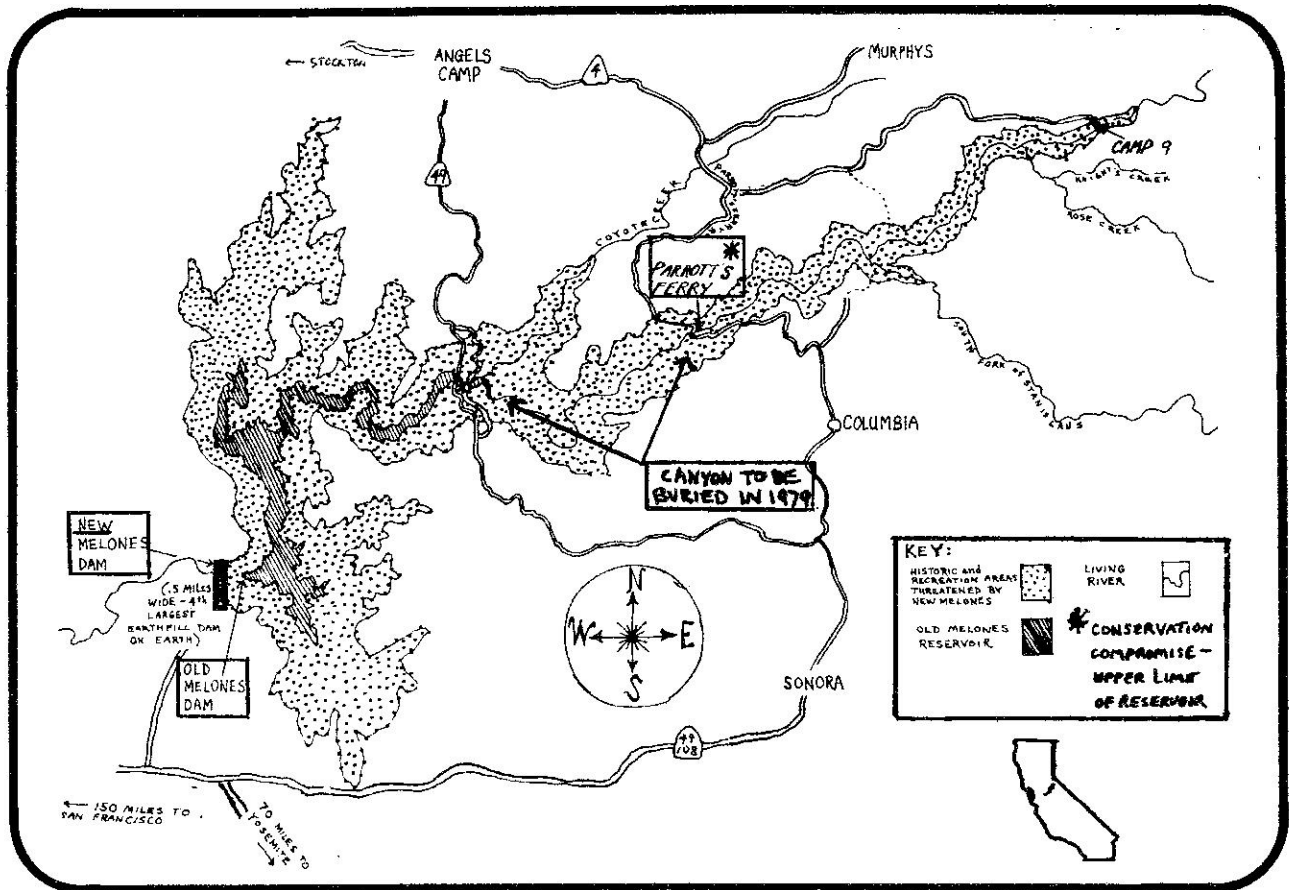


# BURIAL OF THE STANISLAUS RIVER CANYON BEGINS

SAVE THE CANYON ABOVE PARROTT'S FERRY  
SPRING 1979 - YOU CAN HELP!



- CAMPAIGN TO LIMIT FILLING OF NEW MELONES DAM...P. 2
- WITNESS and ENCAMPMENT IN THE CANYON.....P. 3
- OUR POINT OF VIEW.....P. 4
- JOIN F.O.R. ....see attached coupon



**FRIENDS OF THE RIVER**

401 San Miguel Way, Sacramento 95819 (916) 451-9955  
Bldg. 312, Fort Mason Center, San Francisco 94123 (415) 771-0400

# What is Happening?

The filling of the Army Corps of Engineers' New Melones Dam has begun. The Stanislaus River Canyon - in the Sierra Nevada foothills - is being destroyed. We can still save the much-loved upper section of river canyon, the ten miles above Parrott's Ferry.

This is the most popular whitewater boating river in the Western United States and the most popular wilderness recreation area ever to be faced with permanent destruction. The Stanislaus is a symbol of the plight of the rest of our last rivers and wilderness.

The state already contends that much of the Stanislaus River Canyon should be protected. But the decision on this beautiful area is now in the hands of the U.S. Congress; they authorized the dam 17 years ago, unaware of the future popularity of the river canyon and the values many people would find there. They can now mandate that the New Melones Dam be partially filled. The decision is really up to us.

WE CAN HAVE A RESERVOIR AND A RIVER TOO. Many Federal and State officials agree that there is no need to totally fill the giant reservoir. Along with many Californians, they know that it is senseless to destroy the river when our water and power needs can be met by wise management and conservation of these resources. Consider the water and energy waste you see everyday; then consider the value of the Stanislaus.

## Contact Your Congress Member

WRITE: (Your Congress member's name), HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING, WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515 (or phone the district office).

Ask him or her to request the Carter Administration to protect the upper Stanislaus River Canyon - NO FLOODING ABOVE PARROTT'S FERRY. Express your personal feelings for the canyon. More letter ideas are on the back page.

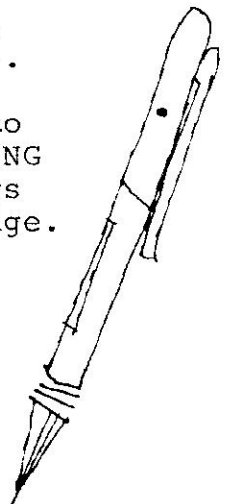
VISIT: Contact Friends of the River if you would like to be part of a group to visit your Congress member at his or her district office.

IF YOU CAN WRITE MORE LETTERS (OR MAIL COPIES OF YOUR FIRST), send them to:

- Sens. Alan Cranston and S.I. Hayakawa, Senate Office Bldg., Washington, D.C. 20510
- Gov. Jerry Brown, State Capitol, Sacramento, 95814
- Pres. Jimmy Carter, White House, Washington, D.C. 20500
- U.S. Bureau of Land Management, 2800 Cottage Way, Sacramento, CA. 95825

(recommend protection of the Canyon in National Wilderness System.)

- The editor of your local newspaper



# The Witness and Encampment

YOU ARE INVITED - FOR AN HOUR, A DAY OR A WEEK

The Stanislaus River Canyon Witness & Encampment is a continuous camp by the river. The camp is starting out at the old town of Melones (where old Highway 49 crosses the river) and will move upstream toward Parrott's Ferry -- always next to the place where the river is being stilled, then buried, by the rising reservoir.

The Witness and Encampment is:

LEGAL - We have permission for it from the Bureau of Land Management and the Army Corps.

IN A BEAUTIFUL LOCATION - The river is running strongly from the Spring snowmelt, the canyon is blooming with wildflowers, and the foothill days are usually warm (but be prepared for rain or cool weather).

EDUCATIONAL - People are forming in groups with family, friends and neighbors to witness and record the process of this unnatural destruction of a living place. It will help us to understand what is happening to the Stanislaus below Parrott's Ferry, and to most of our other remaining rivers and wilderness.

CREATIVE - Artists and photographers, writers and teachers, wildlife defenders and community leaders, and many others are recording the destruction and devising ways to share what we have seen with the general public.

NON-DESTRUCTIVE TO THE CANYON - The Stanislaus River Canyon is a community of life with a long history of human occupation. We are being extremely careful not to impact the canyon, its artifacts, or its life. There is an excellent chance that the upper canyon will be saved from flooding by New Melones Dam. WE WILL NOT INTERFERE IN ANY WAY WITH ARCHEOLOGICAL SITES OR WORK.

COMMITTED - The Witness & Encampment is part of the campaign to protect the Stanislaus River Canyon at least above old Parrott's Ferry Bridge, and to protect the remaining pieces of California's wild lands and rivers.

Many diverse people are coming to the Witness & Encampment. We will make sure the burial of the lower canyon will be the most public destruction of a wilderness area in history. We must also make sure that all of our statements and actions express why we are there.

Groups for the Witness & Encampment are forming all over the state. To find out about one forming near you, or for suggestions on forming your own group, contact Friends of the River (address & phone on front page). WE URGE ALL GROUPS TO ARRANGE AN ORIENTATION SESSION WITH F.O.R. BEFORE TAKING PART, IN ORDER TO REVIEW LOGISTICS AND ANSWER ANY QUESTIONS.

# Should the Stanislaus Be Buried Forever?

The Stanislaus River Canyon, with its towering limestone cliffs and a rich community of life, is magnificent in its natural beauty. Americans have lived here for many centuries, with thousands of other living creatures.

RECREATION - The Stanislaus is now a part of the lives of a large community of boaters and hikers, gold miners and cavers, anglers and others --- all enjoy its magic and freedom. According to the BLM, 90,000 visited in 1978 alone. Where will they go in the future to experience such a place? Where will you and your children go?

ARCHEOLOGICAL RESOURCES - The entire canyon has been determined eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. The rich heritage of over 700 Gold Rush and Miwok Indian sites is there for anyone to visit and learn from.

FISH & WILDLIFE - If the dam is totally filled, 17,000 acres of land and its wildlife will be buried or destroyed, including endangered species. Downstream, the King Salmon run would be reduced, by up to 90%.



# Do We Need a Full New Melones Reservoir?

WATER - Agriculture, which takes 85% of all water used in the state, always has demanded more water and always will. Yet additional water supplies do not necessarily translate into more food and fiber for society. Furthermore, the federal Central Valley Project, of which New Melones is a part, does not yet seriously consider water conservation. Water DEMAND is not the same as water NEED.

Filling New Melones to Parrott's Ferry will store nearly three times as much water as the old dam which is being covered over. Saving the upper Stanislaus will provide far more to the human spirit than destroying it could ever give to our stomachs.

ENERGY - If completely filled, New Melones Dam's hydroelectric turbines would supply 1/3 of 1% of California's electricity. Need we destroy such a place when many times this amount of power could be saved by any number of energy conservation practices?

FLOOD CONTROL - The huge dam will control all floods regardless of filling level.

STATE & NATIONAL WATER POLICY - President Carter has insisted that water conservation and environmental sensitivity must be the cornerstone of water management and development. Governor Brown has stated that we are creating artificial wealth by consuming the present and stealing from the future. The State has officially declared the Stanislaus "A UNIQUE ASSET TO THE STATE AND NATION."