

The River Advocate

Friends of the River

The voice of California's Rivers
friendsoftheriver.org



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FOR News

LAST CALL for Tickets! Rendezvous by the River!



The Street Wheelers play at the first ever Rendezvous by the River in 2022. Credit: Amy Cottrell.

Rendezvous by the River is almost here. Do you have your tickets yet? Purchase your tickets by the END OF THE DAY for the party of the season. There will be food, wine, live music and dancing under the stars along the banks of the American River. The Street Wheelers will back again this year playing all your favorite songs.

This event is selling out quickly, so get your tickets and tables now! For more information and to purchase tickets, become a sponsor, or make a donation, go to www.auctria.events/2023RiverRendezvous.

Friends of the River has been fighting for rivers for 50 years. We need your support to be there for the next 50 years.

FOR Volunteer Represents Rivers

By Dan Kanner -- As a relatively new volunteer with FOR, I decided the best way to get familiar with policy was to jump into the deep end and get involved. I recently had the honor to represent FOR during a lobby day called Green California Advocacy Day at the State Capitol on August 30th. Green California is a coalition consisting of 140 organizations that together serve as key thought partners for passing impactful environmental, health, and justice legislation in California...

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FOR Volunteer Dan Kanner meets with Assemblymember Pacheco's office. Credit: Daniel Kanner.



The proposed location for Sites Reservoir. Credit: Sue Graue.

Sites Reservoir is Not a Silver Bullet. Here's Why.

By Keiko Mertz -- California is at yet another critical point in its struggle toward a sustainable water future, and yet we're still talking about the wrong solutions.

Sites Reservoir is the latest in a long line of proposed dams that promise to end our cycle of water insecurity. However, Sites will add very little to California's water portfolio, and its harm to the Sacramento River, Delta ecosystem, and communities that rely on them will be irreversible and ongoing...

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Currents: Victories and Threats

United Opposition Against Sites Reservoir

By Keiko Mertz -- Friends of the River and the California Sportfishing Protection Alliance (CSPA), along with a coalition of tribes and environmental organizations, submitted a protest against the water rights application for the proposed Sites Reservoir. This protest is part of a legally required process to ensure public concerns are addressed when granting water rights in California.

Sites Reservoir is not a 21st century water solution. It will add little water to California's supply and will harm communities and the environment. Our coalition elaborated on these claims, in depth, in our protest.

[Read more...](#)





Artist rendition of Auburn Dam hangs in Auburn Courthouse. Photo by Gary Hughes.

The Sacramento Water Forum – A case study for reasonable water management

By Ron Stork --

They were troubled times.

Large parts of the City of Sacramento had nearly flooded. A big urban water district had recently won an ambiguous court decision to divert water from the City's cherished American River and down the massive federal canal slated to snake down the east side of the San Joaquin Valley to Tulare County.

[Read more...](#)

Floodwater Management in the Yuba River Basin

By Ron Stork --

It had long been the worst of times.

The sand and gravels torn out of the Gold Rush Sierra had raised the Yuba River channel and increased flooding in the Yuba River Basin below. The resulting 19th century landmark court decision had effectively stopped hydraulic gold mining in California, but the industrial gold rush would and will continue to haunt the future for decades and indeed centuries.

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Flood waters pour out of Oroville Reservoir, scouring the spillway and hillside, and causing major evacuations in California, 2017. Credit: DWR.

DWR and the Ongoing Saga of Oroville Dam

By Ron Stork -- The issues with the poor foundation conditions under the Oroville Dam spillways became apparent as far back as 2005, when Friends of the River led a coalition of environmental organizations asking FERC to confront these problems as part of the relicensing of Oroville Dam.

The owner of the dam (the California Department of Water Resources (DWR)) and the State Water Project contractors persuaded FERC to reject our concerns. It took the dramatic 2017 spillway incident to demonstrate the truth of our claims.

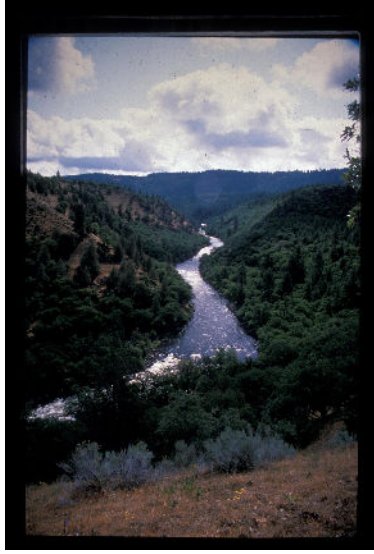
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Working Toward Healthy Flows on the Scott River

By Doug Maner -- Friends of the River recently participated in a marathon session before the State Water Resources Control Board that ended shortly before midnight on August fifteenth.

The Karuk Tribe of California, Environmental Law Foundation, and several other environmental groups filed a petition to set minimum flows on the Scott River, which has completely ceased to flow at certain locations during the summer months due to excessive withdrawals by local agricultural users. This request was vehemently opposed by the same water users who have drained the Scott and resist governmental efforts toward a balanced ecosystem.

[Read more...](#)



The Klamath River canyon. The Scott River is tributary to the Klamath. FOR Archives.

[Read All September 2023 Currents Articles](#)

Reflections and Directions



Time to hire an Executive Director

Friends of the River is still recruiting for an Executive Director to lead the policy and advocacy work of restoring California rivers and fighting for a sustainable water future. As our threats and opportunities have expanded this year, our work and staffing need to expand also. FOR is looking for a passionate and experienced river advocate, a strategic water leader who can ensure FOR shows up effectively to influence the public processes so critical to shaping our river systems for the future.

Please share this opportunity widely within your professional contacts in the water world. [Please see the job description](#). Applicants please submit a cover letter and resume to amy@friendsoftheriver.org.

Please Donate

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



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