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Support the rivers you love.

Give today to protect California's rivers.

Donate Today!

FOR News



Celebrate *Rivers of Change* at the California River Awards

Join Friends of the River for the 28th California River Awards—an evening honoring the people and ideas shaping a stronger future for California's rivers. This year, we're proud to recognize climate scientist **Daniel Swain, Ph.D.**, for his leadership in communicating climate, water, and resilience. Raise a glass with us and support the work ahead!

One week left for Early Bird discounts—[get your tickets now.](#)

[Online Silent Auction](#) goes live Wednesday, April 1st!

[Learn more and get your tickets HERE!](#)



Become an FOR River Guide!

We've got a great group of applicants shaping up for this year's **Guide Activist Training School—but there's still time to apply!** Join us May 16–24 for an immersive experience where you'll learn to guide rivers, build advocacy skills, and connect people to California's waterways. Applications are still being accepted through April, so share with friends and family who might be interested.

[Learn more](#)

Meet the New Faces at Friends of the River

Please help us give a warm welcome to three new staff members joining our team. Vivian Helliwell and Andy Colonna join as North Coast Policy Associates, and Carolyn Hart comes on as Development & Accounting Assistant, strengthening our work to protect rivers across California. [Read more.](#)



Rivers Need Champions: How Everyday People Influence Water Policy - April 8th

Rivers don't protect themselves—everyday people make the difference. Join us on **April 8 at 6 pm on Zoom** for the River Activist Network, where Policy Director Keiko Mertz will explore "*Rivers Need Champions: How Everyday People Influence Water Policy*" and show how you can help shape decisions that impact our rivers. [Sign up HERE to join the talk.](#)

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.



FOR and Partners Sue Federal Government Over Endangered Species Violations

Endangered species regulations are barely keeping important species afloat. But even worse, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, the operator of the state's largest water system, the federal Central Valley Project, has decided to ignore even those regulations.

That's why Friends of the River and other groups [decided to sue Reclamation](#) on March 2 for violating its ESA permit terms. In 2025, it exceeded "take" of federally listed steelhead, green sturgeon, and winter-run Chinook salmon. [Learn more.](#)



Shasta Dam and Sinking Canals in the News

Federal funding just came down the pipe for California water infrastructure. The Shasta Dam raise project received \$40 million, while Central Valley canal repairs got the lion's share. [Read more](#)



Trouble in Hydroelectric Dam Paradise

A catastrophic penstock failure at the Colgate Powerhouse caused major damage, stranded workers, and disrupted flows to the North Yuba River. Repairs could take years, with reduced water releases, lost power generation, and a federal investigation underway. [Read more](#)



FOR Requests Overdue State Report on Dry Merced River

In early 2024, the lower Merced River went dry for four months. The State's main water regulator committed to investigating it and releasing its findings. Two years later, and still, no report has been issued.

Recently FOR and partners, sent a letter to the Water Board requesting the two-years-overdue report. Accountability starts with knowing the exact causes of this unprecedented and severe drying event. [Read the press release here.](#)



Important Sacramento Valley Flood Operations Plans Being Updated

Outdated flood control manuals for major Sacramento Valley dams are being updated with modern forecasting, reshaping how reservoirs balance flood safety and water supply. [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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