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Volume 10, Issue 6 - June 19, 2020

### This issue includes:

- River Currents
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We will be returning to our usual format in July. Friends of the River chose to delay the June River Advocate in response to emerging events earlier this month, but wanted to ensure you could read about some time sensitive river issues. Keep an eye out for our return to normal with the next River Advocate.

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## River Currents

By Ron Stork, *Policy Director*

[View Full River Currents Article!](#)

### Reflections on Writing for the River Advocate

Let's face it. Writing for the River Advocate isn't easy. Our state's rivers are threatened and protected and restored in diverse ways. The narrative arc can be short or long, full of poorly acting people behaving badly or regular people making decisions that in retrospect they shouldn't have made. The tales of river defenders, whether successful or merely inspiring, need also be told. The number of stories that could be told, daunting.....



### Dramas on the South Fork

Yep, the South Fork American River, one of the most popular recreational rivers in California. Usually only the rapids are dramatic. Of late some dramas have been playing out on a number of stages for readers of the River Advocate....

### And then there's the President

A good authoritarian leader never lets a good pandemic crisis going to waste, so on June 4, 2020, with the approaching end of his first term, President Trump issued an executive order of breathtaking scope to advance, in part, water infrastructure projects demanded by his supporters...

### Doing the Storage Response Group business

No, this is not about St. Augustine's Confessions. That was 1,600 years ago, and I don't

think my confessions are about sins.

Rather, I confess that I am a plant guy, so it was with some pleasure that I received an email alert from the California Native Plant Society (CNPS) to write to the California Fish & Game Commission put the Shasta Snow Wreath on the California Endangered Species Act candidate list. And although they misspelled "endangered" in one place, the alert and the prior effort met with success, and the web alert was promptly updated to reflect that...

### **More 401 Blues (that's the Clean Water Act, of course)**

When the federal government switches sides, surely the states can step in.

What am I talking about? It's the cooperative federalism embodied in the Clean Water Act. That's supposed to happen it comes to licensing and relicensing (let's just call it licensing) dams that produce electricity and not owned by the Federal government. That means that FERC has to share power with the states..

### **Reclamation helping out the needy**

When the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation thinks of charity after the passage of the Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation Act of 2016 (WIIN), they have tended to think of needy dam projects. So it was no great surprise when we saw that it was starting an environmental impact statement (EIS) to support a Secretarial gift of 25% of the costs of the Del Puerto Water District's half a billion dollar proposed Del Puerto Canyon dam...

### **Shifting the Financial Responsibility for paying for canals damaged by overpumping groundwater in California's San Joaquin Valley**

It's a familiar theme. Powerful and wealthy water districts manipulate public opinion and elected officials to get what they want: taxpayer support for paying for their problems, and in this case problems that they created...

**Click here to read the June [\*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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