



SIERRA CLUB - REDWOOD CHAPTER

P. O. Box 466, Santa Rosa, California 95402

Dear Friends,

The Sierra Club and Friends of the River ask your help on two pressing issues: The Peripheral Canal Referendum, which must, in one month, gain the signatures necessary to place it on the June 1982 ballot; and the Omnibus Wild and Scenic Rivers Bill – including the Stanislaus River Canyon – on which Congressman Don Clausen will vote in subcommittee, possibly as soon as August 25.

The outcome of each of these issues will have strong bearing on the fate of the north coast rivers.

PERIPHERAL CANAL REFERENDUM

“It’s time to reform California water policy,” says Mark Palmer, regional vice-president of the Sierra Club. “The Peripheral Canal is too important an issue to leave to Sacramento politicians. Powerful water interests have bullied their way through the legislature, refusing reasonable efforts at compromise. A referendum would allow Californians to vote directly on whether to build the Peripheral Canal.”

Palmer says that the Sierra Club has bent over backwards to try to reach accommodation with such water users as the Metropolitan Water District, Tejon Ranch and Southern Pacific. “Each of these efforts has been scorned and rebuffed. This referendum will bring the water interests back to the negotiating table in a less arrogant frame of mind,” Palmer said.

Please sign the enclosed petition and return it as soon as possible — whether it has two signatures on it or ten. All the signers on any one petition must be registered voters in the same county, and the “Declaration of Circulator” at the bottom of each petition must be filled out completely or the signatures will not be valid. In Sonoma County, return petitions to (and get additional petitions from) Alan Siegle, 4823 Bennett Valley Road, Santa Rosa, California 95404. Petitions from other areas should be sent to California Coalition Against the Peripheral Canal, 1107 9th. Street, Room 1023, Sacramento, California 95814. Disregard the address in the right-hand margin of the petition. Please return all petitions by September 21.

OMNIBUS WILD AND SCENIC RIVERS BILL – INCLUDING THE STANISLAUS

The Omnibus National Wild and Scenic Rivers Bill, now before Congress, contains protection for California’s most embattled river, the Stanislaus. Among other rivers which may also be included in the bill are the lower American (California), the North Umpqua and Illinois (both in Oregon), and the Little Peedee, Myakka and St. Lucie (all in Florida). The bill has no number as yet, but takes the place of H.R. 4223 (Edwards), which would have provided protection for the Stanislaus alone.

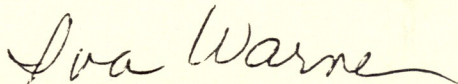
The Omnibus Bill not only protects the magnificent, living Stanislaus Canyon in the central Sierra, but also makes the most economical use of the federal government's New Melones Dam by using it to provide an efficient, moderate-sized reservoir rather than a massive one. Limiting the reservoir to sixteen miles saves nine miles of river – probably the most popular wilderness recreation area ever threatened with complete destruction. The compromise also sets a precedent – it insists upon the careful, conservative development and management of water, especially by agriculture, rather than the current practice of cheap, taxpayer-subsidized water, and development of new supplies whenever they are demanded regardless of real need. This precedent is especially important now, when San Joaquin Valley interests are calling for the damming of the Eel River.

Congressman Clausen has not firmly indicated how he intends to vote on the Omnibus Bill and the Stanislaus. As ranking Republican on the National Parks Subcommittee, he will influence a great many votes, both there and on the House floor. We know that there is tremendous support for him to vote "yes" to save the last of the Stanislaus, and we think, in this election year, that we can convince him to vote "yes."

Please write, or write again, to Congressman Don Clausen (House Office Building, Washington D.C. 20515), asking him to support the Omnibus Wild Rivers Bill, and to make sure that it includes the Stanislaus. Because Mr. Clausen may vote in subcommittee very soon, please try to send your letters (or telegrams) by August 21.

It would be extremely helpful if you could send copies of your letter to Senators Alan Cranston and S.I. Hayakawa (Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510).

For our rivers and water resources,



Iva Warner, Chair, Redwood Chapter, Sierra Club



Alexander Gaguine, Jeanie Larkins, Friends of the River

RALLY FOR PASSAGE OF THE OMNIBUS RIVERS BILL AND PROTECTION OF NORTH COAST RIVERS: Thursday, August 21, 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
Court House Square, Santa Rosa

Speakers include Mark Dubois, director of Friends of the River, and Supervisor Brian Kahn.
Music by Kip Setchko.