

I am David Kay and I was involved in the early campaign to save the Stanislaus. Jerry Meral and I began collaborating in the early 70's, encouraging public and governmental awareness of the need to save the river. Our work culminated in Prop. 17.

While the struggle for the river continued long afterward, and new guardians of the river fought even harder... years have passed and the river as we knew it ~~was~~ <sup>has</sup> gone.

But the lessons of the Stanislaus have never been lost. Indeed, starting with the last days of the river, water policy in California has never been the same - rivers and conservation have standing in the political process - with thanks to Friends of the River. Jerry Meral and I are proud of what FOR has become and proud of its accomplishments and on-going determination.

At this point in time, looking back and forward, my question is: What about the cost-benefit justifications for New Melones? Have they been achieved? Or were they, <sup>overmisstated</sup> as we first suspected,

What about  
payback and  
mitigation?

And, if so, what are the facts? And, if so, should the people, the people of the river, take action against the dam proponents, the ones who perpetrated the real hoax, <sup>in doing so</sup> ~~in breach of~~ <sup>co-conspiring to misstate benefits and</sup> ~~misusing~~ tax-payer dollars in breach of fiduciary responsibility, and ~~in breach of~~ the public trust.

And, if so, perhaps we can find a way to regain and restore the river after all.

Thanks - it's a pleasure to be here.