

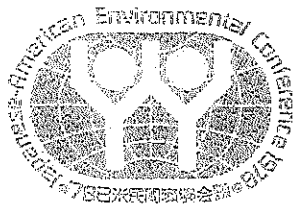
July 21 to 28 1978 Yokohama, Japan

Please accept my salute to the Stanislaus, a river I don't know yet for all my sixty-six years in my native state, and my salute to all of you who are working so hard to keep the river wild and alive.

Thanks to the newspapers that have pierced the veil of secrecy that has kept the federal government's "Global 2000" report hidden from us, we can see that the kind of thinking that led to the New Melones dam is bankrupt thinking. It grew out of the tired old idea that conservation and dams are synonymous. We know better, and we wish the Corps of Engineers would catch up with the public and the society's new needs. We wish the Bureau of Reclamation would catch up too.

The global 2000 report, which I have seen but which is still under wraps, embargoed until too late, is not a pleasant one to look at. It shows all too clearly what will happen to us if we go on the way we are now going, the way the destroyers of the Stanislaus stubbornly insist we blindly continue.

There is no law that requires us to use every last damsite in our time, leaving none for generations that will need tame water more than we do. There is no law that requires that we deny our children the joy



July 21 to 28 1978 Yokohama, Japan

- 2 -

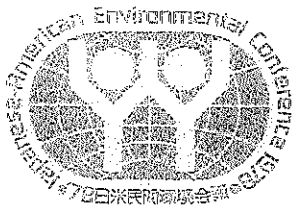
of knowing a river that is wild and free.

There is no law requiring that we demand more and more of material things at our children's expense. There is no law that requires that old habits and appetites be satisfied in the same old ways until California is as unattractive as the places people came here to escape, or until it is a border-to-border Los Angeles, ~~so~~ with breathable air only for those who place their orders early.

There are no such laws. We are not required to make California tame, then ugly, and finally unlivable. There is, instead, an ethic, and we must insist that the federal government, the state, and even the independent government of the dam-building agencies, should observe, ~~now~~ and henceforth.

For our children, a world every bit as beautiful as our own. A world developed <sup>for commerce</sup> ~~but way~~ in enough places, but not in all places. A world with all the wilderness left alive that our finest science, technology, and humanity can contrive to keep alive, wilderness holding, as it does, answers to questions we have not yet learned how to ask (Nancy Newhall's great perception).

The dam is there, but its river valves do not require to be closed. Let there be a careful analysis of the means of keeping them open for



July 31 to 28, 1978 Yokohama, Japan

- 3 -

our time, to be chosen when they absolutely must be, but not a moment sooner. What would the cost be, and what the benefits? What is the ethic here? What is the real cost, to whom, of tearing asunder, for a momentary benefit, ahead of absolute necessity, ~~something~~ an ecosystem that it is utterly beyond humanity's ability to restore?

We don't know. We can <sup>insist on</sup> afford to ~~find out~~. ~~We cannot afford not to do it.~~ In the words of one of California's greatest conservationists, Newton Drury, California is not so poor that it must sacrifice ~~the~~ great places, nor so rich that it can afford to.

We would like Friends of the River and Friends of the Earth to join, and be joined, in a move that is long overdue:

Get the Corps of Engineers into work that we need. Put their great skills into different work. Stop plugging rivers. Get our railroads back on good track instead.

Sign up now!

I'm sorry I'm not with you. I'm glad you all are.

- Ulaer Brown  
President, Friends of the Earth  
August 25, 1978  
(for the next day)