

The River Advocate

Friends of the River

The voice of California's Rivers
friendsoftheriver.org



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FOR News



Rendezvous by the River - Tickets On Sale September 1st

Mark your calendar for **Friday, October 4th, 2025**, for the **4th Annual Rendezvous by the River** at Camp Lotus. In a year of major environmental challenges, this evening is our chance to reconnect with community, recharge by the river, and recommit to the work ahead.

Join us for a night of food, live music, and shared purpose—all in support of protecting California’s rivers. **Volunteers and Silent Auction Item needed!** [Read more.](#)

*****Tickets go on sale September 1st, 2025.**

From the River, to the Tap, All Water is Connected.

This past weekend, Friends of the River spent a hot summer Saturday rafting the South Fork American River with 20 staff from **Community Water Center (CWC)**—a nonprofit ensuring that every community in California has access to clean, safe, and affordable drinking water.

Together we shared rapids, laughter, and powerful conversations about our shared commitment to protecting rivers and securing safe water for communities, especially those most impacted in the San Joaquin Valley. Partnerships like this remind us: healthy rivers and healthy communities flow together.



[See photos from our trip!](#)

RALLY FOR THE DELTA!

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 5, 2025
10:30AM - 12 PM
Sacramento State Capitol, West Steps
1315 10th Street, Sacramento, CA 95814

JOIN US IN DEFENDING CALIFORNIA’S RIVERS FOR TRIBES, COMMUNITIES AND THE ENVIRONMENT!

AND MORE FRIENDS!

SCAN TO RSVP!

OR TYPE THE LINK
<https://bit.ly/97COJx>

Speak out for the Delta! Join us Sept 5th

Show legislators that our communities will not be ignored — the Delta Tunnel, like its failed predecessors, must be scrapped once and for all.

When: Friday, September 5, 2025, from 10:30 AM to 12 PM

Where: Sacramento State Capitol, West Steps, 1315 10th Street, Sacramento, CA 95814

RSVP your attendance: <https://bit.ly/477COJx>

What to Bring: We recommend wearing a hat, sunscreen, and cool clothing. Please bring a reusable water bottle to stay hydrated, and if you'd like, create a sign to proudly show your opposition to the Delta Tunnel!

Gear Swap - November 2nd @ Camp Lotus

Mark your calendar for FOR's Annual Gear Swap at Camp Lotus on Saturday, November 2nd from 9am-3pm. A great place to buy and sell used rafting and kayak gear! [Find out more here.](#)



Currents: *Victories and Threats*

We are excited to bring you this month's *Currents* articles, which highlight key news about California's rivers, and what FOR is doing to protect them.



UPDATE: State Water Board Keeps Digging Hole to Bury Bay-Delta

The State Water Board's draft update to the Bay-Delta Plan favors "Voluntary Agreements" that would weaken freshwater flow requirements, threatening fish, wildlife, and the health of the Bay-Delta ecosystem. Friends of the River is urging the public to speak out and demand enforceable flow standards before the September 29 comment deadline. [Read more.](#)



Yuba Water Exports Harm Salmon and Steelhead

Friends of the River is opposing a proposal to extend Yuba River water transfers, warning that reduced spring flows are harming salmon, steelhead, and the Bay-Delta ecosystem. Experts stress that restoring natural spring flows is critical for fish survival and habitat health. [Read more.](#)



Will Another Bite Be Taken from the South Fork American River?

The El Dorado Irrigation District is proposing a new upstream water diversion on the South Fork American River that could remove up to 17,000 acre-feet of water annually, potentially threatening whitewater recreation, river ecosystems, and the local economy. Friends of the River and partners are pushing back, highlighting flaws in the environmental review and urging the public to stay engaged as the proposal moves forward. [Read more.](#)



Silly Season in the CA Legislature

California’s legislature is considering two major water proposals that could reshape the state’s rivers. SB72 sets a goal of adding 9 million acre-feet of new water capacity by 2040 — potentially reviving 1950s-era dam visions — while ACA11 would divert billions from the state budget to fund water infrastructure projects, threatening rivers and ecosystems across the state. [Read more.](#)



Once Upon a Dam Time

The American River has a turbulent history with failed dam projects, from the 1964 Hell Hole Dam washout to the infamous 1986 Auburn Dam coffer dam collapse, both leaving behind destruction and political battles. While the Auburn Dam remains unbuilt, the river’s future is still uncertain, and its story is far from over. [Read more.](#)

Please Donate

Please consider a generous gift to help FOR fight the Triple Threat to Rivers. This is a critical year to stop Sites Reservoir, the Delta Tunnel and the Voluntary Agreements.



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