

John Muir

1838-1914

*".. Hoping that we will be able
to do something for wildness
and make the mountains glad.."*

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This Issue of Headwaters

Tradition demands that in this, the first issue of 1978, we at FOR settle back and look over the highlights of the past year.

But it feels like we've just been down a very bumpy road, and it might not be wise to take our eyes off the way in front just yet. At least not until things smooth out a little more.

Accordingly, this issue is dedicated to a battle that, although its roots go back more than 50 years, will be coming to a boil this year and next—the Tuolumne River.

We at Friends of the River feel an especially strong commitment to this stream, both for personal as well as environmental reasons, and we take this opportunity to dedicate the energy and resources of this organization to its final preservation.

Other river and creek issues that will be covered in this month's Headwaters: **The Peripheral Canal.** Tom Burton, FOR staffer, unravels some of the complexities of this \$2 billion baby.

The Auburn Project. Safety studies continue to hang up this Army Corps project and for the Engineers, at least, the light at the end of the tunnel might just turn out to be a train.

Warm Springs. A court victory puts a stop to the Sonoma County bulldozing.

New Melones. The suit over the operation of this bitterly contested reservoir goes to the Supreme Court.

An Appreciation...

Tom Lovering, our intrepid treasurer, moonlights by owning and operating the Alpine West stores in Sacramento and Stockton. On November 13, in an extraordinarily generous move, he donated the entire proceeds from his well advertised "FOR Day" at his Sacramento store to the Friends of the River Foundation.

Everyone at FOR gives their deepest thanks to Tom Lovering whose generosity will do a lot help support the educational programs of our Foundation.

About the cover.

John Muir. Geologist, botanist, horticulturalist, journalist, naturalist, inventor, explorer, and America's foremost preservationist. As a young man.

Calligraphy by Pam Robertson.

Photographs are courtesy of the Sierra Club.

Friends of the River is a political, research, and educational organization dedicated to the preservation of our remaining magnificent free flowing waters and to the conservation of our water and energy resources.

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FOR Plans 2nd Annual Confluence

Last year, FOR staged a well-remembered conference for people all across the state concerned about the fate of California's waterways.

Entitled a **Wild Rivers Confluence**, the affair was a tremendous educational and spiritual success.

There were presentations on the drought, the Wild and Scenic Rivers System, water conservation, legislative action and a host of related issues. Panels manned by the chief water policy makers in California were on hand to discuss issues and answer questions. There were films, slide shows, music, games, food and much good spirit.

But this year's Confluence promises to be even better!

Once again FOR will be providing a place where people can share their experiences and enthusiasm for our common goals. And again, we will be arranging for expert panels to discuss the important water issues of today in California and to put them in the context of the drought and the current political scene.

There will be presentations on the Peripheral Canal, endangered rivers, the plight of the urban creek, latest water conservation and reclamation techniques and a wide array of important topics.

There will be workshops, and speakers and slideshows and films. Booths manned by local groups concerned about specific issues will be there to bring attention to many smaller scale projects whose combined impact can be more devastating than the multi-million dollar projects that make the headlines.

But it won't be all business either.

An important part of last year's affair was the sense of renewed energy it imparted, reaffirming an important truth—people working together offer the only hope for the embattled creeks and rivers in our State; and the Confluence provides an environment where individuals with a common concern can combine their enthusiasm and energy in a way that leaves us all strengthened.

WHEN: March 3, 4, 5

WHERE: California State University/Sacramento

COST: \$10.00 per person. Fee includes dinner (plus entertainment!)

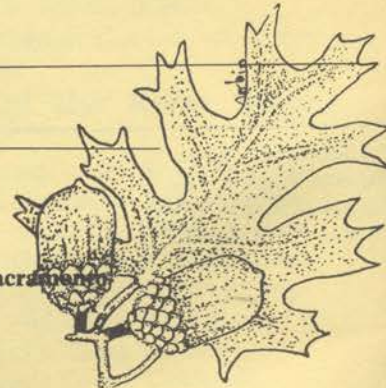
HOW TO MAKE RESERVATIONS: Use the order blank below and please reserve well in advance so we can make accurate arrangements for food.

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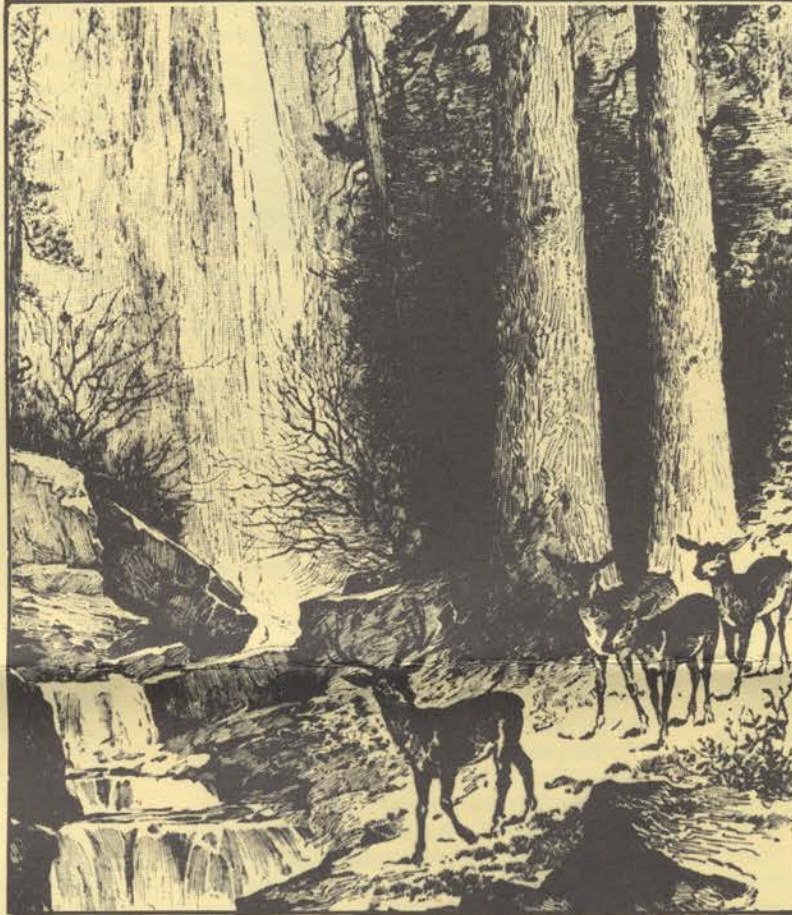
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Wild Rivers Confluence
March 3, 4, 5
California State University/Sacramento

Please include \$10 per person.



THE TUOLUMNE RIVER: A LAST CHANCE



An early lithograph. Wapama Falls in Hetch Hetchy Valley.

The battle to save the incredible Hetch Hetchy Valley of the Tuolumne River was waged—and lost—in the first two decades of this century. It was the most controversial, bitterly disputed conservation struggle of its time.

But it was only the first half of the fight.

Now the dam builders are back—looking at the pristine Middle River of the Tuolumne through the cross hairs of their transits and calculating power drop and kilowatts.

Read the article below and help out if you possibly can. What happens now and in the next twelve months may well spell the difference for the Tuolumne.

*We can act now, and save it for now.
Or we can fail to act, and lose it forever.*

HETCH HETCHY: A VALLEY WE NEVER KNEW

Z.J. CORNELL



The loss of the Hetch Hetchy Valley, the smaller, equally lovely sister valley to the exquisite Yosemite, precipitated a public furor over the dangers that threatened to consume the American wilderness. According to Roderick Nash in his insightful book *Wilderness and the American Mind*, San Francisco's acquisition of the Hetch Hetchy Valley as a reservoir site stirred "a continuing debate in American culture whether it is justifiable to maintain wilderness in the face of pressure to use it to satisfy material demands. Broader still...the question of the value of wilderness to civilization."

The battle over the Hetch Hetchy was John Muir's last fight to establish a strong National Park System to protect America's fading wilderness. It split the infant Sierra Club into hotly contesting factions, and many of the classic lines of thought in the preservationist philosophy were born during this controversy.

The events that stirred all of this spanned three presidential administrations and brought into sharp relief the vital question of the sanctity of lands in the National Parks; that is, must maxim usage and business interests always outweigh natural beauty, or can "wilderness" ever be the highest priority in a conservation effort?

Hetch Hetchy was an ideal site to satisfy San Francisco's water needs. Its drainage, an uninhabited forest reservation, offered pure, clear water above any estimated future needs. Its storage capacity was the largest available, and there were no other parties seeking "competitive water rights." But the biggest attraction, from the city's point of view, was the hydroelectric potential.

Mayor James D. Phelan of San Francisco was so attracted to these power possibilities that it seems to have been the decisive factor in his desire to obtain this reservoir site for San Francisco. As a source of income, the hydro-electrical plant would subsidize the cost of this project to the city. Having set himself on the Tuolumne water system as an answer to the city's water

needs, Phelan filed his name on an application to the Register of the Stockton Land Office for reservoir rights at Lake Eleanor and Hetch Hetchy. The year was 1901.

The legal basis for the city's entry into the reserve was the Right of Way Act of February 15 of the same year. This act enabled the Secretary of the Interior to grant permits for canals, ditches, pipes and pipe lines, flumes, tunnels, or other water conduits through government reservations. Amazingly, this bill had been uncontested and had easily slid through the House and Senate. Years later, in 1909, responding to an article that appeared in *Collier's Weekly*, William Colby, Secretary of the Sierra Club, wrote: "We, who were...trying to the best of our poor ability to save these great parks for the people, knew nothing of the bill until it was law. We were probably not vigilant enough, but we certainly did not lack the desire to know all that was going on. Be that as it may, we later examined the Act and found it was the intention of the Public Land Committee to still 'preserve and retain' the natural curiosities and wonders of the Park in their natural condition, and that such rights of way as were contemplated should not interfere with 'the attainment of the purposes for which the various reservations are established.' We felt this apparently harmless act could not injuriously affect the park."

In 1902, history took a slight detour. Phelan was not re-elected and furthermore, his application for reservoir rights on the forest reserve was denied.

Under the new Mayor Schmitz's administration, the City continued its efforts to obtain reservoir rights in Hetch Hetchy. After his application was refused, Phelan had transferred his "right, title, and interest" to the City of San Francisco. The City, then, petitioned for a rehearing which was granted. The application was again denied by Secretary of the Interior Hitchcock on December 22, 1903.

The City Attorney, Franklin K. Lane (later to become Secretary of the Interior), petitioned for reconsideration of the permit. And, again, in February of 1905, the City was denied approval, their third failure.

At this point, the Schmitz administration decided to abandon the Tuolumne plans. In fact, on February 3, 1906, the Board of Supervisors passed Resolution 6949 which asked the City to "abandon its attempt to enter Hetch Hetchy and that new investigations of other supplies be made,"

Meanwhile, Phelan and his associates, who were out of office at this time, were busy trying to persuade President Roosevelt to accept the San Francisco water plan. With the aid of Gifford Pinchot (a man instrumental in the loss of Hetch Hetchy and whom we shall hear more about later), Phelan's group won Roosevelt over.

Unfortunately, there was no organized resistance to the San Francisco campaign. Unaware of the Phelan group's lobbying efforts, the Sierra Club and John Muir were wholly concentrated on the final stages of a nine-year fight to have California return its jurisdiction over Yosemite to the federal government for inclusion in an adjacent national park.

This legal battle was the Sierra Club's first effort to assure more complete protection for this wilderness area. Although Yosemite Valley had been granted to the State of California by the federal government in 1864, the surrounding watershed was not protected from grazing, logging or mining interests until 1891 when the Yosemite Act was created and a forest preserve was established to protect this wilderness. However, the function of forest reserves was still not fully determined at this time.

During the 1890's, Gifford Pinchot, as leading spokesman for the professional foresters, promoted controlled, but "practical" use of the forest. This usage was modeled on European conservation practices which promoted a continuing wood "crop." On the other hand, John Muir, although at first ambivalent and confused as to the needs of civilization, felt a strong need to preserve wilderness. Even Ralph Waldo Emerson once wrote to Muir that the wilderness "was a sublime mistress, but an intolerable wife." By 1897, however, Muir opted for his mistress. In a direct break with Pinchot and the professional foresters' "wise use" conservation, Muir rejected the "maximum usage" policy that would tolerate sheep grazing in the forest reserve. Thereafter, Muir employed his faith and energy in the fight for the national park system.

A quickly growing nemesis to Muir's aspirations, the city government, encouraged by Phelan's reception in Washington, renewed its application on July 25, 1905. Roosevelt requested an opinion of, then, Attorney General Purdy on the reopening of the case of San Francisco's rights. In October 1905, Purdy decided that the Secretary of the Interior had the power to grant San Francisco the right for the reservoir.

Bolstered by these decisions, the San Francisco Board of Supervisors applied for this right in 1907. Simultaneously, the City was aided by the resignation of Secretary of the Interior Hitchcock, who had stolidly refused all of the previous applications. The

new Secretary, James R. Garfield, based on testimony at the hearings of the previous year, granted approval on May 11, 1908, saying: "Domestic use,...especially for a municipal supply, is the highest use to which water and available basins...can be put...The next great use of water and water resources is irrigation."

The Sierra Club was unprepared for this turn of events. They had been unaware of the Phelan group's Washington activities until, in early 1905, Colby received a highly confidential letter from Pinchot (he had been asked by a congressman not to make public his recommendations to President Roosevelt) that put the Club on notice. In response to a letter from Colby, Pinchot wrote that he had recommended "...first, the use of Lake Eleanor whenever the city shall make the necessary application and acquire the necessary rights. Second, the reservation of the Hetch Hetchy and Big Tuolumne Meadows reservoir sites for the eventual use of San Francisco and the other adjacent cities, provided a time comes when they need them." Pinchot stated that he wanted to retain Hetch Hetchy in its natural state as long as it did not interfere with the necessary water supply to the Bay Area communities. He heartily recommended granting San Francisco the permit because "it would be unwise to allow rights to accrue which would eventually prevent the use of the other reservoir sites by the city, or make that use possible only after extremely expensive condemnation proceedings."

Even then though, the preservationists rested easy with Hitchcock in office and the San Francisco Board of Supervisors' passage of Resolution 6949. A sudden twist of fate, however, found Hitchcock resigned, Mayor Schmitz indicted for extortion, and Resolution 6949 discredited. Suddenly, the preservationists needed to respond to Garfield's decision.

On September 30, 1907, the Club issued the first official statement of its position. Compelled by the natural beauty of Hetch Hetchy, the authors argued that no greater damage could occur to the National Park, other than to dam Yosemite itself. And that "...we do not believe that the vital interests of the nation at large should be sacrificed and so important a part of its National Park destroyed to save a few dollars for local interests;..." The statement urged the Secretary of the Interior to deny San Francisco's application.

This proclamation, however, acted to split the Sierra Club. A vocal minority were solidly pro-San Francisco on this issue. It had been suggested that this divisiveness hurt the preservationist cause when the Hetch Hetchy issue, later, reached the floor of the Senate.

Then, in May 1908, Representative Kahn introduced the House Joint Resolution No. 184 for the purpose of exchanging lands between the city and the federal government. The hearings began December 16, 1908.

A Muir-supported pamphlet was released in opposition to this resolution. hundreds of letters and telegrams swamped

the House Committee on Lands in response to this pamphlet.

In the House and Senate, members questioned business and utilitarian motives. An often-expressed sentiment was that there was a need for "loftier motives" than saving money for San Francisco to be taken into consideration. The House Committee was hopelessly split. The Senate Committee decided not to report and withdrew the resolution.

At this point, Muir wanted to go on the offensive. He hoped to have San Francisco's permit to encroach on Hetch Hetchy rescinded. Upset, however, by the Sierra Club's lack of unity, Muir considered resigning his presidency and his individual membership. Colby offered as an alternative the idea of creating a separate organ to provide a united front against the pro-San Francisco contingent. Thus, the "Society for the Preservation of National Parks" was born.

Immediately thereafter, this society and other preservationists urged the Secretary of the Interior, Walter L. Fisher, under the new Taft administration of 1909 to revoke San Francisco's access to Hetch Hetchy. Colby led the preservationists in supporting the grant of Lake Eleanor, Cherry River, and Poopenant Valley to San Francisco but "only on condition that (the city) exchange to the government the lands which it now owns in Hetch Hetchy." (And thus, establishing the principle among preservationists to choose the most important goal and let the lesser ones go.)

In response to San Francisco's study on costs and water resource alternatives, the Sierra Club wondered why "every item of expense mentioned in connection with the Sacramento River project should appear as expensive as possible when substantially identical items of cost in the Hetch Hetchy project were figured as a lower rate." And Colby offered the classic legal brief against commercial interests invading reserves. His brief developed most of the arguments used by "solitude lovers" for the preservation of Hetch Hetchy and reflected the thoughts of those people who were concerned about contemporary land-use decisions that drastically affected future generations. Even the Army Corps of Engineers' report on alternative sites of February, 1913, stated: "From anyone of these (alternatives) the water is sufficient in quality, while the engineering difficulties are not insurmountable. The determining factor is principally one of cost..."

In the last days of his office, Secretary Fischer decided that the Right of Way of 1901 did not give him the power to grant San Francisco the permit. The city, he determined, must petition Congress.

To understand the preservationist defeat in the Senate, we must understand the position of William Kent, Representative from California.

This is the same Kent who, in 1907, donated private holdings in the redwoods near Mt. Tamalpias that were designated (at his request) Muir Woods National Monument. Elected to Congress in 1911, the

preservationists mistakenly thought he was to be their champion. In fact, Kent feared that Pacific Gas and Electric was conspiring to consolidate its control over California hydroelectric sources. A power source controlled by San Francisco would block this plan.

Privately, Kent also felt, like Pinchot, that "real conservation meant proper use and not locking up of natural resources." And, finally, as a key member of the House Committee on Public Lands, the donor of Muir Woods offered to his colleagues, in the summer of 1913, this sanguine commentary on John Muir: "I hope you will not take my friend, Muir, seriously, for he is a man entirely without social sense. With him, it is me and God and the rock where God put it, and that is the end of the story. I know him well and as far as this proposition is concerned, he is mistaken."

There is little doubt that Kent's testimony and the choice of Franklin K. Lane, ex-City Attorney of San Francisco, as Secretary of the Interior in the new Woodrow Wilson administration, dashed the preservationists' hopes. December 6, 1913 the *Raker Bill*, which established the guidelines for the city's permit, was passed by the Senate 43-25. It was signed into law by President Wilson on December 19, 1913.

The dreamers, the "nature lovers" were crushed by this defeat. Muir consoled himself that "the conscience of the whole country has been aroused from sleep," and, "...nothing that we can do on the side of justice can be wholly lost..." And Colby felt the battle had its worth "in its general effect in educating the public."

The preservationists had pleaded for a fuller examination of the data, especially, the value of wild areas against the economic value of converting them into municipal assets. They further resisted a precedent which might be repeated to gain entry into already scant Park areas. They battled and they lost.

However, the campaign led to a new political awareness; the necessity of preservationists to coordinate their activities, and the need was pointed out for local as well as national organization.

And today, what lessons can we take from the Hetch Hetchy experience? Now that visitors are turned away by the thousands at Yosemite, while only a bare handful bother to take the drive to Hetch Hetchy Reservoir?

Martin Litton expressed it well when he observed: "The demand for natural beauty does grow as the supply dwindles, and the world not only needs Muir's tidings more than ever, but it is beginning to admit it. The trouble is that we cannot spawn Muirs fast enough to fend off the multiplying and accelerating threats to the areas of natural beauty that still remain on earth."



THE TUOLUMNE TODAY: THERE'S A LOT LEFT

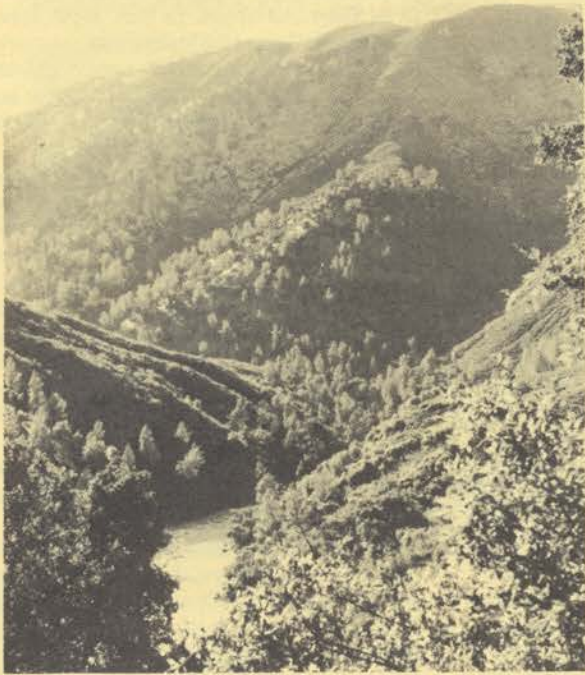


Photo courtesy of Bob Hackamack

Fourteen miles below the Hetch Hetchy, the Tuolumne is going strong again.

But not impossible. The city of San Francisco, in conjunction with the Modesto and Turlock Irrigation Districts, is now actively pushing a project that would finish the job that Hetch Hetchy only began.

The proposal is a multi-phase project built for the single purpose of generating electricity. In terms of a natural environment in the 27 mile section of the river from the confluence of Cherry Creek to the headwaters of Don Pedro Reservoir, the results would be disastrous.

To get a more accurate picture of what the City envisions, it is useful to review the report submitted in 1967 by the engineering firm of Clair Hill and Associates and R.W. Beck and Associates at the City's behest.

The proposal is divided into three stages. The first involves impounding the Cherry Creek flow at a point directly downstream of the Dion R. Holm powerhouse. The water would then be diverted around the natural stream bed to a small reservoir (forebay) to be constructed on the Clavey River (see map.) Then the combined flow of the Clavey and the diverted Cherry Creeks would be plunged through a massive pipe and would drive a set of turbines in a powerhouse to be built at the confluence of the Clavey and the Tuolumne.

In addition to these constructions, a new dam would be built at Ward's Ferry, at a point where the existing Don Pedro Reservoir already reaches. The two dams and reservoirs would thus give the river the appearance of a set of locks in a canal. The proposed Ward's Ferry Dam would also be for the single purpose of generating electricity and would contain turbines in the base of the structure itself.

If this project is built as planned,

every mile of the Tuolumne below Hetch Hetchy and above Don Pedro would be affected. There would be nothing left undisturbed. From a preservationist's point of view it would be a total disaster.

At a time when the pro's and con's of any construction project in a wilderness area should be very carefully balanced, development planners are increasingly aware of the need for a number of benefits of differing natures if they expect to demonstrate feasibility. This is doubly true in the case of large-scale water development projects with their massive environmental impact, and planners almost always rely on the concept of multi-purpose design.

The Tuolumne project, however, is single purpose—hydro-electric power.

- No recreation benefits will be created. Indeed, there will be a tremendous loss of recreational opportunities in the area.
- No fish and wildlife habitat will be improved—in fact, quite the opposite will occur.
- No significant new water supplies will be created. The dams will never provide any "cushion" against future droughts.
- No flood control benefits will accrue. Don

Pedro Dam, located downstream, already protects against the largest conceivable flood.

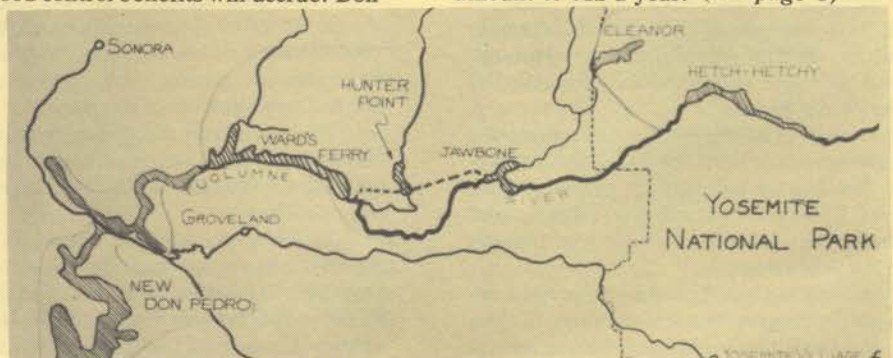
An Alternative Fate

Even while the City's consultants were reanalyzing their findings and computing a new cost/benefit ratio in 1976 dollars, another study was under way with the same subject—the Tuolumne River. But the actors were different and the focus was on the river in its natural state.

This was the federal study to determine if the Tuolumne qualified for inclusion in the Federal Wild and Scenic Rivers System.

The three agency report is not due until later this year, at which time a recommendation will be made. But the final decision on the Tuolumne will be political, made by Congress, and probably not before 1980.

To the residents of San Francisco, the only benefit they could expect to obtain from the project would be money, passed on to them in the form of water rate reductions. In a typical household, this might amount to \$12 a year. (see page 8)





Supreme Court to Rule on Stanislaus

The question of whether California can stay the execution of the Stanislaus River between Camp Nine and Parrott's Ferry will be decided by the Supreme Court. In a decision issued on December 5, the Court agreed to hear the case at an unspecified future date.

The Court's ruling will determine whether a state can impose conditions on the operation of a Federal water project entirely within the boundaries of that state. The particular issue concerns the New Melones Reservoir to be run by the Federal Bureau of Reclamation. The State Water Resources Control Board in its decision 1422 issued in 1973, granted the Bureau only partial rights for filling the reservoir. The intent of the ruling was to preserve the upper Stanislaus until buyer's for the full yield of the project could be found. As yet, this condition has not been met. The Bureau, however, intends to defy the State's ruling and has brought suit to establish its legality.

So far, through the first two court rounds, it has won, but the final decision now rests with the Supreme Court whose verdict will be eagerly awaited by the many friends of this much embattled Sierran stream.

NORTH COAST RIVER MANAGEMENT PLANS

The Department of Fish and Game has prepared final management plans for the Scott and Salmon Rivers, both tributaries of the Klamath River on California's northern coast.

Public input is invited and copies of the plans are available from the DFG at 1416 9th St., Sacramento, CA. 95814.

NORTH FORK STANISLAUS

Last year's successful campaign to stop the damming of the North Fork of the Stanislaus was one of FOR's brighter moments. The Sacramento Municipal Utility District was finally persuaded to abandon its plans to join up with the Calaveras County Water District in the three dam proposal, leaving CCWD with no customer for the potential power and a set of water rights for the river soon to expire. Prospects for the dams looked very dim.

But the issue has been re-awakened. The State Water Resources Control Board is deliberating on a recent CCWD request to extend its water rights permit and thus keep the project at least hypothetically alive.

FOR argued before the board that CCWD, having failed to reach an agreement with a potential buyer, had not fulfilled one of the original conditions of the water rights agreement and thus its extension requests should properly be denied.

The hearing was held on December 1 and a final disposition of the case is awaited.

Auburn Update

The much-awaited independent assessment of the earthquake hazards of the Auburn Dam by the geologic consulting firm of Woodward-Clyde is still out. The firm has apparently completed six out of the anticipated eight volumes.

When the oft delayed report finally comes out, both the Division of Dam Safety and the Department of Mines and Geology will take some six months to study it before recommending a "State position" on the Federally funded project.

A Bureau of Reclamation spokesman has indicated that state approval would be considered a necessary pre-requisite to completing the project. Such cooperation, he hastened to add, should not be considered precedent-setting however. Until the Supreme Court rules on pending litigation (see accompanying article) there is nothing binding on the Federal agencies to comply with state water management requirements.

However, the Auburn project might be a special case. Since a failure of the dam would devastate Sacramento, the State capital, it might be a matter of inter-governmental courtesy to gain the approval of the potential victims before building it.

Meanwhile construction on the project goes on apace as the Bureau struggles to get its foot more firmly in the door. Should the report be damaging (a not unlikely possibility) the issue of "sunk costs" will be the Bureau's strongest card.

WHAT YOU CAN DO:

Write Secretary of the Interior Cecil Andrus (Dept. of the Interior, Washington D.C. 20003) and urge that construction on Auburn be halted until the safety issue is resolved.

MEDEA CREEK

Trailer parks are one commodity Southern Californians are well supplied with. But they may soon get another, if plans go through to develop Medea Creek near Agoura.

Home of several osprey and nesting ground for the great blue heron, Medea Creek is a rare piece of natural environment in an increasingly congested area. It deserves saving.

Contact Sybil Scotford, 4115 Camellia, Studio City, CA. 91604 if you would like to help out.

Warm Springs Halted

Another chapter in the struggle over the Warm Springs Dam in Sonoma County was unfolded in December when the State Resources Agency asked the Army Corps of Engineers to cease work on the controversial structure.

The immediate impetus for the State's decision came about as a result of the earthquake tremor which shook the Willets area on November 22. The temblor gave additional credibility to the environmentalist claim that the 600 foot high dam would be unsafe given the seismic activity of the area.

The position of the Resources Agency is that safety studies done by the Corps are inadequate; and that until they are more fully done, and been independently reviewed, the main contract on the dam should not be let.

Work done to date on the site is related to road stabilization and relocation and is not actually a part of the main construction.

WHAT YOU CAN DO:

Contact Les Ayers, co-chairman of the Warm Springs Dam Task Force at (707) 996-8596 for information on how to help out.

FOR Coalition Forms

The Friends of the River Coalition, an idea which was spawned at the Wild Rivers Confluence last March, is now a reality. The Coalition is made up of river and creek protection groups from around the State (and eventually beyond, we hope.)

Two quarterly meetings have already been held. At the October meeting eleven different river and creek groups were represented. Plans for the 1978 Confluence were begun, Coalition goals were drawn up, and common political and organizational problems were discussed.

The next meeting of the Coalition is Jan. 21 at the Congregational Church, Spain St. at 2nd W., Sonoma.

Thanks to the Warm Springs Task Force for providing our meeting place, and thanks to Mary Hammer of the San Lorenzo River Association for pushing to get the Coalition off the ground. And best wishes to Donna Rivers of CCRR (South Fork American) who has taken the title of Trial Coordinator. All inquiries about the Coalition should go to Donna Rivers, c/o Friends of the River.

WANTED: CREEK COORDINATOR

Friends of the River needs an individual willing to work part or full-time on coordinating a Statewide assortment of creek battles. Community organization and research would just be a part of the job. Must be willing to work for a lot of spirit and not much money.

If interested, contact FOR, Sacramento.

THE PERIPHERAL CANAL: SOLID GUARANTEES— OR EMPTY PROMISES?

Tom Burton

On November 30, at the joint conference of the state legislature held in San Francisco, FOR offered testimony on SB 346, the Peripheral Canal Bill.

Our failure to endorse the bill was a consequence of two crucial points:

- (A) the North Coast Rivers, currently components of the State Wild and Scenic Rivers System ought to be more fully protected, preferably under Federal guidelines.
- (B) the water conservation program in the bill ought to be very substantially strengthened.

What are the long term implications of SB 346 for the future of the North Coast Rivers? The possibilities range from the benign to the ominous.

The Department of Water Resources (DWR) Delta Alternatives Study states that the facilities authorized in the bill will meet the water needs of California until the year 2000, at which time the North Coast rivers may have to be dammed. A study designed to assess the state's water needs in regard to the possible damming of the Eel River was originally scheduled for 1984. SB 346, however, moves the date up to 1980. Members of the Joint Committee assured us that the date was changed merely to secure a swing vote and that the water from the Eel would always be "too expensive" to develop.

Too expensive for state contractors perhaps, but not for the Bureau of Reclamation, whose water rates reflect subsidies more than development costs.

There is another aspect of the bill as currently written which has possibly disturbing implications; namely, the Glenn Reservoir, an off-stream storage facility slated to be filled by the Sacramento River and two creeks.

The Glenn Reservoir is an idea that has been kicking around for fifteen years or more, but always in connection with various plans to divert the Trinity, Klamath, and particularly the Eel River.

Despite the fact that off-stream storage is generally more preferable than damming in-stream; and despite the fact that the Glenn Reservoir as currently planned does not involve the Eel, it is difficult to forget past associations. And if the political climate should change in California, the Glenn would already be in, strengthening the feasibility arguments of the dam proponents. If last year's attempt to abolish the State Wild and Scenic Rivers System is any indication, prudence would demand that the North Coast Rivers be more solidly under Federal oversight. Accordingly, FOR asked that SB 346 be amended so as to allow for this further measure of protection.

The only real guarantee for the North Coast Rivers is to reduce our water demands through water conservation and reclamation. It was this consideration that led us to our second objection.

SB 346 declares that it is the intent of the legislature to partially meet the requirements of the State Water Project by a conservation and reclamation program. In specific, 700,000 acre-feet worth by the year 2000.

The bill provides \$750,000 a year for five years for studies of water conservation and provides for a \$50 million revolving loan fund for agricultural water conservation equipment.

However, less than 2% of the bill's total allocation (some \$3.5 billion) will be spent on water conservation. Yet the Department of Water Resources' study of water conservation, Bulletin 198, projects a potential state-wide reduction of 2.4 to 3.5 million acre-feet in combined urban and agricultural water savings by the year 2000. This rather impressive figure represents more than the entire yield of the physical facilities provided for in SB 346.

In view of this tremendous potential and in view of the potential energy savings and environmental benefits of water conservation, we feel that both the expenditures for water conservation and the goal of only 700,000 are inadequate. Consequently, we urged the members of the committee to approve an amendment which would substantially strengthen these aspects of the bill. □

(Tuolumne, continued from page 6.)

To the residents of Modesto and Turlock, who would probably be the potential customers for the power, they would have an additional 400 million KW to use, probably between the hours of 2 and 5 in the afternoon when they turn their air conditioners on.

The Tuolumne Project, however, even in wet years can only guarantee a 15% load factor—which translates to mean that there won't be enough water to drive the turbines for more than an hour and a half out of ten.

In contrast to such destructive measures, a concentrated effort to plant shade trees along the residential streets of both Modesto and Turlock could do much to take out the mid-afternoon spike in their energy demand curve, which seems to be the primary reason for wanting to see the project built.

The decision to complete the destruction of the Tuolumne is irrevocable. We make it not only for ourselves but for the generations who follow us. What their priorities will be, given the direction that energy policy appears to be taking, we can only guess.

In the case of the Tuolumne, a hard-working river already, the price is too high for the additional kilowatts. There are alternatives to peaking power demands, but there are no alternatives for this remarkable river.

Let us not let the lesson of Hetch Hetchy go unheeded.

There are a number of organizations dedicated to the preservation of the Tuolumne. Some of them are fairly old, others quite recent. Some of them are grass roots activist organizations and some are primarily educational. But all could use your support, time and energy. Please get your name on their mailing lists and offer to help out.

Citizens to Preserve the Tuolumne River (CPTR) is a grassroots citizens' action organization located in Tuolumne County. Their address is: P.O. Box 1434, Twain Harte, CA. 94838. Tel. No.: (209) 928-3247.

Tuolumne River Coalition (TRC) is the newly-rejuvenated citizens' action organization located in San Francisco. Their address is: 124 Spear St., 4th floor, San Francisco, CA. 94105. Tel. No.: (415) 495-4770.

Tuolumne River Conference is a special project of the Sierra Club Foundation. It has, for the past eight years, been the primary moving force for the preservation of the Tuolumne. Conceived by Robert W. Hackamack, 5100 Parker Rd., Modesto, CA. 95355, this project has carried on widespread educational campaigns to inform the people of California about the Tuolumne.

Friends of the River Foundation is a non-profit educational organization with a special interest in the Tuolumne project. Its address is: 1742 Curtiss St., Berkeley, CA. 94702. Donations so indicated will be earmarked for the Tuolumne River Fund, and are tax deductible. □

Equal Rights for the FOR T-shirt

In accordance with new Federal guidelines regarding the sale of conventionally designed T-shirts, FOR is proud to announce the addition of Women's French Cut T-shirts to our basic selection of chauvinist styles.

The new shirts are available in baby blue and wheat in sizes s, m, l; and all come equipped with our FOR logo emblazoned across the front—(or back if you prefer to wear them that way.)

Order yours today and be sure to indicate size and color. \$5.00.

Plain old fashioned—s, m, l, xl; red, powder blue, white, green.

Women's French Cut—s, m, l; baby blue, wheat.

Friends of the River Stages Benefit

What: A Friends of the River Extravaganza Featuring: Food, Foolishness, Friends, Films (including Richard Bangs' Exploration of the Omoo River), Music, Juggling and Cheap Theatrics.

Where: Angel's Camp Theater
Angel's Camp, California

When: January 29, 4—6 p.m.

How Much: \$5.00