

The River Advocate

Friends of the River

The voice of California's Rivers
friendsoftheriver.org



In this Issue

- Upcoming Events - CA River Awards and Guide Activist Training
- HEADWATERS Online - A Revival
- Currents: Victories and Threats
 - State Water Board Wakes Up
 - Friends of the River at the Supreme Court?
 - California Water Rights Held by White Men
 - Groundwater Management Breakdown
 - Fishing Groups Call for Close of Salmon Season
 - And other news on Trump water rules, PG&E subsidiary, Klamath dam removals
- Wild and Scenic River Anniversaries - March

Upcoming Events



25th Annual
California River Awards
Friday, April 21st, 2023 | 6:00pm

The City Club of San Francisco
155 Sansome St., San Francisco, CA
Dinner | Fine Wines and Beer | Live Auction

Virtual Silent Auction April 1st - April 21st

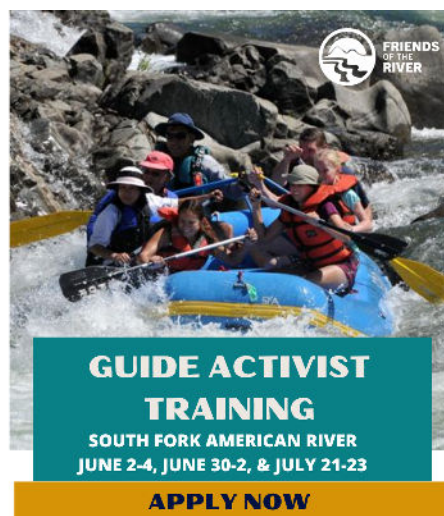


The Voice of California Rivers for 50 Years

Rivers need friends. The California River Awards is our most important fundraiser of the year. Friends of the River is at the forefront of driving change in California water and saving the rivers you love. We need your help to continue our important work on hydropower reform, sustainable water storage, restoring river flows, and using flood waters to restore river health and recharge groundwater. You make it all possible.

Please [buy tickets](#), [sponsor](#), or [donate](#). Early bird tickets are \$150 until April 1. Get yours before the price goes up to \$200.

See you there!



Guide Activist Training

FOR is bringing back our annual whitewater guide training this summer. This will be a Guide and Activist Training to equip participants with the skills they need to safely take people down rivers and build FOR's base of activists. You'll build and strengthen your leadership abilities, gain competence on the river, and learn how to save rivers all at the same time. Please forward this opportunity to anyone who may be interested.

More information and application [here](#).

HEADWATERS Online - A Revival

In January of this year, I signed up as a volunteer for Friends of the River to edit and publish Headwaters, a bi-annual newsletter that had not been published since the spring of 2020. Before we moved forward, we asked ourselves an important question, 'how could Headwaters be reshaped and modernized to better fulfill Friends of the River's mission to inspire citizen action?'

By late February I was putting the final touches on a brand-new website that I personally crafted to answer this question. I am excited to introduce you to the new Headwaters, a vibrant online magazine. Headwaters publishes long-form articles, creative writing, and visual art by a broad community of writers and artists whose work speaks to FOR's mission. Headwaters aims to inform and inspire its readers to speak up for California's rivers.

Headwaters will also be the online home for River Advocate stories. This new platform gives you, the reader, the ability to comment on stories and engage with each other about issues that matter to you.

I hope you enjoy Headwaters and I look forward to connecting with you there -- *Sarah Vardaro*

www.headwatersonline.org



Lupin Scene by Drew Madden

Currents: Victories & Threats

State Water Resources Control Board wakes up

In February 2022 the State Water Resources Control Board controversially approved a petition to reduce flows to and through the Delta despite nature's bounty. this decision would have suspended water quality requirements in the Delta. Such requirements are a lifeline as Delta ecosystems and fisheries continue to collapse...

Read more [here](#).



FOR submits a brief in the U.S. Supreme Court

It's not often that one of our legal cases results in a brief filed at the U.S. Supreme Court, but here we are. Here's the road we took.

We are intervenors with a group of environmentalists in the federal relicensing proceeding of the Turlock and Modesto Irrigation District's giant Don Pedro Dam on the Tuolumne River....

Read more [here](#).



California water rights are largely held by white men

In late February, Restore the Delta released a Department of Water Resources analysis of the ethnic/racial makeup of water rights holders in the state of California. Not surprisingly, the racial makeup was largely white.

This is hardly a surprising observation...

Read more [here](#).

Fishing groups call for the closure of the 2023 salmon fishing season



The drought has been bad for California's fisheries. So have the state's dams and dam operations. Returns of Chinook salmon from the oceans last year have been bad enough that the two major commercial ocean fishing organizations and the major fishing guides association for recreational anglers have recommended that the 2023 ocean salmon fishery be closed to most fishing...

Read more [here](#).

Some San Joaquin Valley groundwater agencies don't get a passing grade

After more than a century of being the wild west of groundwater "regulation," in 2014 the California legislature decided to join states like Texas and bring the law to town. The California law was the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA). The Sheriff would be the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB). It would take over groundwater management from local groundwater sustainability agencies with sketchy plans...

Read more [here](#).

Klamath River: Construction staging starts on Copco 1 Dam removal

After a generation of intense work and controversy, the removal of four hydroelectric dams on the Klamath River has begun with the initiation of construction staging for the removal of the Copco 1 Dam. Construction starts for the removal of Copco 2, Iron Gate, and J.C. Boyle will begin next year...

Read more [here](#).



Court upholds Trump era water rules -- for now

President Trump’s EPA’s Clean Water Act rules have been reinstated for now by the federal 9th Circuit Appeals Court, having been thrown out by a federal District Court judge from the Northern District of California, until a trial on the merits...

Read more [here](#).

PG&E seeks to spin off its non-nuclear generation assets to PG&E subsidiary



The perennially bankrupt PG&E has made a proposal to the California Public Utilities Commission to form a subsidiary with a 49% non-PG&E stake to own its non-nuclear generation assets. The reason — to raise some cash from investors in the new subsidiary.

Presumably, PG&E believes that spinning off some of the ownership of PG&E is an easier way to raise cash than just issuing corporate bonds. Who knows, they may be right...

Read more [here](#).

An interesting website or two

The Stop Pacheco Dam Project has an interesting [website](#). When you go there, be sure to sign up for their newsletter. The proposed Pacheco Dam is a large \$2.5 billion dam proposed by the Santa Clara Valley Water District to store water pumped from the Delta. It is currently proposed to unlawfully occupy part of Henry Coe State Park.

The Friends of Del Puerto Canyon also has an attractive [website](#). This proposed \$750 million dam in the canyon is also proposed to park water pumped from the Delta, although its purpose morphs/shape shifts over time and remains curiously vague. Presumably, water sales to wealthy water districts will be needed to pay off the construction and operation costs of the project.

In the meantime, we could use some help keeping our website up to date. If you have talents there, please contact us at info@friendsoftheriver.org.

Wild and Scenic River Anniversaries

The 2009 Omnibus Bill protected 105 miles of California rivers - Steve Evans

On March 30, 2009, President Barack Obama signed the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009 (Public Law 111-11). The bill was a conglomeration of public land and water measures affecting more than half of the states in the union, as well as the Puerto Rico Commonwealth. For California, the Omnibus Act included designation as Wild and Scenic Rivers 105 miles of streams...

Read more [here](#).



Amargosa Wild and Scenic River by Steve Evans

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