



# HEADWATERS

Official Publication of Friends of the River



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JULY-AUGUST 1977

Editor: Kathy Meyer

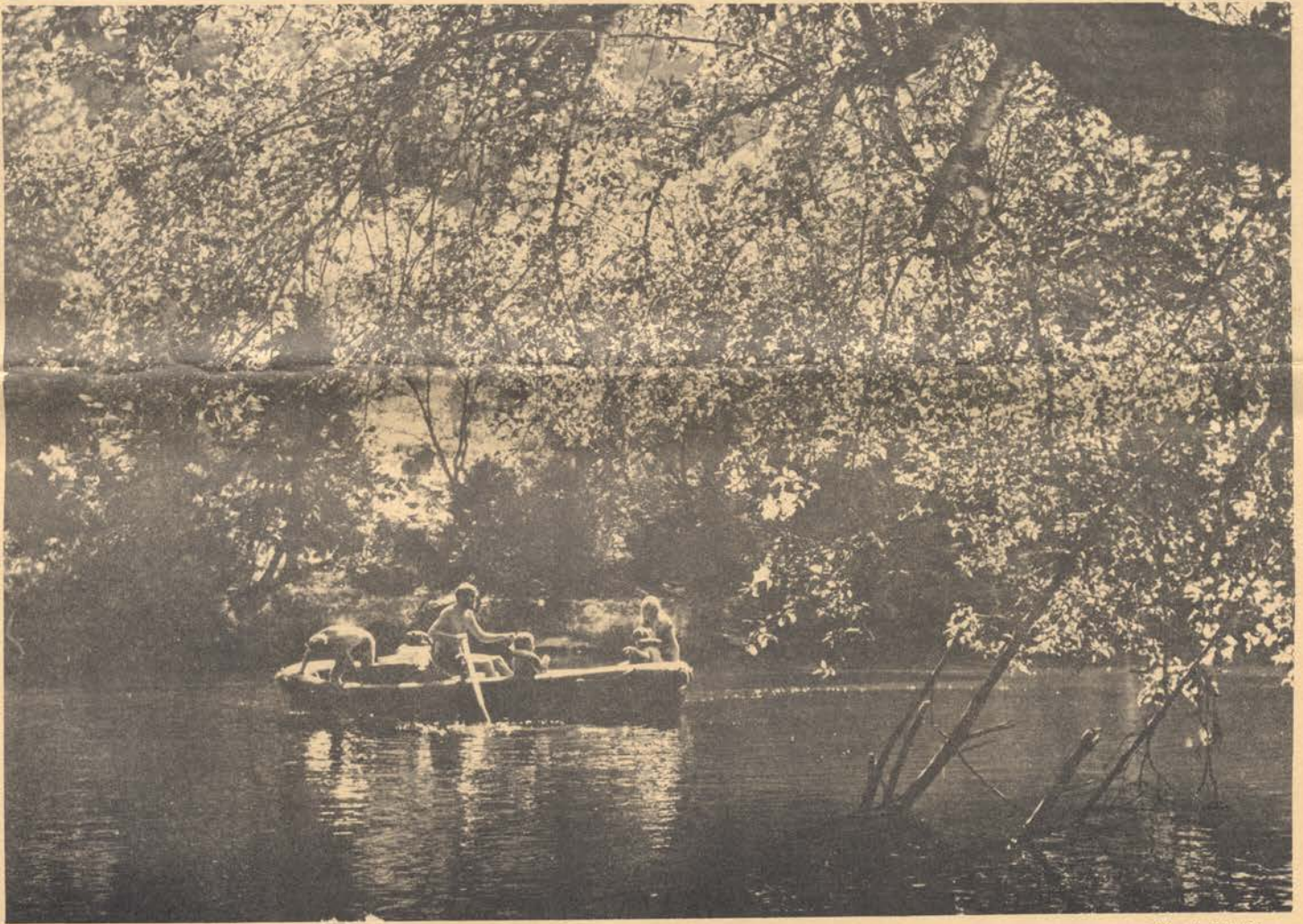


Photo by Bob Kripps

## *A Peaceful Drift Through Fabled Stanislaus Serenity*

*Friends of the River*  
401 San Miguel Way  
Sacramento, CA 95819  
Phone: 916/451-9955

## FROM THE EDITOR

Horacio Alger's back in town selling signs ALUMINUM, TIN, GLASS, COMPOST, DON'T WASTE, DON'T FLUSH, DON'T DRIP and peddling barrels, cans, drums, buckets without a hole dear Liza, dear Liza. Perfume sales must be up. On the other hand maybe Dior is going out of business. With the increasing popularity of primitive essence, en naturale may be on its way to upper class U.S. Vogue. Some people not only get used to it, they "get off" on it.

While a few are getting-rich-quick or "getting off," the rest of the population is singing *How Dry I Am with Drought Headaches Number 1-64*. Somewhere over the rainbow is a thunderstorm, maybe by November? Meanwhile, back at the well, there is much grumbling about the seeming deprivation of stricter conservation. But cheer up, we are rapidly acquiring distinction as world experts, deserving even doctorate degrees in the recycling and conservation of water, garbage, and energy.

To help you stay close to what it is all about, this issue of HEADWATERS is a tribute to the Water of magical rivers — sparkling rivers, which have bestowed upon us their gifts of bountiful hours of peace and play, replenished spiritual fuel for our souls, offered challenge, and afforded many a livelihood. As ferryman, fisherwoman, Indian, goldminer, romantic, drifter, boater, biologist, archaeologist, millions have drawn their sustenance and joys from the waters and banks of rushing rivers. Whatever your favorite splashing spot, do not forget it. Now is its greatest time of need. In return, let your cherished river recollections comfort you, when you are next grunting about re-routing the wash water, smashing the cans, or inhaling a wafting bouquet of basic body odors.

*River Kate*

## HEADWATERS FIRST ANNIVERSARY IS IT TIME FOR YOUR RENEWAL?

With this issue, HEADWATERS celebrates one full year of publication. As a river lover, your membership in Friends of the River is very important. Membership keeps your HEADWATERS coming and also keeps FOR lobbying, organizing, and educating in support of our wild river heritage. Please celebrate with us by clipping out the membership form on page 8 and sending it off today.



### FOR Meetings

FOR meetings are open to everyone. August meeting will be in Berkeley, September in Sacramento. Call 916/451-9955 for location. Thursdays, August 11 and September 8, 7:00 pm.

**FRIENDS OF THE RIVER** is a political, research, and educational organization dedicated to the protection and preservation of our remaining magnificent free flowing rivers and to the conservation of our water and energy resources.

Director: Mark Dubois

Secretary:

Treasurer: Tom Lovering

Steering Committee: Bruce Raley, Bill Center, Robin Magnuson, Alexander Gaguine, Kathy Meyer, Debbie Dohm, Shelly Sack, Catherine Fox, Anna Maria Gonzales, Brad Welton, and Jennifer Jennings.

### HEADWATERS

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Pen and ink drawings by Robin Magnuson

## Important Letters For July and August

When you write these officials, ask for a response stating their position.

**WRITE:** President Jimmy Carter (White House, Washington, D.C. 20500) urging him to veto the Public Works Appropriations Bill, which includes the dams and water projects he has recommended deleting. Also write your U.S. Representative (House Office Bldg., Washington, D.C. 20515) and Senators (Senate Office Bldg., Washington, D.C. 20510) urging them to uphold the veto.

**WRITE:** (again this month): Your State Senator (send copy to Senate Finance Committee Chairman Albert Rodda) requesting a vote against AB 345, Senator Ayala's Bill, which repeals the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. The hearing date has not been set for the Finance Committee, but may come up in August.

**WRITE:** President Jimmy Carter (address above) urging him to stop construction of the Camp Nine Road project on the Stanislaus. (See article p. 3)

## MAN OF THE WOODS

Dear Friends:

Your note about the Eel River (**Headwaters**, March-April, p.7) is not. I'm afraid, fully elucidative. The statement that the Hanna Mining operation "will bring jobs and money" is misleading. Hanna is a "progressive" company in that it practices extreme capital-intensive production. With the aid of mammoth automated machines and fully computer-run equipment their huge operations rely as little as possible on people power. The few people they use are highly trained technocrats who will be imported to the Red Mountain area because their skills are alien to the people there. No significant local employment is expected from the mining, and the machines will not spend money in the area.

I would like to stress the magnitude of the sedimentation danger to the Eel. The mining operation will occupy 8,000 acres of land and will totally destroy Red Mountain, which sits between the Middle and South Forks of the Eel. Under the Amended Forest Practice Rules of the California Board of Forestry, nearly all of the Red Mountain area would receive an Extreme Erosion Hazard Rating due to steepness, erodability of the soils, and the climatic stress of 70 to 80 inches of rainfall per year. According to the U.S. Geologic Survey, "the Eel River has the highest recorded average annual suspended sediment yield per square mile of drainage area of any river of its size or larger in the United States . . . The erosion rate in the Eel River basin is a major watershed management problem." Despite major declines in salmon production due to logging sediments, at the time it was declared a "Wild and Scenic River" it was still California's number one for Silvers and in the top five for Kings and Steelhead.

Another serious threat to the Eel from this operation will be the leachings from the tailing ponds, which will empty into the Eel. U.C. biochemist Dr. Charles Sawyer has found a dramatic and ugly history of cancer associated with nickel mining. Not only can fish not tolerate even minute amounts of nickel, but also people in the towns which draw their water from the Eel will apparently be at a high risk for cancer.

The large majority of the people of the Red Mountain area do not want this ecorape forced upon them. There are of course many other reasons against the mining, such as saving the rare endemic plants of the mountain, but I believe this serves as a response to the main points of your Eel River note.

Sincerely,  
Robert Sutherland  
The man who walks in the woods.

## THANK YOU

The Sierra Club sent FOR staff, Alexander Gaguine, to the 1977 Scenic River Symposium, Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

Many thanks to Robert Rand for donating a staff car to FOR.



We are still in need of a 16 mm movie projector and a slide projector.

# FOR Knocks Out SMUD

## Dam Plan Scaled Down

Brad Welton

In our January HEADWATERS, we reported on a massive campaign FOR spearheaded in opposition to Sacramento Municipal Utility District's (SMUD) plans for five dams on the North Fork of the Stanislaus River. As is often the case with environmental battles, victories are not recognized immediately. Six months later, it is evident this campaign resulted in a clear victory for river preservationists.

Calaveras County Water District (CCWD) recently decided against working with SMUD on their plans to develop the North Fork. However, CCWD had entered into an agreement with the Northern California Power Agency (NCPA) to build one storage and one diversion facility, instead of five dams. According to the latest plan, one or two dams will be built near the headwaters of the North Fork, inundating a granitic basin

and the existing Spicers, Utica, and Union Reservoirs. Additionally, a diversion dam, below Calaveras Big Trees State Park, will take some water out of the river to provide a power drop just above Camp Nine (see Camp Nine article, page 3).

Cal Trout, Motherlode Chapter of the Sierra Club, Concerned Calaveras Residents, and FOR are working with CCWD to ensure that stream flows from the North Fork storage facility to the hydro facility will enhance fisheries, wildlife, and recreation values. Also of interest to these groups is the curtailment of ORV, Off Road Vehicle use, particularly in the Gabbot's Meadow area

near the present Spicer Meadow Reservoir.

FOR has taken no official position on the new CCWD plan. We recognize the vast improvements this plan has over the initial plan. Drop FOR a line on how you feel about it.

FOR's action has resulted in substantial changes in SMUD energy policies. SMUD has adopted a stronger conservation program aimed at reducing peak load demand through insulation and load management programs. We wish to thank the Friends who worked actively with us on this issue — our concentrated action produced real change.

## CONGRESS

### *Good Show for Carter's Cuts*

Alexander Gaguine

On June 14, 192 members of the House of Representatives voted for an amendment to the Public Works Appropriations Bill cutting funds for 18 water projects which President Carter wants killed. The Administration-backed measure, sponsored by Silvio Conte of New York, received 218 nay votes as well, but the measure had not been designed to pass. Instead it was a successful demonstration that Carter has the 1/3 vote necessary to sustain a veto of the Bill itself.

After the Conte Amendment showed its strength, but failed to get a majority, the Public Works Bill passed overwhelmingly. But the damage had been done to one of Congress' most hallowed traditions, "the cutting up of the water projects' pie." The Bill now goes to the Senate, and then to the Senate-House conference committee to resolve differences in the two versions. It looks as if the Bill will undergo considerable changes before it reaches the President's desk. FOR supports a veto of the Bill in its present form.

No Democratic President since Harry Truman has had his veto overridden. If Carter uses the veto and Congress upholds it, the issue will return to Congress for a new Public Works Bill. This will probably be a compromise, deleting some of Congress' pet projects, but also asking Carter to back down on some of his cuts. History in the making will be an interesting display of naked power by individual members Congress, fighting for their own.



*Two Ladies of the Motherlode: The Stanislaus and Suzanne Jordan*

*Photo courtesy of ARTA*

## CRIMES AGAINST NATURE

Brad Welton

Last December at Camp Nine on the Stanislaus River, the Corps of Engineers stopped construction because of FOR's persistence and an impending suit from the State. Immediately thereafter, the Corps gave this small bridge and road relocation top priority. After numerous delays requested by the State and FOR, construction recommenced on June 6, 1977. The Department of Interior, Governor Brown, Resources Agency, State Water Resources Control Board, Federal Council on Environmental Quality, the California Attorney General's office, and several environmental organizations all repeatedly requested the Corps use common sense and stop construction until the need for the project could be

definitely established.

In May, FOR attorney, Brad Welton, filed a lawsuit in the Northern District Federal Court in San Francisco to again halt construction. The suit contended the Corps had failed to coordinate its activities with those of the Bureau of Reclamation and the State on developing alternatives to the bridge. But District Court Judge Cecil Poole denied the motion for a preliminary injunction. FOR continues to pressure the State, the Department of Interior, and the White House to use their best efforts to stop the Corps' mindless destruction.

For all of you who love the Stanislaus, please take a moment to write President Carter, asking him to pardon our innocent canyon by directing the Corps to stop immediately.

# Flying Clavey Falls with Fred Dennis, Tuolumne River



Photo by Sandra Little

## TETON Anniversary

Naomi Patterson

With the passing of June, we are reminded of last year's colossal Teton Dam failure: a manmade disaster.



Pressures to build Federal water resource projects have been so great in some cases that the Bureau of Reclamation officials have been blinded by possible dangers and hazards that might be encountered. Such as the case with the Teton Dam. As reported in the Thirtieth Report by the Committee on Government Operations (9-23-76), geologists from the U.S. Geological Survey Team informed the Bureau of the seismic and geological hazards inherent to the project while Teton Dam was still under construction in July 1973. No corrective action was taken in response by the Bureau. In a Department of Interior news release on January 6, 1977, these geological hazards were cited as being directly related to the Dam's failure. The news release stated that "the fundamental cause of failure may be regarded as a combination of geological factors and design decisions that, taken together, permitted the failure to develop."

Was this disaster a consequence of the Bureau of Reclamation's addiction to the theory of "momentum," whereby all questions of safety and competence are "taken care of" by engineering solutions while construction continues? During Congressional hearings last fall Congressman Leo Ryan stated "the root of the problem is the momentum to build." Much of the hearings focused on this inclination of the Bureau of Reclamation to continue dam construction despite hazards and safety warnings from forces outside the Bureau. The report stated, "Halting construction is not an option that decision makers in the Bureau or Corps apparently ever consider available." In conclusion the report stressed that had the Bureau not been obsessed with the momentum of construction, and instead held up construction while genuinely evaluating studies by other agencies, and even warnings from their own employees, the Teton Dam disaster would never have happened.



Corkscrewing Lost Hat Rapid with Peter Moritz, American River



Photo by Michael Fahey

## Secretary Andrus Meets FOR

On June 16, approximately 50 Sacramento conservationists, called out by FOR, gathered outside the State Capitol to welcome Secretary of Interior Cecil Andrus to California. Although the group saw Andrus briefly, their message was apparent: CONGRATULATIONS to the Carter Administration for their environmental record on dams, Redwood Park, energy policies, and Westlands. The TV cameras enjoyed the group's attire of life jackets to dramatize the potential disaster should Auburn Dam collapse as did Teton Dam.

FOR staff Alexander Gaguine, Jennifer Jennings, and Brad Welton later met with Secretary Andrus. Andrus already had been briefed on the Camp Nine, Stanislaus situation by Governor Brown at a Capitol breakfast. The Secretary said he would speak directly to Secretary of Defense, Harold Brown, who oversees the Army Corps, to see if a halt in construction at Camp Nine could be accomplished.

Andrus further indicated that a major goal of the Carter Administration is to implement a new "national water policy." When asked how FOR can help, he replied that we, who believe that new policies would be good for the nation's future, should make our opinions known to our Representatives in Congress.

# AUBURN UNDER STUDY \* \* \*

Alexander Gaguine

While the political tempest over Carter's water project cuts continues, the saga of the proposed Auburn Dam on California's American River has quietly moved into a new phase. Auburn is virtually assured of funding for the 1978 fiscal year. But there's a catch. The funds cannot be spent until a series of safety studies, one of which is underway, is completed.

New Commissioner of Reclamation, Keith Higginson, said, "I don't think the federal government is going to proceed to build Auburn if the State is not satisfied (with its safety)." A failure of Auburn Dam would be fatal to many thousands of homes and lives in Sacramento.

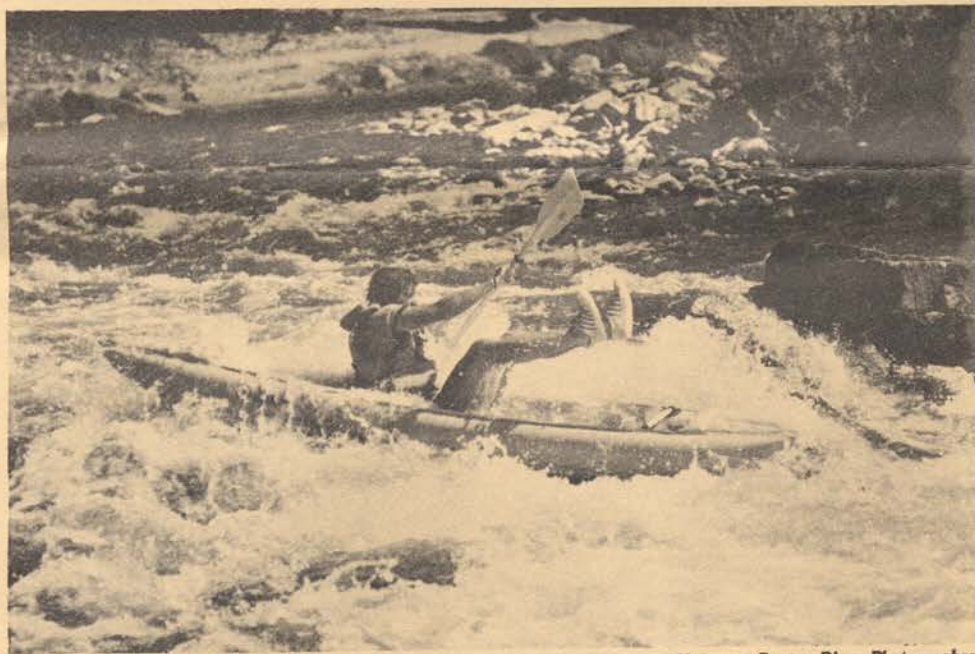
The geological consulting firm of Woodward and Clyde will submit a report of their seismic study of the Auburn area around the end of June. That report, already delayed seven months, is expected to find the area considerably more active seismically than anticipated when the dam was designed. Following this report, a "blue-ribbon panel of experts" will take 6 months or more to review the adequacy of the dam design, taking into account the new geological data. One panel member, who is one of the world's foremost proponents of thin arch, concrete dams such as the one proposed for Auburn, will reportedly do his part in the review without leaving Portugal.

Both Woodward and Clyde and the review panel are under

contract to the Bureau of Reclamation. At the Auburn Review Hearings (see May-June HEADWATERS), State Department of Water Resources Director Ron Robie complained, "The Department has not received adequate cooperation from the Bureau in this Review." The State plans a complete safety study on its own before giving Higginson a final decision on the project. These will also take additional months. All the study teams will feel the bright lights of public scrutiny.

Meanwhile in Washington, the House of Representatives will include funds for Auburn in their Appropriations Bill. The expenditure of funds, however, is again conditioned on the State's satisfaction with the safety issue.

The Senate is expected to follow suit, though California's Alan Cranston is looking at suggestions he amend the Bill to withhold spending until a recently begun study on the financial status of the Bureau's Central Valley Project (CVP) is completed. (Auburn and its companion project, the Folsom South Canal, would be units of the CVP.) The cost of Auburn Dam, which the Bureau conservatively estimated at \$1.1 billion, would forever end any hopes that the CVP could remain solvent. Site preparation and foundation work have already cost \$230 million. This year's appropriations run out October 1, at which time work should stop, possible never to recommence.



Unknown Boater, River, Photographer

"As long as I live, I'll hear waterfalls, and birds, and winds sing. I'll learn the language of flood and storm and avalanche. I'll acquaint myself with the mountains and wild gardens and get as near to the heart of the world as I can."

John Muir

## Beilenson for Malibu Creek

Margaret Williams

Friends of the Santa Monica Mountains and Seashore are in a race to save Malibu Creek and 200,000 acres of mountain range and seashore from Los Angeles developers and growth addicts. The new Santa Monica Mountains Comprehensive Planning Commission is in charge of creating an overall master plan for the Mountains from Griffith Park to Point MuGu in L.A. and Ventura Counties. This area includes Calleguas and Topanga Creeks and the Malibu Creek Watershed, heartland of the Santa Monica range.

It is questionable whether or not action can take place fast enough to combat rapid subdividing. The Commission does not have "permit power" allowing them to halt destructive projects during the planning process. Plans must be completed and adopted by the state legislature before any development may be stopped.

Also in question is the focus of the Commission's planning efforts.

On the brighter side, Congressman Tony Beilenson, former California Senator, has just introduced a bill in the House of Representatives, which would create a national recreation area called Channel Islands and Santa Monica Mountain National Park and Seashore. Tony's Bill, HR 7264, adds 40,000 acres to the existing 40,000 acres of scattered state, county, and city parks and beaches.

Friends of the Santa Monica Mountains and Seashore, who have been instrumental in furthering protection for this area, urges everyone to support Beilenson's Bill. Concerned L.A. citizens can help by contacting Sue Nelson of FOSMMS at 13215 Riviera Ranch Road, L.A., CA 90049 or call 213/472-8181. Or write directly to Congressman Beilenson, Room 1730, Longworth Office Bldg., Washington D.C. 20515.

## CALIFORNIA CREEKS AND RIVERS COALITION

In May, representatives of FOR and interested creek and river groups throughout the state gathered along the banks of the San Lorenzo River in Ben Lomand to form a coalition interested in education and communication. Under the umbrella of FOR and by a means of a statewide phone tree, the coalition will coordinate communication between a network of already established groups. Ten task forces were set up to research river use, floodplain management, minimum flows, growth

control, community ordinances, and legislative process. Send your name, address, group, phone number, and ideas to C&R, c/o Friends of the River, 401 San Miguel Way, Sacto, CA 95819. Get on the phone tree today!

## GOLDEN TROUT WILDERNESS

A plea from Richard May, President of California Trout: A section of the House of Representative Bill 3454 (Endangered American Wilderness Act) relating to the Golden Trout Wilderness is under attack by various development interests. Golden Trout is the State Fish of California. The initially proposed 260,000 acres, located in the area of the Little Kern-Golden Trout Creek, high Sierra tributaries of the Kern River, is the **MINIMUM NEEDED** to protect the habitat system. Write to Congressman Tino Roncalio, Chairman Subcommittee on Public Lands, House Office Bldg., Washington D.C. 20515 with a copy to Committee Member, Congressman John Krebs. Also write Senator Hayakawa expressing your concern.

## COMPUTER MISTAKES

Our computerized mailing list sometimes fouls up and loses a membership card . . . if in the future you do not receive your HEADWATERS, please drop FOR a line with your address.

## FOR Benefit Dinner Parties

**\$10 Donation**  
**No Host Bar - Door Prizes**

July 30th, 6:30 pm, Scott and Jenny Fleming, 2750 Shasta Road, Berkeley - contact Catherine Fox at 415/527-0851.

July 31st, 4:00 pm (party starts at 1:00 pm), Allen and Carol Reames, 16466 Woodacre Road, Los Gatos, 408/354-2307.

### Reservations

Berkeley \_\_\_\_\_ Los Gatos \_\_\_\_\_

Number in Party \_\_\_\_\_

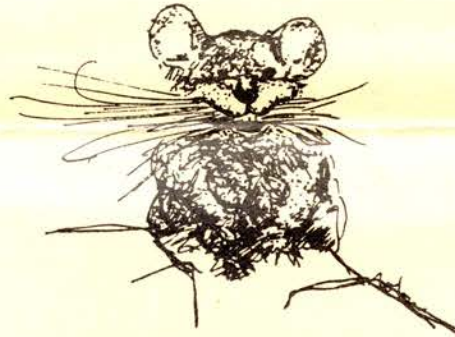
I have enclosed \_\_\_\_\_

Send to FOR, 401 San Miguel Way, Sacramento, CA 95819

## HONC!

Help Our Neighborhood Creeks is organized by Roland Hauck for the protection of our precious city and town streams. A committee is forming to help creeks throughout the state. If you treasure the prizes of little creeks, have one to save, or a few hours of energy to give, just HONC for Roland c/o FOR. A slideshow is available for purchase by groups or schools for \$150.

river



watch

## WALK THE FAULTS

June's fault walk of the Auburn Dam area was great! Don't miss this one. Join FOR at the Bureau of Reclamation's dam overlook in the town of Auburn on August 6, 10:00 am. Call 916/451-9955 for more details.

## BOUNDARY WATER WILDERNESS

Over 1,000 acres of Minnesota lakeland wilderness form more wilderness than all other parks in the eastern U.S. combined. The Fraser Bill, HR 2820, would give final protective status to this magnificent area. Please write support letters to your delegates in Congress with copies to Committee Chairman, Phil Burton: House Office Bldg., Washington, D.C. 20515.

## Drought Membership

The California League of Conservation Voters is offering a special \$5 membership accompanied by a free water conservation kit. Good only until the rains come! Your contribution helps CLCV keep an eye on the performance of public officials to counter the pressure exerted by destructive special interest groups. CLCV, 124 Spear St., S.F., CA 94105.

## ETC Makes News

For those of you who have been following the outdoor footsteps of Environmental Traveling Companions, they are deflating their rafts and busily planning a summer of backpacking treks. A June Point Reyes trip with participants from BOLD, Blind Outdoor Leisure Development, was written up in the San Francisco Examiner. The trip was also filmed by KGO and aired on the evening news. ETC is finally getting the attention they deserve. Thank you James Finefrock and Evan White.

## KISSIMMEC RIVER, FLORIDA

Some years ago the Corps dredged this serpentine, spring-fed river, straightening it into a ditch 200 feet wide and 50 feet deep. The destruction was accomplished under the guise of providing quick drainage to eliminate flood conditions in the upper Kissimmec River Basin during severe rainstorms. When completed, beside destroying the river and surrounding marsh, the canal caused drastic environmental changes in the Basin. The water quality slowly diminished in Lake Okeechobee, a resource for drinking water, with the contamination of agricultural chemicals. Resurrected public disgust has now inspired the state legislature to restore over half the river and marsh. Editor's note: As we wantonly crucify Mother Nature, she storms retaliation demanding the chance to heal her wounds.

## SAN FELIPE

Over the last two months another Bureau of Reclamation porkbarrel project has progressed closer to actualization. On April 26th in a law suit filed by the Environmental Defense Fund and the Sierra Club, supported by the State of California, a U.S. District Judge ruled that the Bureau's final EIS on San Felipe was adequate. Then on May 31, the citizens of Santa Clara County voted narrowly (56,000 to 50,000) in favor of a \$56 million distribution system for San Felipe within their county.

Once completed, San Felipe will divert 200,000 acre feet of water annually from the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta for municipal and agricultural development in Santa Clara and San Benito Counties. Wastewater reclamation, the forgotten alternative, could have supplied half the amount for Santa Clara County. A good water conservation program would have easily made up the difference. Export schemes like San Felipe result in additional pressure for developing the North Coast rivers.

# Politicians to Play Scientist

Warm Springs Dam Task Force

Judge Spencer William's March decision that the Army Corps' EIS on Warm Springs Dam was adequate, incredibly, has left the safety of the project up to political decision makers. Warm Springs Dam Task Force has filed for an appeal. The Court's decision did not take into consideration significant information available to the Corps from the U.S. Geological Survey regarding the maximum credible earthquake.

Chairman of the California Water Commission, Michael Glazer,

and Senators Cranston and Hayakawa have asked for additional funding to start work again at the Warm Springs site. But each have said that none of the money should be spent on embankment work until the dam's design has been approved by the State. That brings us right back to where the trial began - with the Task Force contending that the Corps has not done an adequate investigation.

The Task Force requested an injunction against actual construction of the dam embankment, but it encourages repair of the existing roads in the project area, feeling these roads will ultimately be to the county's advantage. The Senate and House have approved a transfer of \$5.5 million from another Corps project for the road work.

## TWO CAN DO IT

Mark Dubois

"What can I do about the drought?" Amy Oxman and Barbara Swain decided to find out what they could do in one semester at Southern California's Clairmont Colleges. They started off with a series of articles and editorials in the student newspaper about the drought and water wasting. The group Water Works was formed to distribute fact sheets educating people in the amounts of water they use and methods to cut down their consumption. As helpful reminders, the group printed little messages that popped up all over campus: "don't flush every time," "turn off the water," "wash clothes with a full load," and "stop that drip."

Next Amy and Barbara approached the campus maintenance staff about repairing leaky faucets, not over-watering, and installing water saving devices in the showers and toilets. Under their direction, water became the focus of an annual campus event. Added to the traditional games, music, and poetry, were films and demonstrations about water conservation, panels of experts from the Department of Water Resources, L.A. Power and Water, Audubon, and FOR. Participants learned about the state's overall water picture and gained a new appreciation for water.

Lastly, Amy raised enough water consciousness to talk the necessary parties into devoting at least half of a new campus park to a garden of beautiful native vegetation. Unlike green grass or exotic plants, this garden will flourish with a minimum of water.

Lowering our water consumption is a slow process. The drought is helping to wake up people to this precious commodity. FOR is especially excited to see the amazing change effected by only two people.

## NAMBE FALLS DAM

*Salute to Excellence*

Debbie Dohm

In an uncanny anniversary toast to the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, Nambe Falls Dam, 25 miles north of Santa Fe, New Mexico, has sprung a leak — in fact several — like her Idaho sister, Teton Dam. Just one year after Teton collapsed (June 5, 1976), we find the Bureau emptying Nambe Dam at the prompting of Guy Martin, new Assistant Secretary of the Interior. New Bureau Commissioner, Keith Higginson, gave the problem immediate attention. It seems Teton was not unique in "innovative design and safety." Could the Bureau's honeymoon with Western Water be breaking up?



On the Banks of Hat Creek

Photo courtesy of Cal Trout

## Cosumnes River State Park

Bill Paterson

Since 1961 a State Park of 3,450 acres has been planned for the forested bottomlands at the confluence of the Cosumnes and Mokelumne Rivers in southern Sacramento County. These riparian forests have been virtually eradicated from the Central Valley. Since the first plans, over a thousand acres in the area of the proposed Cosumnes River State Park have been clear-cut and converted into irrigated fields. Due to the passage of the 1974 bond act, ample money is now available to the Parks and Recreation Department for purchases of lands for the park. Acquisition is scheduled for this coming fiscal year.

The riparian forests under consideration are primarily composed of a dense growth of cottonwood, willows, and Valley Oak. This type of habitat supports a greater density and variety of wildlife species than any other in the state.

Why isn't this land a State Park already? The answer is that the people who own the land do not want a park of any kind there or in any other area of riparian woodland. Farmers have already stopped parks at Delta

Meadows, at Old River Islands, on the upstream portions of the Cosumnes River, and on the Feather River. Just this last year in Butte County, the DiGeorgio Corporation clear-cut many acres of prime riparian forest just so it could not be used for a park. It is obvious that the big farmers have taken the mile and now want the last inch of our riparian forests.

Early this year the farmers prevailed when they interested Assemblyman Norman Waters in convincing the Parks and Recreation Department to temporarily put off acquisition. Vigorous support by Senator Albert Rodda and the Sacramento County Board of Supervisors resulted in an acceptable compromise: one million dollars to purchase the best of the riparian habitat — about 800 acres. In spite of farmer opposition to the compromise, and partly as a result of some recent clearing, the purchase is expected this year. The idea of the compromise is to preserve the riparian forests, leave the farmers their fields, and keep park development to a minimum.

# Rapid Changes on Tuolumne River

Bob Hackamack

Beside its rugged beauty, the most interesting aspect of the Tuolumne River is the rapid changes government policies and developers' plans undergo. This article lists some of the latest changes, which are nearly all sad news for lovers of flowing streams.

*Fishermen who visit the Tuolumne this season between Hetch Hetchy and Early Intake should fill in creel census forms available at roadheads. Records of fishermen use in the area will help justify the release increase recommended by the Conservation Agencies in their Flow Study issued last August.*

A hearing on the Flow Study, which is an outgrowth of an agreement between San Francisco and the Department of Interior, was scheduled for March 18. It was put off until April 22 and then postponed indefinitely. FOR, Sierra Club, four fishing groups, and Citizens to Preserve the Tuolumne River have filed a joint petition to participate in the hearings whenever they occur.

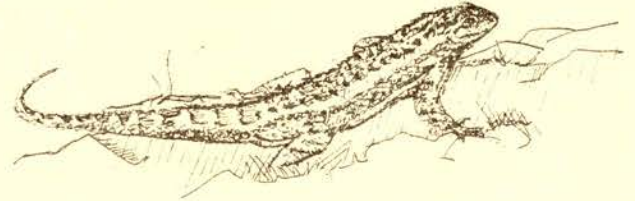
San Francisco asked the Interior Department to REDUCE flow in the above mentioned stretch to supply 10 gallons more water each day to every City customer. The Sierra Club asked that this request for reduction be denied because of the lack of "demonstrable reasonable need." They also suggested the City put some of its idle wells into operation in S.F. and Alameda Counties and press Lobos Creek into service again.

The Interior Department has not yet replied to S.F.'s reduced flow request. The City in the meantime, has started using Lobos Creek and is drawing plans to activate 15 wells which could supply 3 gal./day/customer. The City is also negotiating for the purchase of State water next year.

Last year San Francisco and their friends Modesto and Turlock Irrigation Districts filed for a preliminary permit before the Federal Power Commission for building three dams on the section of the Tuolumne River now under study for inclusion in the Wild and Scenic River System. Although a preliminary permit would not authorize construction, the developers would gain access to the canyon for blasting and geological digging which would lead directly to a request for license to build in 1980. FOR, Sierra Club, the Department of Fish and Game, and the Department of Navigation and Ocean Development each filed a petition for intervention,

feeling a preliminary permit is a violation of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act with this portion of the river under study. Tuolumne County also intervened, wanting free water from any project built.

Before Congress can decide whether or not to add the Tuolumne (probably in 1980), a Study Report and an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) must be issued on the wild river proposal. In an unusual move, Congressman John McFall has leaked a "working



paper" edition of the draft EIS to the Tuolumne County Board of Supervisors, who in turn have given it to the dam proponents. Mr. McFall was the Congressman who sponsored the Tuolumne Wild River Study Bill in 1974. Because the draft praises the wild river qualities of the Tuolumne, developers and local politicians are screaming that it is unfair. Strangest of all in this drought year is how Tuolumne County Supervisors can be so agreeable with the very people who export their local water, which they have been fighting unsuccessfully to protect.

Last, but not least, is the Court fight between Modesto and Turlock Irrigation Districts and the U.S. versus the City and County of San Francisco on enforcing a provision of the Raker Act which calls for sale of Hetch Hetchy power to be based on cost. S.F. has been charging whatever the traffic will bear — the same as PG&E rates. The City made 34% profit on \$20 million in sales last fiscal year. The first hearing in this suit is set for late June.

The Draft Wild River Study is now scheduled for release at the end of this summer, but that is not a firm date since change is a part of the Tuolumne story. One thing is for sure: people who value flowing streams will be working to preserve the Tuolumne.

## PHOTO EXHIBIT

The Grand Reception for "Condemned Rivers of the Motherlode" was a smashing success! This exquisite exhibit, containing portraits of the Stanislaus, Tuolumne, and South Fork American, is on its way to the Smithsonian. See it now at Oakland Museum's Natural Sciences Exhibits Gallery, 1000 Oak St., Oakland. Photographers: Don Briggs, Bill Center, and Ron Pickup.

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