



Volume 10, Issue 7 - July 9, 2020

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Director's Corner

Announcing FOR's New Board Co-Chair!

By Eric Wesselman, Executive Director

In June the Board of Directors voted to make [Donelle Morgan](#) Co-Chair of the Board for Friends of the River. [Bob Cushman](#), who joined the board ten years ago and has been graciously serving as Chair since January 2018, will continue serving as Co-Chair with Donelle. The Board created the Co-Chair positions to facilitate leadership development and transition for the organization to ensure FOR remains a resilient and strong organization.



Donelle brings tremendous legal expertise and passion to FOR. She has been a member for three decades and joined the board in 2018 after completing the River Advocacy Training School in 2017.

Combined with Bob's seasoned leadership, FOR has a dynamic team at the helm to guide us downriver.

Please join me in welcoming Donelle in her new role at donelle@friendsoftheriver.org.

News and Updates



Riverside Chats: Women on Water

July 22, 2020 7:00 pm

Join us for the next Friends of the River Riverside Chat – Women on Water. Melissa DeMarie, Founder of California Watersport Collective, hosts this special webinar and chats with four extraordinary whitewater professionals about their origins, stories and tales of life on the river. Joining us will be whitewater icons Julie Munger, Darcy Gaechter, and Anna Wagner.

Registration is free!

[Register Now](#)

[Become a Sponsor](#)

Sponsor the Riverside Chat Series and support our ongoing work to protect rivers through climate resilient water solutions.

Sponsorships start at just \$50 and your name will be listed in the River Advocate, our quarterly printed newsletter Headwaters, and on our website.

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Annual Impact Report

Friends of the River's 2019 Annual Impact Report is now available.

[Annual Impact Report](#)

Get Involved!

Friends of the Rivers Summer Volunteer Happy Hour Series

Just as we have all adapted to the new normal, so too have our river programs. Our rafting and canoe programs have been postponed or canceled for the year ([see website for more details](#)). While we are unable to connect with rivers in the way that Friends of the River is used to, we have thought up some new methods.



Enter the **Volunteer Happy Hour Summer Series**. A series of happy hours throughout the summer, intended to connect our volunteers and anyone who may be interested in volunteering.

On July 8th, 2020 Friends of the River hosted the first Volunteer Happy Hour. The first happy hour was centered around something we are calling River Bliss. During River Bliss we hand over the show to one of our volunteers to share photos or videos of some of their favorite river memories accompanied by their stories. We got to see various trips on the South Fork American, Colorado, Rouge, and many more.

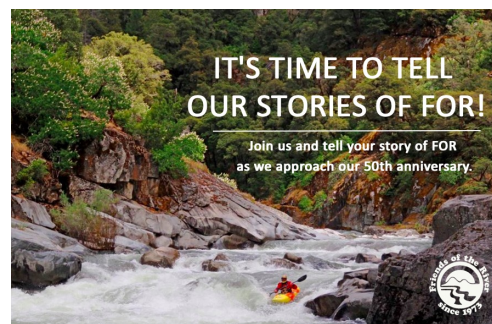
As many of you know we have also been connecting via our **Riverside Chats**. A separate series where you can get to know staff, the work we are doing.

Our next **Volunteer Happy Hour is on August 5th at 5:30pm** More information on what the theme for August will be about is coming soon. [You can register for that here.](#)

Hope to see you there!

Invitation to write stories of FOR Advocacy

Many of us learned how to be an advocate through working with and for Friends of the River. Maybe you learned about legislative processes or business recruitment or the slow grind of participating in public process. In addition to the great boating stories, THESE are stories of our history! In this moment, people are reawakening to how crucial it is to



be involved.

Tell us your stories of advocacy! Share about a time when you felt empowered, defeated, wowed or defiant. These are stories that makes us the river protectors and lovers we are. Email stories to: tobybriggs@friendsoftheriver.org

Read this story from Samara Rosen titled "[Headwaters of River Conservation.](#)"

Write on! Toby

p.s. You have a story to tell whether it began in this year or 50 years ago. Were you involved in the 1990's? We need that story! What about 2000's? How about the last few years? Advocacy happened in those years too.

River Currents

By Ron Stork, *Policy Director*

[View Full River Currents Article!](#)

News of the San Joaquin River Gorge

Friends of the River is not the first to hear all the news on projects we work on. It's often the working press that breaks the news.



This time, retired Bakersfield Californian writer Lois Henry broke a story on June 30, 2020, that the Temperance Flat Reservoir Authority (TFRA) had asked the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) to defer a planned feasibility study for three to five years and that the project was on indefinite hold....

Administration wish list

It's appropriations season in our nation's capital. So it's always of note to see what in the way of U.S. Bureau of Reclamation Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation Act of 2016 (WIIN) federal funds the Administration wants. Luckily, they write letters.

Note the construction start requests for the Friant-Kern Canal and the Shasta Dam raise. Each is naughty in its own way. A hint: remember also that canals (Friant-Kern and the Delta-Mendota Canal are proposed for funding) are not defined as storage projects in the WIIN, something that bills to replace the WIIN would expand to canals, but those bills ain't passed yet..

Congressional wish lists

In recent years, the Shasta Dam raise has drawn the flack, and all the other WIIN projects quietly get their federal funding. This year may be the same. While not being helpful on almost anything else, the House FY 2020-21 Appropriations Bill is helpful on the Shasta Dam raise.

At this writing, the House Energy & Water Appropriations bill does not authorize the Shasta Dam raise amongst the other WIIN Act funding requests (and none of them can be spent until the Administration transmits funding requests for water recycling and desalination projects under WIIN Act). Of course "authorizing" in an "appropriations" bill is not strictly kosher, but it's nice to know that the House appropriators are behaving themselves on this item. But it gets a little better. Section 209 of the bill explicitly prohibits

use of any of this funding for Shasta Dam raise. The emergency spending provisions of the bill explicitly prohibit spending money on Shasta Dam raise...

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!

Sincerely,
the FOR Staff: Eric, Ron, Brittney, Toby, Kellie and Colton

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