

April 2026



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Give today to protect California's rivers.

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FOR News



Last Chance to get CRA Tickets April 20th

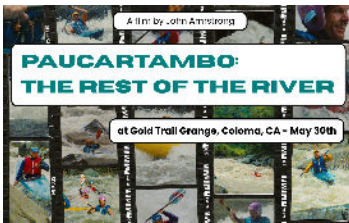
Don't miss your chance to join Friends of the River for the 28th California River Awards—featuring special honoree Daniel Swain, Ph.D., a leading voice on climate, water, and resilience in California. Celebrate his work, connect with the river community, and support the future of our waterways. [Get your tickets before they're gone.](#)

[Online Silent Auction CLOSSES April 24th](#) — Don't miss your chance to bid on river adventures, art, and outdoor gear—all in support of California's rivers. [Start bidding now!](#)



River Guide School Applications CLOSE April 30th

Time is running out to join this year's **Guide Activist Training School!** From May 16–24, gain hands-on river guiding experience, build advocacy skills, and connect people to California's waterways. **Know someone who'd be a great fit?** Share this opportunity before applications close. [Learn more](#)

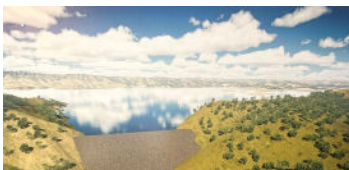


May 30th – Documentary showing of *Paucartambo: The Rest of the River*

Directed by John Armstrong, the film follows a daring 1986 expedition as American kayakers navigate Peru's remote and unmapped Paucartambo River—dropping 13,000 feet over 250 miles from the Andes to the Amazon. Presented in 4K, with a live Q&A from the original team. Proceeds support Friends of the River. [Learn more & get tickets.](#)

Currents: *Victories and Threats*

We're excited to bring you this month's Currents—highlighting key news on California's rivers and the actions Friends of the River is taking to protect them.



Sites Reservoir Draft Water Right: More Safeguards, Same Boondoggle

A new draft permit adds stronger protections—but the Sites Reservoir project still threatens river flows, water quality, and wildlife. This update breaks down what's improved, what's at risk, and why the fight isn't over. [Read more.](#)



FOR Leads the Dialogue—CalMatters Publishes FOR Op-ed on Recent Disaster

The recent rupture of a massive pipe on the Yuba River eroded an entire hillside, killed hundreds (maybe thousands) of salmon, caused an oil spill, and could have been fatal for individuals onsite. It is a reminder of the importance, and fragility, of our aging water infrastructure. FOR has been working for decades to improve water management in the Yuba River system, from fish flows to infrastructure improvements.

Want to learn more about the recent disaster? [Read the op-ed in CalMatters by FOR staff.](#)



TAKE ACTION: Dams Are Methane Machines—It's Time for California to Acknowledge It

California's climate leadership has a blind spot: emissions from dams and reservoirs, which are significant, are not accounted for in reporting efforts. What's worse, methane, an extremely potent greenhouse gas, makes up a large portion of those emissions. ***Friends of the River and allies recently submitted a petition asking California's air regulator to require dam and reservoir owners to measure and report their emissions.*** You can't mitigate what you don't measure.

[Read more.](#) | ACTION: [Sign the letter of support.](#)

FOR in the News – LA Times Reported on Our Petition to Regulate Dam Emissions

Ian James, a reporter with the LA Times, just published a story on our coalition's petition asking the state to track emissions from dam and reservoirs.

"Methane, the second biggest contributor to climate change, is spewing into the atmosphere from the oil and gas industry, landfills, and dairy farms. It's also coming from another lesser-known source: reservoirs..." [Read more from the LA Times.](#)



All Rivers Flow Through the Capitol

Last month, Friends of the River staff traveled to Washington, D.C. to advocate for stronger protections for California's rivers—meeting with members of Congress and joining a nationwide coalition working to expand Wild & Scenic River designations. [Read more](#)



DEEP DIVE: March heat wave shatters records – and underscores weakness of California water management

A historic March heat wave triggered one of the fastest snowpack declines ever recorded in California—accelerating runoff, shrinking water supplies, and putting rivers at serious risk. In this deep dive, FOR's River Restoration Hydrologist, Greg Reis breaks down what happened, why it matters, and how current water management is failing to protect rivers in a warming climate. [Read more.](#)



Voices from the Past: California Water Plan since 1957

A look back at 1970s California reveals a familiar story: ambitious plans to dam and divert rivers colliding with environmental limits and economic reality. In this reflection, Friends of the River's Senior Policy staffer Ron Stork shows how past debates—and decades-old warnings—still echo in today's fights over rivers, climate, and California's water future. [Read more.](#)

Happy April Fools!

Humor is a tool of the resistance. Read our April Fools article on Trump announcing his intent to deploy ICE to cool Shasta reservoir. The reason?

Salmon need that cold water to survive. [Read more.](#)

Become a voice for California's rivers.
Join the **River Activist Network!**

[Learn more](#)



Give with confidence. Friends of the River has a [4 out of 4-star](#) rating on Charity Navigator.

Friends of the River is a registered 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. Our federal tax I.D. number is 94-2400210. All donations are tax deductible to the full extent of the law.

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