



# HEADWATERS

Official Publication of Friends of the River



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Editor: Kathy Meyer



"You who understand — behold this river! It expresses what is voiceless in me. It prays for me!" Neihardt, John G.,  
*The River and I*, 1968, University of Nebraska Press, Lincoln.

*Photo by Michael Fahey*

*Friends of the River*  
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## EDITORIAL

A change in life style or irreversible disaster is our choice NOW and everyday hereafter. If you think your tiny bit of waste does not matter, you are *wrong*—everyone thinks that way.

The vast wilderness known as America shudders beneath 200 years of "progress." Our wild wooded frontiers are disappearing under concrete and the heavy foot of twentieth century technology. "Bigger and Better" is no longer true when clean air, potable water, and wilderness retreats are vanishing forever.

Historically, we have been a nation of affluence and abundant waste with the underlying assumption that whatever we have wanted, existed, and could be bought. Because we have grown up in a rich land, we have frequently advanced without wisdom and caution. Now, it will take everyone working together, religiously, to reverse the American myth of "there is always more where this came from" and "consume until gone: conserve when forced."

People balk at the idea of doing with less. Habits are engrained and seem monumental to change. Luxury is so easy. How hard is it, really, to turn off the lights as you leave a room, put in a new water-saving shower head (available from FOR and some water districts), or turn down the heat a notch and put on a sweater????

The motivation to conserve becomes quite compelling after a gaze at the clear blue sky of the high country; a brief encounter with the forest critters; a surprise, sunny clump of wild flowers; or a lazy nap near the trickling and gurgling of a flowing stream. *Get ye to the wilderness or a quiet walk in the woods: then come home and fix your leaky faucets!*



*River Kate*

## Friends of the River - Who's That?

We are Friends of the River: you, I, and all of us who are concerned about preserving California's and the nation's last free flowing rivers. FOR is a completely volunteer, "people energy," organization; a grass roots political body; and an educational center for all people interested in preserving rivers. Born in the fight to save the Stanislaus, we have grown into a statewide network with long range goals.

FOR is researching the current status of all California rivers - who is attempting to dam them; who, if anyone, is organizing to protect them. We can provide ideas and resource material to anyone interested in protecting their local river. We are researching overall state water planning and conservation techniques and have set up channels of communication with regulatory agencies, politicians, and the media. We are gathering an outstanding reference library and beginning an educational program: speakers, films, and conservation literature are available to interested schools and groups. You are reading the first issue of our newsletter which will be published every two months!

As FOR launches into many critical races to save rivers, you are invited and urged to help in any and all of our activities. Our most urgent needs are listed in the Want Ads section. If you received an attached membership card, HEADWATERS will continue to arrive for about the next year. Otherwise, you may become a member to



continue receiving the newsletter. Please use the membership form on the last page. If there has been a mistake in your membership, please let us know.

Our office/house in Sacramento is almost always open for anyone who would like to help save rivers, for a few hours, a few days, or just stop by and say "hello."

We are anxious to hear from you!!

Director: Mark Dubois

Secretary: Nancy Magneson

Treasurer: Tom Lovering

Steering Committee: Bruce Raley, Bill Center, Jenifer Jennings, Robin Magneson, Kathy Meyer, Alexander Gaguine, Bruce Simbala, Debby Wilson, Brad Welton

Auxiliary Committee Members: Susan Chavez, Marty McDonnell, Shelly Sach, Jeff Jones

## Whitewater President!

Jenifer Jennings

A river-loving kayaker as President of the Nation? Yes, that's Jimmy Carter, a proven environmentalist, running for President.

Carter was given an "outstanding" rating on his environmental record by the League of Conservation Voters in their intensive analysis of Presidential candidates. Reagan was awarded a "bad" score, while Ford was rated "hopeless". As governor of Georgia, Carter courageously and successfully halted an Army Corps of Engineers' dam on the Flint River. In 1974, Carter came to California to help Friends of the River in the Proposition 17 battle to stop New Melones Dam on the Stanislaus River. Now, as the Democratic nominee for President, Carter has asked Friends of the River for a detailed study of the New Melones Dam. Carter has stated many times that he would like to get the Army Corps "out of the dam building business".

Environmentalists have been frustrated for years with Congress, which has been of little help in halting destructive federal water projects. Most Congressional representatives go along with the tradition of not voting against a project which has the support of the local Congressman, otherwise known as the "pork-barrel" system. Just ten short days after the Teton Dam disaster, Congress passed a record appropriations bill for Corps of Engineers and Bureau of Reclamation projects. The Environmental Policy Center in Washington D.C. distributed a list of proposed projects which they considered ill-designed and dangerous (including Auburn Dam in California) to all Congressional representatives. Yet, the old pork barrel rolls on as funding was granted for all the projects.

In light of Congress' disposition to give the Corps and Bureau exactly what they want, we desperately need a strong friend in the White House. A Carter Presidency is truly an exciting prospect for conservationists and friends of rivers throughout the nation. Jimmy Carter needs and deserves our active support.

# Tuolumne Threatened Again

Marty McDonnell

The Tuolumne River, flowing through the Western Sierra's wild and rugged terrain, is the stage upon which John Muir led one of America's most significant conservation battles. The Raker Act of 1913 enabled the city of San Francisco and the Modesto and Turlock Irrigation Districts to construct a reservoir within a national park. Hetch Hetchy Reservoir inundated what preservationists called almost a mirror image of the grand Yosemite Valley nearby.

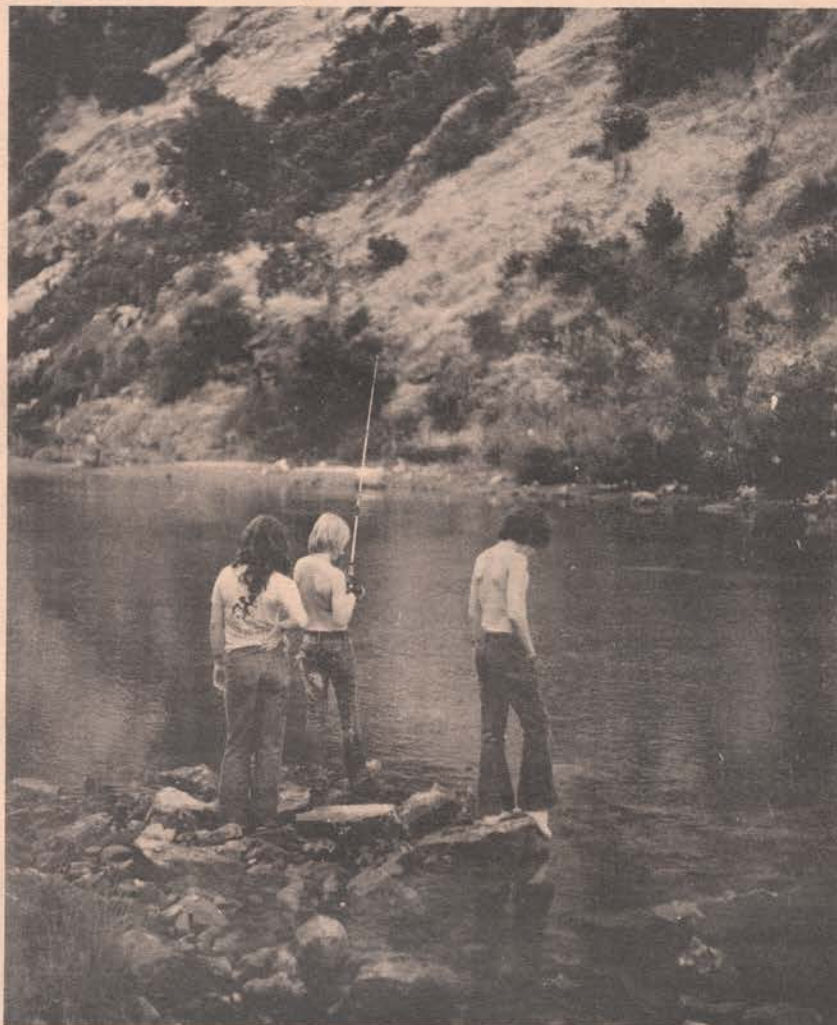
Today plans are being developed to dry up and flood what remains of the Tuolumne in order to generate more electricity; an exchange we cannot allow. The Modesto and Turlock Irrigation Districts have filed for a permit to build three more diversions and San Francisco is soon to join this venture.

On January 3, 1975, Congress authorized studies of the Tuolumne to determine if it is to be included under the protection of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. Inclusion as a part of this system would effectively prevent any future construction of impoundments or diversions. The first stages of this involved study are completed. The Study Team (U.S. Forest Service, Bureau of Outdoor Recreation, U.S. Park Service, and Bureau of Land Management) has already conducted public workshops and is drafting an Environmental Impact Report which should be finished February 1, 1977. The report will then follow a long path of

bureaucratic channels where it will be modified, collecting numerous signatures, on its way to Congress and eventually the President's signature.

It is the duty of the Study Team, and Congress to determine which use of the Tuolumne will provide the most benefit to the nation. If dammed it will only benefit San Francisco and the Modesto and Turlock Irrigation Districts. It is our duty and our

task to be sure our representatives are aware that the nation will best benefit by leaving the canyon in its present state. **THIS MEANS YOUR VOICE COUNTS. IF YOU DO NOT HELP THE TUOLUMNE, WHO WILL? WRITE YOUR CONGRESSMAN AND THE SAN FRANCISCO PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION, CITY HALL, S.F., CA. 94102.**



When a reservoir is created, a river is gone forever. Will future generations want a choice?

*Photo by Bruce Raley*

## UNANIMOUS OPPOSITION TO TUOLUMNE DAMS

Alexander Gaguine

At a special hearing of the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission on July 27, FOR joined over a dozen other groups and individuals testifying against plans to develop and destroy 27 miles of the main stem of the Tuolumne River for hydro-electric power. The public input was unanimously opposed to allowing Hetch Hetchy Water and Power (a department of the S.F.P.U.C.) to apply to the Federal Power Commission for a permit to begin the proposed 3-dam, \$473 million project.

Oral Moore, director of Hetch Hetchy, led off the meeting, attempting to justify the project and requesting permission to make the permit application. The public testimony, which included statements from San Francisco Community Action Project, FOR, two energy experts from Lawrence Berkeley Laboratories, Sierra Club, Fly Fishermen's Federation, American Canoe Club, river rafters, private kayakers, and concerned S.F. citizens, thoroughly attacked the project as economically irresponsible, destructive to a precious natural resource, and shortsighted in terms of energy plan-

ning. These speakers particularly emphasized: the overestimation of the cost/benefit ratio, 1:1.64; the impropriety of San Francisco incurring further bonded indebtedness for a huge project, with most of the power being sold elsewhere, if it can be sold at all; and the need for energy conservation rather than new power projects - a position also taken by Mayor George Moscone. The strongest theme was the magnificence and uniqueness of this last free flowing stretch of the Tuolumne. Several speakers called for the P.U.C. to at least hold off on any decision until the Federal Wild River Study Team issues its draft

Environmental Impact Statement in February, 1977.

Disappointingly, only two of the five P.U.C. Commissioners showed up at this well-attended, spirited, public meeting. The Commission will vote at its August 24th meeting on whether to apply for a permit. Your letters to the P.U.C., City Hall, Room 287, S.F., CA, 94102, opposing the project are needed before that date, as is your attendance at the August meeting. Check with Community Action Project (415/431-9256) or FOR to confirm the time and place and for follow-up information. Don't let them dam the T!!

# FOUR DAM PLAN ON CHILI BAR RUN

Jon Runnestrand

The 23 mile stretch of the South Fork American River between Chili Bar and Folsom Reservoir is one of the most delightful whitewater recreation streams still flowing in California. This section is especially popular among private boaters, commercial rafters, and sport fisherman. Last year an estimated 35,000 vacationers floated this river. The South Fork has been recommended by a Citizens Committee, appointed by the Corps of Engineers, as a mitigation area for the loss of whitewater on the Stanislaus River that will be inundated by New Melones Dam.

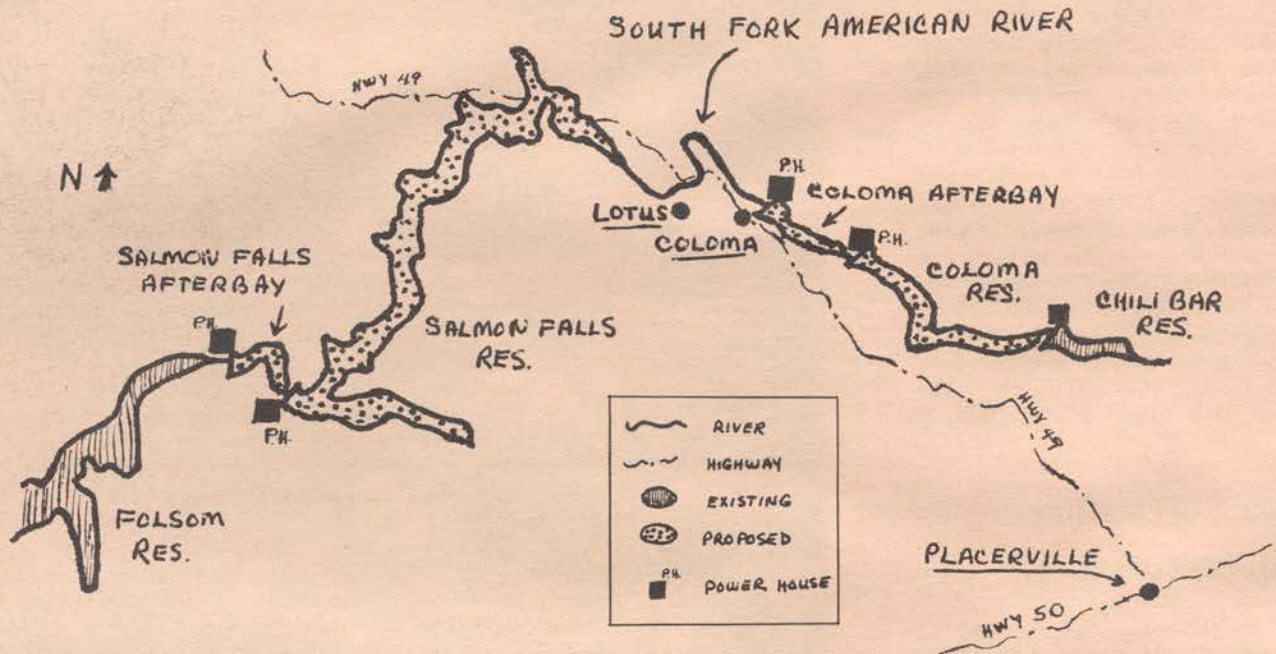
Last winter the El Dorado County Board of Supervisors voted to discourage rafting on the South Fork American. Claiming they have received complaints from land owners about trespassing, nudity, and littering, they are now attempting to pass laws that would make river running illegal.

But, as the Board of Supervisors continues their quest to restrict and diminish rafting, the real reasons begin to emerge. The El

Dorado Water Agency has resurrected a \$200 million hydroelectric project for four dams that would choke the South Fork. They are worried that visitors could become opposition, actively interested in river preservation.

Proposed Four Dam Project: A 250 foot structure located just upstream from Folsom Reservoir, with a smaller afterbay, would create a backwater of nearly 11 miles up river to Lotus. Coloma Dam would rise 160 feet near the California Gold Discovery Site and would back water upstream to Chili Bar Dam, a distance of about 7 miles. A smaller afterbay would be located immediately downstream. Only a short four mile reach of gently flowing river would remain.

El Dorado County has applied to the Federal Power Commission for a preliminary license to build these dams. FOR lawyer, Brian Kimnitzer, has filed an intervention petition with the FPC. We will continue to watch the progress of these projects.



California Democratic Council on a merry ride down the South Fork American River!

Photo by Bruce Raley

# Democrats Pass Stanislaus Resolution

At its Executive Meeting on August 7, the California Democratic Central Committee passed a strong resolution supporting the preservation of the Stanislaus. Wallace Albertson, president of the California Democratic Council, introduced the resolution (below) which was enthusiastically passed by nearly a unanimous vote.



## NORTH COAST RIVERS

The Wild and Scenic Rivers System, established by the legislature in 1972, protects California's North Coast rivers from dam builders (two stretches of the American River have since been added.) The System also allows for protection of the river corridor via land use planning. Corridor protection can come from recommendations of a local advisory committee, appointed by state and local officials. If developers are permitted to control this planning process, the canyon lands and riparian habitats will disappear. If you get involved, these corridors can be preserved. Watch your local papers or, to be a part of the early planning stages, get in touch with the Department of Fish and Game, 9th and N Streets, Sacramento, CA 95814

## STANISLAUS STATUS

In spite of a strong campaign this spring by Friends of the River, Senate Bill 1482 was unfortunately tabled by a 4-4 vote of the Senate Natural Resources and Wildlife Committee. However many thanks are due Dixon Arnett, the legislative co-authors, and all of you who contributed time, money, and spirit, which helped to permanently establish Friends of the River as an influential political force. FOR expresses a very special thank you to our valiant knight in shining, white armor: Senator Peter Behr!

Future plans are in the making. We have discovered some surprising new sources of influential support for the Stanislaus River. Stay with us on this one - we do not intend to back off New Melones Dam.

### RESOLUTION FOR THE PRESERVATION OF THE STANISLAUS RIVER

**WHEREAS:** The upper Stanislaus River, one of California's last remaining free-flowing rivers, has been called by the State Water Resources Control Board "a unique asset to the State and Nation", and is visited each year by tens of thousands of Americans who enjoy not only its excellent whitewater sports, but also fishing, picnicking, swimming, cave exploring, and simple enjoyment of its natural beauty; and

**WHEREAS:** The Army Corps' of Engineer's and Bureau of Reclamations' New Melones Dam;

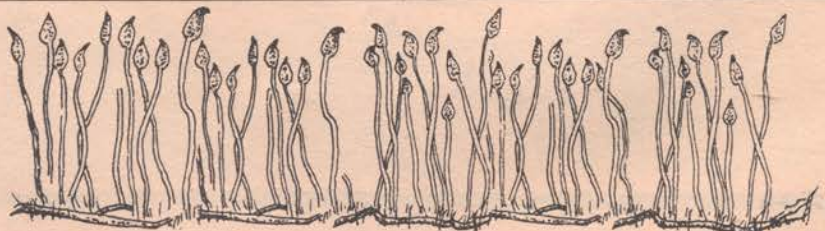
- (A) Would forever inundate and destroy this unique and popular river;
- (B) Has been shown to be economically unjustifiable, costing more than it will ever return in economic benefits; and, that it will cost taxpayers an additional \$175 million to complete, at a time when funds are desperately needed for other projects (i.e. sewage systems for urban areas); and
- (C) Is much larger than necessary for its stated purposes, capable of storing twice as much water as the State of California has authorized, except that a Federal Court ruled last year that the state can have no say in the operation of New Melones or any other federal water project; and
- (D) Has very recently been shown to be situated within two miles of a newly discovered, active earthquake fault.

**WHEREAS:** Proposition 17, a Citizens' Initiative in November 1974, was defeated by large contributions from corporations such as P.G. & E., ARCO and the construction companies engaged in building the dam; and by confusion - a poll taken after the election showed that 59% of the voters had thought they were voting against the dam - (a 'YES' vote meant NO dam); and

**WHEREAS:** Opposition to the project has been expressed by our future President, Jimmy Carter, and by Governor Jerry Brown and continues to be expressed by thousands of Californians;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:** That this body immediately call upon the Governor, the Legislature and the Congressional Delegation of California to halt construction of New Melones Dam as it is presently planned, thereby safeguarding the safety of Californians' living below the dam; regaining from federal bureaucrats California's right to budget and control its own water resources, and preserving our beautiful Stanislaus River and Canyon for future generations; and that all necessary implementation be provided.

**SUBMITTED BY:** WALLACE ALBERTSON, PRESIDENT CALIFORNIA DEMOCRATIC COUNCIL AUGUST 6-7, 1976



# Failure Warnings on Auburn Dam – Another Teton Risk?

Bruce Raley

"A disturbing similiarity exists between the Bureau of Reclamation's reaction to warnings of failure on the Teton Dam and to the possiblity of failure of the Auburn Dam," stated Larry Moss, Executive Director of the Planning and Conservation League.


Jasper Holland, President of the Association of Engineering Geologists, an organization of over 2,500 professional geologists in 37 countries, has warned the U.S. Commissioner of Reclamation, "Auburn Dam, as presently designed, would be unsafe in even a moderate earthquake, such as that at Oroville on August 1, 1975. Failure of this dam would send a 100-foot wall of water down the River, topping the

Folsom and Natomas Dams and crossing metropolitan Sacramento."

The Auburn Dam is planned to hold water that would back up nearly 20 miles of both the North and Main Forks of the American River. A recent "what if" study, prepared by the School of Engineering and Applied Science at U.C.L.A., has shown that should Folsom Dam fail at full pool, as many as a quarter of a million lives could be lost. Property damage was estimated at \$666 million. No one has calculated the losses should both Folsom and Natomas collapse as a result of an Auburn failure.

One hundred fifty million dollars has been spent on building diversion tunnels, a visitor overlook, access roads, and scraping the

hillsides to provide a solid base for the dam. Despite Senator Cranston's position that no money should be appropriated until studies can determine the safety of the structure, the House Appropriations Committee responded by giving the project \$4 million more than the President's budget requested.

The Bureau has commissioned a study to re-evaluate the structural safety of the dam in the event of an earthquake. If the study reaffirms what engineering geologists have warned, much of the money spent this year will be wasted. However, construction continues while this design study is in progress. 



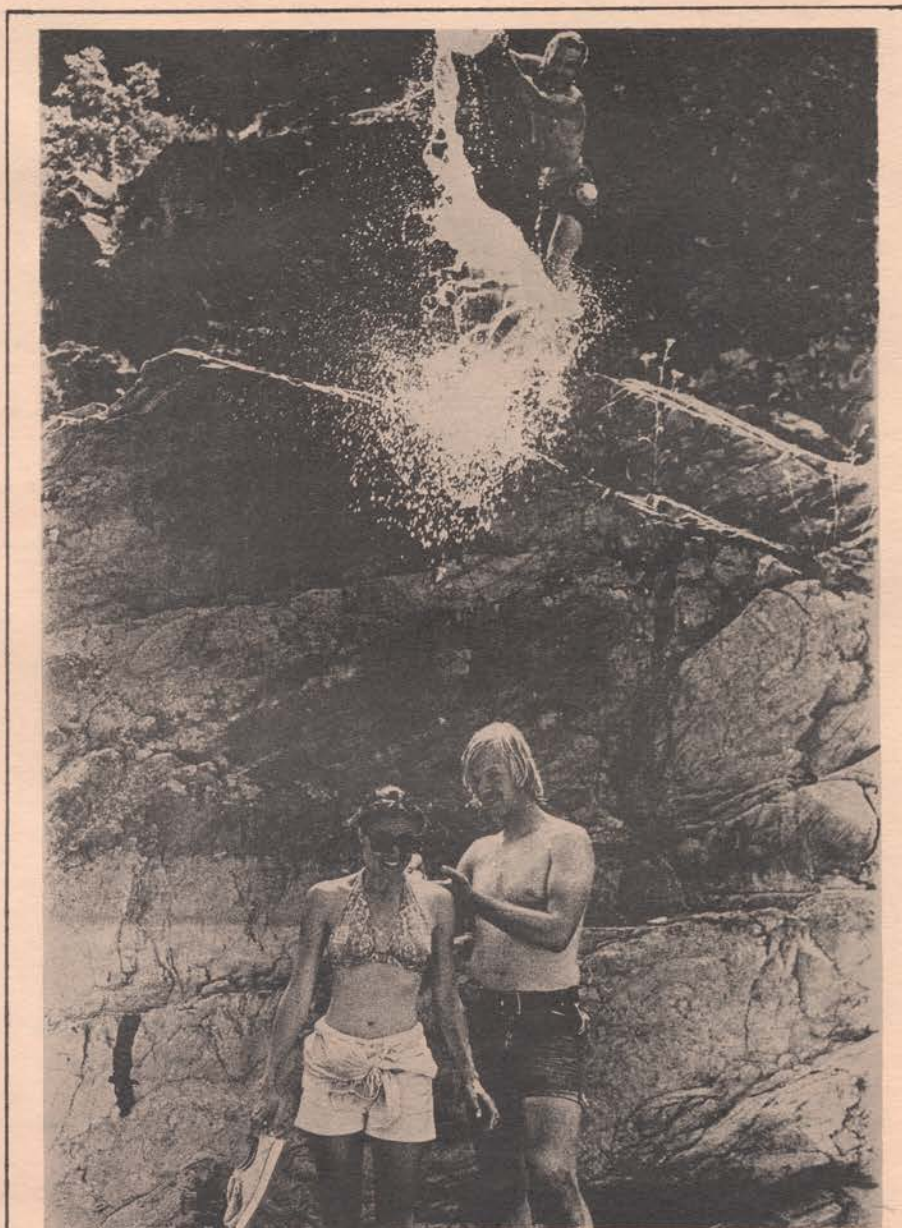
## Save Rivers at Home

### \* Water \*

1. Take shorter showers and 1/2 baths (install a water-saver shower head)
2. Displace water in the toilet tank with plastic bottles or by bending the bulb slightly
3. Buy water-conserving appliances
4. Don't run water while brushing your teeth or washing dishes

### Power

1. Turn off lights, radios, and T.V.'s when not in the room
2. Insulate your house, keep the furnace lower, wear a sweater
3. Keep the air conditioner's thermostat higher, close up the house in the morning to keep it cooler
4. Investigate solar heating, many licensed companies can assist you and special tax breaks exist



A sneak attack by the wild ledge-dwelling river rat, *Aquarius Bucketus*.

*Photo by Michael Fabey*



## WANT ADS & ANNOUNCEMENTS



GOVERNOR BROWN'S OFFICE contains an outrageous FOR Photo Display of the Stanislaus, South Fork American, and Tuolumne Rivers. Don't miss it.

Please help "River Watch" by sending articles or local news clippings related to conservation, rivers, dams, water, pollution, etc., to the Sacramento office: 1611 S Street Sacto, CA 95814.

Black & White Photos needed for the newsletter.

TEACHERS AND STUDENTS look into doing your field work or independent study as a part of FOR - grass roots politics, conservation, research, education, publicity, whatever.

POSTERS, POSTCARDS, T-SHIRTS, and BUMPER STICKERS are available for you to buy or to help us sell.

### Bulletin 194

This impressive booklet diagrams in bright colors all existing reservoirs, future diversions, and the remaining few miles of unchained river planned for California. You can obtain a free copy by writing the State Department of Water Resources, Sacramento, CA 95814

FUND RAISER needed desperately. Someone with talents or just plain energy who is willing to organize a money making event. Lots of fun resources exist. (Want to meet Charlton Heston or Paul Newman? Just call FOR!)



## THANK YOU

Your individual efforts and energies are what has made Friends of the River what it is. There is no way we can thank you enough.



## BOOK CORNER

*The Monkey Wrench Gang*, Edward Abbey, published by J.B. Lippincott. "This book, though fictional in form, is based on historical fact. Everything in it is real and actually happened. And it began just one year from today," says author Abbey in the prologue to this outrageous, engrossing trail of escapades designed to eliminate billboards, earthmovers, bridges, power plants, and whatever else is unfortunate enough to be used in altering the landscape and attracting the attention of this merry band. The book gives humorous treatment to the environmental rape of

our countryside with rather impractical, but enjoyable, courses of action. For the hearty, basic reader looking for a good time with an underlying whallop.

*Damning of the West*, Richard Berkman, published by Grossman, 1973. How is it the unneeded Federal projects started by the Bureau of Reclamation continue costing us more than we can afford and end up costing us more we can't afford? Written by a concerned group of environmental researchers for Ralph Nader, this book exposes the unheard stories of environmental disaster caused by the Bureau projects in the Western States. Includes an extensive bibliography of articles and journals.



# JOIN FRIENDS OF THE RIVER

If you received an attached membership card, you will continue to receive HEADWATERS for a year. Please let us know if there has been a mistake in your membership.

My \$10, \$25, \$50, \$\_\_\_\_\_ membership will help support FOR as an on-going political and educational program to protect rivers. I will also receive HEADWATERS for one year (6 issues.)

My \$5 membership will cover the cost of receiving HEADWATERS for one year.

I cannot afford any money, but I am a Friend of the River! Keep me on your mailing list for special *Action Alerts*.

I would like to be a volunteer. My interests are:

office work	archaeology	engineering
legal work	economics	entomology
media	research	geology
fund raising	printing	biology
lobbying	flying	other _____

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