

PROP. 17

THE RAFTERS' RIP-OFF

VOTE "NO"

Proposition 17 is the "Rafters' Rip-Off . . ."

A tiny band of rafting enthusiasts, financed by commercial outfitting companies who charge their customers \$60 per day, are hoping to halt construction of the New Melones Dam on the Stanislaus River.

The New Melones is the last hope for the dying Stanislaus and will provide recreation for hundreds of thousands of Californians . . . inexpensive public recreation.

The rafters challenged the project all the way through the Federal Court system. The courts found the challengers' case to be without merit.

Calling themselves "Friends of the River" these elitists want to put nine miles of "whitewater" on the Stanislaus into the Wild Rivers system. If they succeed, the planned dam cannot be built.

HERE ARE THE TRUE FACTS:

The loser in this issue will be the lower Stanislaus River which is **dying** from pollution, being stripped of its salmon spawning gravel beds and streamside vegetation, and squeezed dry by agricultural and urban intrusion.

The River is anything but wild or natural: It already has 11 dams and the "**wild**" white-water stretch is **furnished by a PG&E pipeline!**

The Class IV Whitewater to be "saved" by Proposition 17 is only five percent of the State's Class IV whitewater, and supports an exclusive sport for only 6,000 rafters.

"NO" ON 17 WILL ALLOW THE PROJECT TO CONTINUE

The Government is bound by the courts' findings to acquire the Lower Stanislaus riverbanks to halt further encroachment on the river, **if the dam is built.**

The Government is committed and bound to preserve and restore the downstream fishery and wildlife habitat and to open 10 new public access areas for camping, swimming, fishing and small boating, **if the dam is built.**

New Melones Lake will provide over 320,000 visitor days (or an expected average summer weekend population of about 6,800 visitors) in three new recreation areas within three years of completion, **if the dam is built.**

The new lake with its 100-mile shoreline will ultimately provide 4,000,000 recreation days in six woodland areas, **if the dam is built.**

Cold fresh year-round water flows are legally conserved for restoring the fishery and flushing pollutants from the River, **if the new Melones Dam is built.**

WHAT DO THE RAFTERS REALLY WANT?

They want to continue to operate exclusive river trips at an average price of \$300 a week per person. This July, they went so far as to obtain an injunction against a **high school's** river trips in order to keep their monopoly on the River.

They want to prevent creation of family recreation for a possible 250,000 persons, in order to keep their river adventures (complete with the evening campsite date with a martini shaker and a chef to barbecue the steaks).

The two foremost speakers for the so-called "Friends of the River" have admitted in public print that they "never laid eyes on the river" before the initiative qualified for the ballot. What do they want?

WHO SUPPORTS THE PROJECT?

Conservationists who live on the Stanislaus see the dam as the salvation of the dying river.

The newspapers which originate in the area are shocked by the narrow-minded selfishness of the so-called "Friends." Among the advocates of the New Melones are the Sacramento Bee, the Modesto Bee, Stockton Record, and the Sonora Daily Union Democrat, the second oldest daily newspaper in the State.

The manager of the U.S. Olympic Slalom Canoeing Team praised the new whitewater area that will be provided by the project. The founder of Ecology Action Education Institute is working for it. Past presidents of the Sierra Club and the Audubon Society are taking time from their occupations to prevent the thoughtless devastation that would be wrought by the so-called "Wild Rivers Initiative."

The California Department of Fish and Game, the Stockton Audubon Society, the Yokuts Wilderness Group of the Sierra Club, and the Stanislaus Fly Fisherman's Society all support the project.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF THE DAM IS NOT BUILT?

\$60 million has been spent on the project. \$26 million more was lost through delays caused by the litigation. Another \$30 million will have to be spent, if the project stops, in order to return the landscape to its former shape.

Agriculture, gravel mining and pollution will continue to destroy the lower Stanislaus.

Hundreds of thousands of Californians will be deprived of family recreation for the sake of a few elitist rafters.

The continued monopoly of commercial raft outfitters will prevent seasonal employment for thousands of workers and thousands of building trade and allied jobs.

THE RIVER KILLERS WANT TO CON CALIFORNIA VOTERS

This 'wild' initiative seeks to deprive all of us of the project's outstanding recreational and environmental benefits.

DON'T FALL FOR THE ENVIRONMENTAL CON ACT OF 1974,

THE RAFTERS' RIP-OFF.

Vote NO on Proposition 17.

CALIFORNIANS AGAINST PROPOSITION 17, JOHN HERTLE, Chairman
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