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FOR News



Rendezvous by the River

October 5th at Camp Lotus

Rendezvous by the River is just around the corner. Do you have your tickets yet? Join us on October 5th at Camp Lotus! There will be food, wine, live music and dancing under the stars along the banks of the American River. The Street Wheelers will be back again this year playing all your favorite songs.

This event is sure to sell out so get your tickets and tables now. For more information and to purchase tickets, click the button below.

[Buy Tickets](#)



FOR Expands Top Leadership

We are thrilled to announce that FOR recently hired four experienced senior water experts from The Bay Institute (TBI), another of the state's leading water-focused nonprofits, to dramatically increase FOR's ability to protect and restore rivers and defeat river-killing water projects.

The new staff include Gary Bobker as FOR's Senior Policy Director, Greg Reis as River Restoration Hydrologist, Peter Vorster as a consulting staff scientist, and John Shelton as FOR's San Joaquin Valley Restoration Coordinator.

[Read the Press Release](#)



Smiling volunteers plant trees along the edge of the Tuolumne River. Credit: Bryn Miller, TRT SNAP Intern

Bringing Life to the Tuolumne River

Friends of the River ("FOR") and Tuolumne River Trust ("TRT") worked together forty years ago to secure Wild and Scenic designation for the Tuolumne River. This July, the two non-profits collaborated again on behalf of the Tuolumne River. FOR River Program volunteers skillfully guided TRT staff, baby trees, and the tools to plant them down the mighty T to reach critical areas in need of restoration. TRT River Restoration Program staff used old pictures and recommendations from the rafting community to identify the sites most impacted by erosion, where sediment has washed away, resulting in less vegetation for a healthy riparian zone... [Read more](#).

Currents: Victories and Threats



The proposed location of Sites Reservoir. Credit: Sue Graue, 2014.

Sites Reservoir in FOR's Sights

After years in the making, the process to decide whether to issue a water rights permit for one of California's biggest water boondoggles has begun. In August, the first hearings for the proposed Sites Reservoir were held by the State Water Resources Control Board's Administrative Hearings Office. These proceedings, will ultimately determine whether or not the proposed reservoir is granted a water right, and, if so, under what operational conditions... [Read more.](#)

ACTION ALERT

Everything Happens Twice in Endangered Species Land - And Not Always for the Better

The hijacking of the process to update Endangered Species Act (ESA) protections happened twice, the first time by President Trump, the second time by Governor Newsom. But nobody's laughing the second time around. Instead, Friends of the River and its allies are working to prevent a replay and ensure that new, stronger ESA regulations are ultimately adopted...

[Read more and TAKE ACTION.](#)



Nurse Slough, located in Suisun Marsh, part of the Bay-Delta ecosystem. Credit: Ken James, CA DWR



National Capitol. Credit: Ron Stork.

End of Session Dramas or Not?

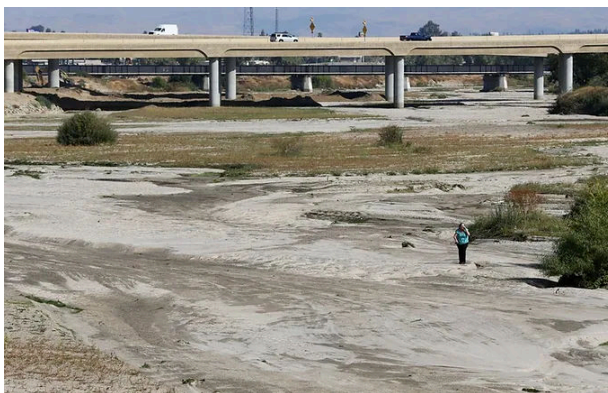
This year is the end of the 118th Congress's two-year-long existence, and they usually save the best (or worst) for last. The Congress is likely to finish up early to go campaigning, but a lame-duck session could also be in the works. Here's a few things we are keeping an eye on...

[Read more](#)

The Lower Kern May Flow Again

Exciting things are happening on the Lower Kern River. After more than half a century of being dewatered in most years, there's a serious chance of getting the lower river flowing again.

Almost two years ago, Bring Back the Kern, Water Audit California, Kern River Parkway Foundation, Kern Audubon Society, Sierra Club, and Center for Biological Diversity sued the City of Bakersfield in Kern County Superior Court over the failure to protect river flows under the Public Trust Doctrine and California Fish and Game Code §5937. Five local agricultural districts intervened on the side of the city... [Read more](#).



For much of the last half-century, the Kern River bed in Bakersfield has been dry. Credit: Bring Back the Kern.

[Read All August Currents Articles](#)

Remembering Lloyd Carter



Friends of the River mourns the passing of Lloyd Carter, 76, who played a key role in exposing the environmental catastrophe at Kesterson and helping win new protections for water quality and wildlife in California. As a reporter for UPI and the Fresno Bee, he was one of the first and most persistent to investigate how elevated levels of selenium in subsurface agricultural runoff from irrigated lands on the westside San Joaquin were causing widespread fish and wildlife deaths and deformities at Kesterson National Wildlife Refuge – reporting that played a major role in the passage of the Toxic Pits Clean Up Act. After graduating from law school in his 40s, he went to work for the California Attorney General's office, served as president of the California Save Our Streams Council, and wrote widely on water law and water policy. His courage and tenacity will be missed. You can listen to Lloyd discuss his life and work in [this interview from the Fresno State Library Water Archives](#).

Opportunities

Headwaters - Accepting Submissions

Friends of the River's *Headwaters Magazine* is a beautiful repository of articles about rivers and river recreation, opinion pieces, policy analysis, river news, art, photographs, and more.

We welcome submissions of articles that speak to the six areas in which we work for the protection of California's rivers. These areas are hydropower reform, saving and storing water, restoring flows, flood management, legal and regulatory protections, and inspiring citizen action. We also welcome submissions of visual art, creative writing, poetry, and photos that are centered around rivers and nature more broadly.

Not sure what to submit? Let's work together. More info [here](#). Please email keiko@friendsoftheriver.org to discuss a submission.

Please Donate

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

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