

# The River Advocate

## Friends of the River

The voice of California's Rivers  
[friendsoftheriver.org](http://friendsoftheriver.org)



### In this Issue

- FOR News:
  - Day of Action for Water Justice - July 5
  - Save the Dates: September 29 & 30
  - Guide Activist Training Update
- Currents: Victories and Threats
  - Wild and Scenic River Bills Introduced in Congress Again
  - Helping Out More Deadbeat Dams
  - Newsom Joins the Dam-Construction-Streamlining Crowd
  - Senator Feinstein Returns to the U.S. Senate
  - Reviving a Great New Dam-Building Era?
  - Rep. Boebert Doing Favors for the Wealthy?
- Reflections & Directions - Hiring an Executive Director

## FOR News

**Restore our rivers for all communities, tribes and salmon - July 5 at the Sacramento State Capital**

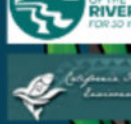
This Day of Action will bring representatives of tribal, environmental justice, fishing, and conservation communities from across California to support current legislation that puts California on the path to a sustainable water future. The coalition will also ask Governor Newsom to reform California's water rights system and set instream flows to save salmon and the communities who depend on them.

**Stand up for your rivers and your community. Show your support by [attending the event](#) and [signing the petition](#). Learn more: [www.californiawaterjustice.org](http://www.californiawaterjustice.org)**



# DAY OF ACTION

FOR CALIFORNIA WATER JUSTICE & SALMON



**JULY 5TH SACRAMENTO, CA**



**It is time to protect our water & all people.**

Artwork by Jackie Fawn

**SWIPE FOR  
MORE INFO**



**SAVE THE DATES September 29 & 30**



*The Street Wheelers performing at the 2022 River Rendezvous.*

## **FOR's 50th Anniversary Reunion - September 29**

Healthy rivers are a critical part of the California we all want to live in. Friends of the River has been fighting for rivers for almost 50 years. We need your support to be there for the next 50 years.

Join us at [Camp Lotus](#) Friday, September 29 for an FOR Reunion and camping! More details to come.

## **Rendezvous by the River - September 30**

This year's *Rendezvous* will be the second night of our 50th Anniversary Weekend. Mark your calendar for a fun-filled evening under the stars on the banks of the American River. The evening will be filled with festivity and friends, food and wine, music and dancing.

Stay up to date on events [here](#).



*GAT trainees and participants at the confluence of Greenwood Creek with the American River. Flows were nearly 6,000 cfs. I'm at the far left. Picture by Jann Dorman.*

## **Guide Activist Training – Off to a great start!**

### ***Keiko Mertz, Policy Director***

Earlier this month I was lucky enough to attend the first of three weekends of FOR's Guide Activist Training. FOR convened river lovers, future activists, and our loyal volunteer guides from across the state at Camp Lotus on the American River. Participants of all different walks of life learned river skills, the power of story in changemaking, and discussed California water policy opportunities and challenges.

My favorite part was an evening we spent building community and discovering the passion for this important work shared amongst all of us.

Through this training, Friends of the River is working to build an army of future leaders for a sustainable water future in California. We are still fundraising for this program, and are thankful for your continued support.

Support GAT Now

---

# Currents: Victories and Threats

*Ron Stork, Senior Policy Advocate*

## California National Wild & Scenic River Bills Introduced Again

I am pleased to report that the Congressional sponsors of California-related wild & scenic river bills show no signs of growing weary. Three bills have been reintroduced in the House to grant federal protection for rivers in California and Oregon...

Read More



---

## Helping Out More Deadbeat Dams

Getting dams built nowadays requires taxpayer subsidies — and easing the regulatory path to getting them built also seems to be necessary. Needless to say, this is an interest of the speaker of the House of Representatives, Kevin McCarthy...

Read More





## **Governor Newsom Joins the Dam-Construction-Streamlining Crowd**

Like many toddlers, Governor Newsom has a patience problem. He can't understand why the 2014 Proposition dams (deadbeat or not) haven't been built yet.

Here's a tip: demonstrating in real life their utility against their costs and arranging for the financing has always been their problem. Fighting against that reality is always difficult...

[Read More](#)



## Senator Feinstein Returns to the U.S. Senate

California U.S. Senator Dianne Feinstein returned to the Senate after an extended bout with shingles, allowing the Judiciary Committee to resume making recommendations on federal judiciary appointments. This is her final term. Senator Feinstein has long been a friend of dam builders in the state, and her perch in the Senate Appropriations Committee gives her a powerful say in federal dams and taxpayer subsidies for dams in general...

[Read More](#)



## Reviving a Great New Dam-Building Era?

From its founding in 1902, the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation built a lot of dams, especially during the Great Depression and the post-World War 2 years. Think Hoover, Shasta, Grand Coulee, and Friant Dams. Although Reclamation has stated that “the West essentially has been reclaimed,” the political movement for taxpayer subsidized dams has not stopped...

[Read More](#)

## Doing Favors for the Wealthy

Representative Lauren Boebert (R-CO) has made quite a name for herself in the U.S. Congress with a number of claims that seem untethered to reality. However, that does not prevent her from introducing bills that in reality are favored by wealthy Reclamation water service contractors...

[Read More](#)



# Reflections and Directions



## Time to hire an Executive Director

Friends of the River has a big mission and a small but mighty team. With your help, we seek to engage all California communities in protecting and restoring all California rivers. Our next step in building the capacity we need to execute our mission is to hire an Executive Director who will be focused on policy and activism. We will be seeking a candidate who is passionate about saving rivers, has deep policy expertise, and the leadership skills to bring all communities together in service of a just, sustainable, resilient and practical water system for California. I plan to remain highly active in FOR as I am now, and to continue my leadership for FOR through my role as chair of the board. I am committed to empowering and supporting the new executive director, and ensuring FOR goes forward in the next 50 years.

The first half of 2023 has been exciting and jam-packed for FOR. The state and federal legislatures have provided endless opportunity for river advocacy, both in support for well-crafted legislation to improve California water management, as well as much of the converse. We have heavily engaged in working to save the Delta and opposing the Delta Conveyance Project by filing extensive comments on the Army Corps of Engineers egregious Draft Environmental Impact Statement. We have relaunched and re-invigorated our River Activism Leadership Initiative with a variety of activities. The first of 3 weekends of FOR Guide Activist Training took place June 2-4, with a wonderful class of 14 activists and over 17 volunteers. We have been preparing to protest the water rights application of the Sites Reservoir Authority, which will be a huge and critical commitment for us. We are planning the River Rendezvous and our 50th Reunion for the weekend of September 29 and 30th.

To get all this done, along with continuing our work on the rest of the proposed reservoirs and dam raises, hydropower initiatives, unsustainable water rights & diversions, and flood management issues, we have expanded our team. We hired a wonderful part-time engagement manager, Amy Stroud, to grow and manage our activist and volunteer program. We promoted our fantastic finance director Amy Cottrell to Director of Operations. Amy leads our finance, HR, office, IT, and fundraising operations. We hired a part-time office coordinator. We have greatly expanded our volunteer participation. We have over 17 volunteers supporting the Guide Activist Training, led by Jeremy Anderson who is an organizational goddess. We also have several volunteers who work part-time for FOR on policy and operations. We continue to appreciate Tom Biglione for his longstanding volunteer support of FOR, and welcome Daniel Kanner who has joined us this year and generously gives a great deal of his highly skilled time.

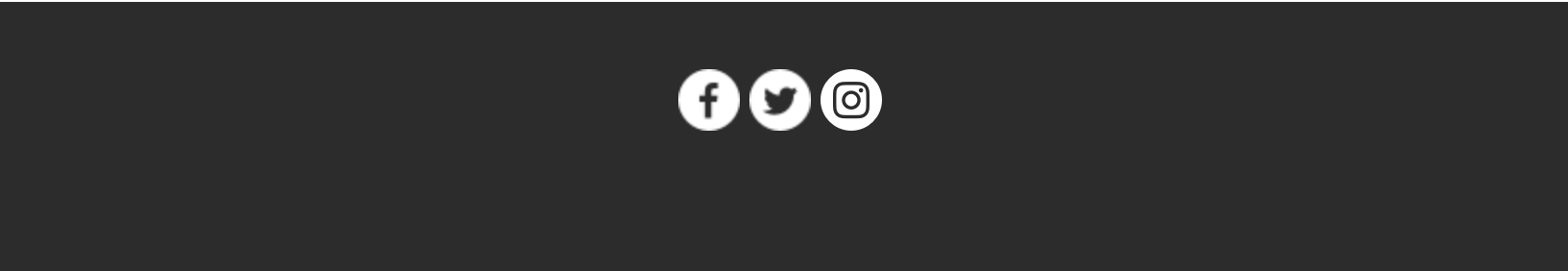
However, those of you who have reached out to me, and to whom I still owe responses, know I have personally not been able to quite keep up with all that is happening. For the last 1 1/2 years of my volunteer service as ED, I have said my most important job is to engage the next generation. The time to begin recruiting the next generation has come. Your support of our growing team will be critical if we are to meet the challenges ahead. Thank you for your trust and support.

Stay tuned for a link to the position description and details on how to apply.

---

Please Donate

Please consider a generous gift to help ensure 2023 is a strong year for California rivers.



[Manage](#) your preferences | [Opt Out](#) using TrueRemove™  
Got this as a forward? [Sign up](#) to receive our future emails.  
View this email [online](#).

3336 Bradshaw Rd. Suite 335 | Sacramento, CA 95827 US

This email was sent to .  
*To continue receiving our emails, add us to your address book.*

emma®

[Subscribe](#) to our email list.