



Volume 9, Issue 2 - February 14, 2019

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News and Updates

Building a stronger water future

Last week 30+ folks met in Sacramento from 2 dozen organizations to discuss the future of water in California.

Together we are working to build a stronger water movement to implement resilient water solutions and approaches in the face of a changing climate. We are meeting again in March to forge our next steps in building momentum.



Nine new RATS on board at FOR!

With gorgeous weather and a serene Camp Lotus to learn within, we trained 9 new River Advocates. Big thanks to them for dedicating 4 intensive days of training with FOR!

Also, a shout out for those presenters, board members and volunteers who shared their time and expertise with our new RATS. The training is always a heart-felt occasion as those new to the fight learn from those who are well-seasoned. FOR continues to build a strong, connected community through their organizing.



Get Involved!

Save the Date!

Point Positive: A Resilient CA Water Future - May 15th

Join us on **May 15th** to show support and Point Positive to build a more resilient water future in California. Our goal is to amplify the voices of people across California seeking a more sustainable water future.

During the day, **meet with your legislators** about issues facing California water and **visit the Sustainable Water Solutions Expo** on the Capitol grounds. Learn more about how people are using water technologies and natural infrastructure to address climate change realities. Join us in the evening to celebrate at the **Capitol River Awards at the California Museum**.

(The Point Positive Day is a name change that broadens the focus of California Rivers Day and the Capitol River Awards.)

River Currents

By Ron Stork, *Policy Director*

[View Full River Currents Article!](#)

Newsom speaks

When Gavin Newsom took over the California governorship from termed-out Jerry Brown, some changes were expected — and continuity too. After his state-of-the-state message, let's take a quick inventory...

Cruising for a bruising?

The largest irrigation district in the country, the Westlands Water District, is rich, powerful, and well connected, so we were pretty interested in what some state agencies would say in response to the District starting to prepare an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for what it described as the Shasta Dam Raise Project...



Reclamation cruising for a bruising too?

Of course the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation and the Department of the Interior are not exactly innocent bystanders in this Shasta Dam raise...

Another pending Wild & Scenic Rivers Act fracas brewing?

Attentive readers of *Currents* will no doubt remember Representatives Denham and McClintock's successful efforts to induce the U.S. House of Representatives to gnaw off a piece of the Merced National Wild and Scenic River to plop a reservoir onto it. Fortunately, the Senate never took the matter up...

The President exercises more control over the "deep state."

The President and his men have long been troubled by the existence of natural resources and land-management agencies of the U.S. government that do their jobs — and thus become obstacles to making America great again...

The states and tribes take some blows in courts

Deep state "green" agencies are not the only ones losing influence over at FERC. States and tribes have the power to play an influential role in licensing and relicensing of dams regulated by FERC if they choose not to waive authority delegated to them to protect water quality by the federal Clean Water Act during dam licensing and relicensing...

Extending the WIIN?

Back in December, U.S. Senator Feinstein was working to extend the Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation Act of 2106 (WIIN). The legislative vehicle was the must-pass appropriations "mini-bus" bill to fund part of the federal government....

News from the Sites Project Authority

The big winner in harvesting taxpayer money from the 2014 California Water Bond was the Sites Project Authority. They got \$818 million allocated to that project. Of course one problem is that the Sites dam project is a \$5.8 billion dollar dam, canal, pumps, and power project...

Reflections on saving rivers

The foothill shooting stars are in bloom, and a lot of manzanita have already bloomed. But the great bulk of the California spring wildflower season is in front of us.

I know you've heard this before, but images and videos can be powerful. And creating them doesn't require public speaking. ...

Click here to read the February [*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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