



Volume 9, Issue 4 - April 5, 2019

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News and Updates



Building the Movement

The climate crisis has arrived. As our rivers and communities face increasing risk from more severe droughts and floods, the Trump Administration is pushing to weaken environmental protections. This calls for bold leadership and action.

[Point Positive](#) is Friends of the River's campaign to build the movement for a climate resilient water future so we can have the healthy and vibrant rivers we all envision. We want our new Governor, Gavin Newsom, to be a champion for this vision by:

- defending California's waterways from federal threats,
- moving away from dated, destructive and expensive dams and diversions, and
- ushering in a new era of innovative and sustainable solutions that restore the environment, protect public health, and grow the economy with blue jobs.

We need to do for water what California has done for clean energy!

FOR convened 22 allied organizations last fall to craft a [water agenda for Governor Newsom](#). We now have nearly 100 endorsements for the agenda from environmental organizations, businesses and Native American Tribes. With this momentum we are now working together to advance our shared agenda.

Join in the campaign for Point Positive: May 15th - A Day of Action for sustainable water solutions at the State Capitol to:

- [meet with your legislators](#) about issues facing California water,
- learn more about innovative water technologies and natural green infrastructure at the [Sustainable Water Solutions Expo](#) on the Capitol grounds, and
- celebrate at the [Capitol River Awards](#) at the California Museum that evening.

We take care of the logistics and arrange meetings so you just need to show up! If you're new to talking with legislators, no problem, we'll train you.

Together on May 15th we will amplify the voices of people across California seeking a more sustainable water future. This day represents a key step to building a stronger sustainable water movement to encourage Governor Newsom to be a champion for a climate resilient water future and defend California's waterways from federal threats.

We hope to see you there!

Eric, Executive Director



Point Positive: Sustainable Water Solutions Expo May 15th | 10 am- 3pm | Southside Capitol

Join Friends of the River and the following Exhibitors to learn more about sustainable water technology available that can make California more water resilient:

- American River Conservancy
- AquaCycle
- Dew H2O
- Irrigreen
- Ladera Technology
- LA Department of Power and Water
- Mercy Peddlers
- Pure Water Monterey
- Resource Renewal Institute
- Sacramento Recycling Caucus
- Stormsensor
- Watershed Progressive

The Expo will be held on the south side of the Capitol Building.

[View the flyer](#)

Rethinking the California Water Fix

On March 25, 2019, eight public interest organizations joined our letter to new California Natural Resources Agency Secretary Wade Crowfoot and Cal EPA Secretary Jared Blumenfeld. The subject of our letter was "Rethinking California Water Fix," as the Delta Water Tunnels project recently and thankfully was downsized by Governor Newsom from two tunnels to one tunnel.



Our introduction explained that water for export is now diverted from the south Delta. A Water Tunnel would worsen the existing crisis in the Delta by diverting massive quantities of freshwater upstream from the Delta. The flows diverted upstream would no longer provide any benefits by first flowing through the already impaired Delta before being diverted.

In addition to the damage to the San Francisco Bay-Delta estuary that would be caused by an upstream diversion, there is a simple overlooked economic fact. The existing through-Delta conveyance is already operating and paid for. A Water Tunnel would be a massive new public works project costing billions of dollars. The billions spent on a Water Tunnel would not be available for development of modern 21st century water solutions including conservation and recycling.

Our letter set forth a summary of the critical issues addressed:

- First, it is finally time for the Department of Water Resources (DWR) to develop and consider the required range of reasonable alternatives to a Tunnel project.
- Second, the new reality is that the federal government is now committed to maximizing exports regardless of the consequences for the Delta making a Tunnel project a grave danger to the Delta.
- Third, an honest statewide benefit-cost analysis must be prepared on any proposed Water Tunnel project.
- Fourth, a subsequent EIR must be prepared on the changed project and circulated for public review and comment pursuant to CEQA.
- And, fifth, it is time to ensure that environmental justice communities are included in water decision-making.

[Read the letter](#)

Get Involved!

Canoeing

First Canoe Adventure on April 27th! [Register now!](#)

Join us for a paddle on the Cosumnes River with an expert speaker and our FOR canoe volunteers. Learn more about the connections between our rivers and current issues that threaten them while enjoying folks who share your love of rivers!



No experience needed! A short skills class will be taught at the beginning of the trip by trained instructors. Equipment is provided.

April 27th | 9 am - 4 pm | Cosumnes River [Register now!](#)

- \$25/person (FOR members)
- \$45/person (non-members or expired members)

To learn more about canoe adventures and classes and available this season, [click here](#).

Rafting

Whitewater Rafting Guide School—Join the tradition of activist guides!

Each year FOR trains new whitewater guides and advocates at an 9-day training held on the South Fork American. *No experience needed.*

We seek people who want to protect threatened rivers by helping create hands-on, personal experiences with rivers. You will learn how to talk about issues facing our rivers, read the river, maneuver a paddle boat, work with a paddle crew, gain a background on water issues, and the history of rafting on the American River.

Loved guiding with FOR? Pass on the gift when you share this email with the next generation of guides!



[Learn More](#)

River Currents

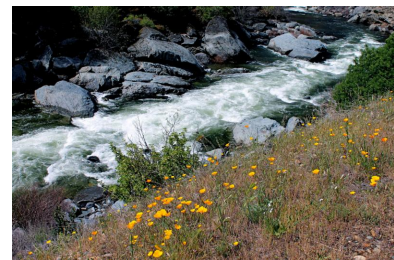
By Ron Stork, *Policy Director*

[View Full River Currents Article!](#)

Has it been quiet in the water world for the last month? Maybe it only seems that way. There is stuff happening. Here's some of the run down.

Trump Administration sues State Water Resources Control Board for doing its job

Cheered on by San Joaquin Valley east-side farmers, the federal government filed a lawsuit against the State Water Resources Control Board's tentative and even somewhat timid first steps on requiring more water to be left in the Stanislaus River...



Voluntary settlement discussions continue

In an effort to head off the State Water Resources Control Board from improving Delta and Delta tributary conditions, the Brown and now Newsom Administrations have been working hard with the Department of the Interior and water districts to construct negotiated agreements to avoid Board actions...

U.S. Department of the Interior continues to move to get more water from the Delta and north state reservoirs

With Interior now securely under the control of the giant Westlands Water District, the Interior continues to work on the Long Term Operations (LTO) plan for its Central Valley Project to maximize pumping from the Delta at the expense of Delta and Delta tributary fisheries and north-state water supply reliability...

Oroville Dam's reconstructed main spillway gets used for the first time

It's been a generous rainfall year in the state, and that generally means that the giant Oroville Dam has to release some water to maintain a cushion of space to absorb large flood flows. This is all good, and the new spillway is much better than the previous one. But the news media doesn't get all the story from state's Department of Water Resources, the owner of the dam...

Reservoir capacity envy

In case you missed it, there's been a loud and continuous drumbeat by politicians to build more dams or add capacity to old ones. As a consequence, Shasta, Don Pedro, and Exchequer Dams have proposals for illegal reservoir expansions. The California Water Commission is funding perhaps 50% of the costs to raise Los Vaqueros and Pacheco Dams from state taxpayer money. And envy sometimes translates to concrete being poured. The Corps of Engineers two decades ago raised Terminus Dam on the Kaweah River 21 feet, adding 40,000 acre-feet to the now 185,000 acre-foot reservoir...

Lawyering for rivers

Friends of the River has found itself with a legal department thanks to Bob Wright and his crew of lawyers, law clerks, and paralegal students. As we've downsized the office, we don't have the space for such big teams anymore, but Bob keeps more than busy...

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 !

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

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