

May 2026



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**Support the rivers you love.**

Give today to protect California's rivers.

Donate Today!

## FOR News

### Show up for the Delta on June 3rd



Join Friends of the River and partners in Sacramento on June 3 for a Day of Advocacy for the Delta. California legislators need to hear your unique perspective on why healthy rivers and a thriving Delta estuary matter to our community, and together we can help shape a water future that protects both people and the environment. [Register to join here.](#)

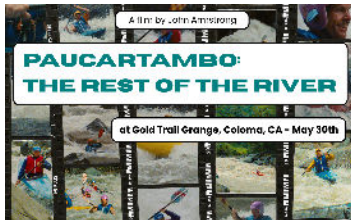


## FOR is Back on the River in 2026!

Environmental Policy Graduate students from UC Davis and UC Santa Cruz joined Friends of the River for the first 2026 trip on the South Fork American River, combining rafting with hands-on learning about California's complex water systems and river advocacy. [Learn more](#)

## The River That Started a Movement: *The Story of the Stanislaus River* - 6 min

[Watch the origin story of Friends of the River](#) in this powerful short video about the story to save the Stanislaus River during the 1960s–80s. The river's beauty, the fight to protect it, and the movement that sparked river protection across California. Special thanks to our friend Larry Orman at Restoring the Stanislaus for preserving and sharing this important history from the [Stanislaus River Archive](#).



## 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.](#)



## A Successful California Rivers Day at the Capitol

For 2 days in May, Friends of the River served as host and convener for California River Days. On day one, river organizations and activists came together at Camp Lotus on the South Fork of the American River to discuss how to collaborate in expanding and strengthening wild and scenic river protections across California.

On day two, participants went to the Capitol to educate legislators on the importance of protecting rivers for our economy, our water supplies, and our environment. During the day, 21 legislative offices were visited, and legislative staff were invited to experience the South Fork of the American River Classrooms in July and learn how hard our rivers work for us. We finished the day with cheer, reflecting on the encouraging feedback we received from legislators and staff we met with.

## California River Awards: Thank You, River Community

[Explore Dr. Swain's insights on YouTube → @WeatherWest](#)

Thank you to our incredible river community for making the 2026 California River Awards such a success—we raised **\$95,000** to support the protection of California's rivers. Thank you for a wonderful night.

We're also grateful to our honoree, Daniel Swain, whose powerful reflections on climate and rivers continue to inform and inspire this work.



Watch his *Reflections on Rivers of Change* from the awards night on Youtube and check out all his educational videos @WeatherWest

*Reflections on "Rivers of Change:"  
Remarks by Daniel Swain for 28th  
Annual California River Awards*

## 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.

### A Water Renaissance for California

A New Vision for a Sustainable Water Future for Northern and Southern California



### Renaissance Plan for California's Water Future Unveiled

On May 20, a broad coalition of twelve environmental, Delta, tribal, fishing, and other interests including Friends of the River released a new vision for meeting Southern California's water supply needs while protecting vulnerable communities and natural ecosystems.

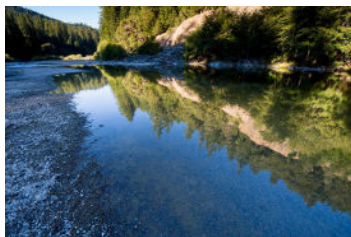
The document, "A Water Renaissance for California", explains how Southern California can shift away from unreliable, expensive and environmentally damaging imported water from Northern California and the Colorado River by investing heavily in sources of locally generated, self-reliant water supplies from water reuse and recycling, stormwater recapture, groundwater remediation and other actions that provide water in both dry and wet years. [Learn more.](#)

[>>> Read full "Renaissance" Plan HERE](#)



### A Protected River at Risk: Why the Shasta Dam Raise Is Illegal

California's protected McCloud River is once again at risk as federal officials push to raise Shasta Dam — a project that would flood protected river habitat despite California law. Learn what's at stake and how you can help defend one of California's most treasured rivers. [Read more.](#)



### Dragging Defeat from the Jaws of Victory? Trump Administration Intervenes in Long-Settled Eel River Water Conflict

The Trump Administration is reviving a decades-old fight over California's protected Eel River by opposing dam removal and reopening plans to send its water south. Learn why advocates say Wild & Scenic River protections are once again under threat. [Read more](#)



### Defending California River Flows in Kern River Supreme Court Appeal

A major court case over the Kern River could shape the future of river protections across California. Friends of the River is helping defend Fish and Game Code §5937 — a critical law requiring enough water below dams to keep rivers and fisheries alive. [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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