We are now into California's rainy season, our time of big water, blue skies, and green canyon sides. This is followed by our wildflower season and cold, clean snowmelt runoff...

Click here to read the January [*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 Kellie

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