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**Support the rivers you love.**

Give today to protect California's rivers.

Donate Today!

## FOR News



### Get Your Tickets for the California River Awards!

**Tickets are now on sale** for the [California River Awards](#) on **April 24th**. Join us for an inspiring evening celebrating the leaders, advocates, and communities working to protect and restore California's rivers. Reserve your spot and learn more about this year's honoree, **Daniel Swain, Ph.D.**, and event details [HERE!](#)



## Application Open for Guide Activist Training School

Applications are now open for our Guide Activist Training School, May 16–24! Join us for an immersive experience where you'll learn to become a river guide, build advocacy skills, and help connect people to California's rivers. Apply to join the training or volunteer to support Guide School and our summer rafting season. [Learn more](#)

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## 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.



### River Lovers Turn Out to Oppose Voluntary Agreements

On January 28, 29, and 30, Californians turned out in large numbers to oppose the Newsom Administration's backroom water agreements at the State Water Resources Control Board's public hearings on the update of Bay-Delta water quality regulations. En masse, Californians urged the Board to adopt the stronger new flow requirements to reverse the collapse of fish and wildlife populations in the estuary. FOR staff gave powerful presentations about the importance of freshwater flow through the SF Bay-Delta estuary, and on the Water Board's history of delay. [Read more](#)



### Everything You Ever Wanted to Know About Deadbeat Dams, Winter 2026 Edition

What's the status of California's deadbeat dams – the state Prop 1 projects and federal WIIN Act [projects that are crumbling](#) under financial, legal, and political reality... and those that stubbornly persist? This month, Senior Policy staff Ron Stork surveys the state of play and also takes readers inside the [Del Puerto Canyon dam environmental review](#) process, [the state's new 9 million acre-foot water supply target](#), and [efforts to revive the illegal Shasta Dam raise](#).



### CA National Wild & Scenic River Bills Re-Re-Reintroduced

California's river champions have reintroduced legislation to protect nearly 700 miles of Wild & Scenic Rivers and vast stretches of public lands. Though introduced before, the bills' return shows continued determination to win lasting protections for California's waterways. [Read more.](#)



### How Long Until the Kern River Is Free?

For decades, the Kern River has run dry through Bakersfield due to upstream diversions, but a historic lawsuit to restore flows has reached the California Supreme Court and could determine whether long-standing legal protections for rivers will be upheld. This critical case could help bring life back to the Kern River and set a powerful precedent for river protection across California. [Read more.](#)

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## Passings

## My Friend, Rob Caughlan: A Champion of California Rivers

One of the original founders of Friends of the River, Rob Caughlan was a driving force in the fight to protect the Stanislaus River and helped build the organization into a lasting voice for California's rivers. A lifelong activist known for his optimism and leadership, Rob's legacy continues to inspire the river protection movement —read **Jerry Meral's** tribute to his friend and extraordinary advocate. [Read more](#)

## Remembering Doug McConnell

Doug McConnell, beloved host of *Bay Area Backroads*, inspired generations to explore and appreciate California's wild and hidden places through his storytelling and deep love of the outdoors. His legacy helped connect people more deeply to the landscapes and communities that make California special. [Read more](#)

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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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