

THE STANISLAUS CAMPAIGN

NEWS

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April 1980



Welcome to this issue of the Stanislaus Campaign News. The times are busy, but the mood is good.

TAKE ACTION NOW!!!

WRITE

1. TARGET OF THE MONTH: Your local member of Congress, House Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20515.

Follow up on the letter you wrote last month! Ask specific questions. Set forth new ideas. Use some of the energy and flood control arguments outlined in this issue promoting the moderate reservoir. Request again that your representative support H.R.4223 to include the Stanislaus River in the National Wild and Scenic River System.

If your Congress member is already a supporter of H.R.4223, ask if he would please take a leadership role in the fight to save this most precious resource.

AND...If you did not get around to getting that letter written last month, please take a little time to do it now. It is important, and it does matter. As Congressman Norman Mineta said to Mark and Sacramentan Cathy Duncan during a previous Dam Fighters Conference in Washington, "Well, you know how it will really go: if I get a handful of letters and calls on an issue, I pay attention to it. If I get a few dozen letters or calls I'll investigate it carefully. If I get hundreds of letters or calls, I'll usually vote with the majority of them." Please, write today.

Very Important: Send a copy of this letter to Senator Cranston, and if you have a little more energy, send one to the White House too!

Senator Alan Cranston
Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

President Jimmy Carter
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

2. SPECIAL TARGETS: Do you live in Pete McCloskey or Vic Fazio's Congressional district? If you do, please write to them. They need more letters of support. They are wavering because of the energy issue. Maybe you have time to become pen pals with these gentlemen. If you need more information, call the FOR contact nearest you!

3. ENDORSEMENTS: One of the latest comes from 3 of the 5 members of the Santa Barbara Board of Supervisors. That's Congressman Lagomarsino's district! Help keep the list growing!

New contact person: Cheryl Miller, Bay Area Office.



LATEST BREAKING EVENTS

AB 2164

The grassroots energy has been amazing in the last few weeks. Norm Waters thought he could slide this "fill 'er up" bill through with no problem. Sorry, Norm. Too many people see your action as parochial and valueless.

On March 20 the Assembly Ways and Means Committee passed the bill out on a 11-9-1 vote. It needed 11 votes to get out.

Read on ... →



Then on March 28, the bill went down to defeat on the Assembly floor. The bill needed 41 votes. Waters could only find 39. Assemblymen Mike Gage, Gary Hart, Lawrence Kapiloff, Henry Mello and Tom Bates led the floor fight against the bill. (Thank you would be nice!)

By the time you get this the bill may have slipped through the Assembly. But all of your letter writing, telegramming, and phone calls have had an ENORMOUS impact. The Governor is expected to VETO the bill and an override attempt looks very dismal. Grassroots energy helped to clear up dam proponent misinformation and prevent an expected landslide for the bill. What a great victory! Thanks to you all.

Letters on this issue should go to your State Senator asking that he/she vote AGAINST A.B. 2164. (State Capitol, Sacramento, CA. 95814)

Special thanks to many volunteers who helped lobby in Sacramento: Jim Morgan, Cathy Duncan and Steve Menicucci from Sacramento; Laurie Pavey from Oregon; Brenda, Dave, Anne and Craig from Angels Camp; Marty Booth, David Dickson, Don Harriman, Michele McGrady from Vallelito, and Bob Fields from Avery. Also, Rob, Keith, Mary, Jeannie, Laureen, Georgia and Lee from the North Coast Chapter of FOR for helping to change Doug Bosco's mind. And thanks to all others who have been helping, like the folks from Environmental Traveling Companions (E.T.C.).

The Capitol always needs some river every flowing through it so they don't make decisions in a vacume. So, keep in touch with your legislators and come by when you are in Sacramento.

UPDATE ON DOWNSTREAM RELEASES

The more water that is released from New Melones Dam, the less will back up into the reservoir, the less the canyon above Parrott's Ferry will be flooded this Spring.

Last fall, Secretary of Interior Cecil Andrus promised 5,000 cfs in the channel downstream at most times. On March 24, Andrus announced that the maximum flows for the rest of 1980 would be 3500 cfs. The reasons were:

1) the difference in the effects on the upper canyon between releases of 3500 cfs and 5000 cfs would be insignificant. (In fact, this difference equals 3000 additional acre feet of water stored in the reservoir every day, and 90,000 more acre feet per month. That is nearly an additional mile of river inundated each month; and there are only 9 miles left!)

2) H.R.4223 has not yet moved in Congress (But how would Secretary Andrus have felt if timber companies had begun clear-cutting while he was Governor of Idaho and trying to build political support for his Salmon River Wilderness?)

3) Orchards downstream inside the river levee system and flood plain "safe channelway" might be impacted. (We don't have a dollar figure but the loss would probably be in the neighborhood of \$50,000 to \$100,000. Naturally the river canyon is worth \$0 under this argument by the Department of Interior.)

Use these arguments in a letter to Secretary Andrus. (Department of Interior, Washington, D.C. 20240), and please send a copy to Joe Nagel, Special Assistant, Department of Interior, 2800 Cottage Way, Sacramento, CA. 95825. Ask that downstream releases be increased. Thank you.

REPORT FROM WASHINGTON, D.C.

Mark, Catherine, Tom Huntington and Doug Linney recently joined Shortcutt and Jennifer Jennings in Washington, D.C. to attend the annual Dam Fighters Conference and to put in some time educating for the Stanislaus in the Capitol city. Representatives from over half of the states gathered at the Conference to hear speakers (including Secretary Andrus), and to share causes, successes, strategies, and enthusiasm in the fight to protect our remaining free flowing rivers.

During their stay in Washington, Friends of the River staff visited members of Congress and their staffs, people from the White House and representatives from the Department of Interior. The effectiveness of grassroots energy was dramatized as Friends of the River representatives found those members of Congress who have received lots of letters from their constituents to be most interested in learning details of the issues involved in the New Melones-Stanislaus arguments.

Sincere thanks to the Environmental Policy Center (EPC) and the American Rivers Conservation Council (ARCC) for again putting on a successful conference and for the help and hospitality extended to the Friends of the River visitors from the west coast.

ENVIRONMENTAL BILL OF RIGHTS - URGENT - PLEASE RETURN PETITIONS NOW!



250,000 petitions were distributed. So far, 15,000 have been returned. The absolute deadline is May 1. Please gather up any and all petitions you have (even those with only a single name) and send them NOW to: ALLIANCE FOR A HEALTHFUL AND PRODUCTIVE CALIFORNIA, 717 K Street, Suite 209, Sacramento, CA. 95814. Give the Environmental Bill of Rights one last big push. Time is running out. Thank you.

STANISLAUS WILDERNESS ACTION COMMITTEE (SWAC) --- Melia Bosworth gives us this report:

SWAC, a group representing the ever increasing number from the disabled population who have been enjoying the Stanislaus for the past decade, met with Joe Nagel, Special Assistant to Secretary of the Interior Cecil Andrus for 3 hours on Friday, March 28 to discuss the present operation of the New Melones Reservoir.

The main objectives of SWAC have been 1) to gain higher releases out of New Melones (and Goodwin Dam) in order to remove as much water from the reservoir as possible to get the water level down so that it won't go so far above Parrott's Ferry during spring runoff, and 2) to help publicize the fact that the Stanislaus River is the most popular and accessible wilderness area for disabled people in the state, and probably in the world. To inundate this river is for some of the blind, deaf, wheelchair confined, low income confined and other participants, cutting off their only exposure to a wilderness experience.

Though he gained an understanding of the special needs, at the meeting's end, Joe Nagel remained adamant about the 3500 cfs release level. SWAC requested that Joe Nagel investigate the projected damage with increases in flows as soon as possible. They also requested a meeting with Secretary of Interior Cecil Andrus.

At 9:30 the following Monday Mr. Nagel called SWAC informing them of an appointment with Cecil Andrus at 4:30 at the Sacramento airport. During the meeting there was a positive and informative exchange between Secretary Andrus, Mr. Nagel and eight SWAC representatives. It ended with Secretary Andrus encouraging SWAC to continue to voice their needs and to do all they could to support HR 4223 adding that "Your fight is in Congress."

REMINDER: FOR FOUNDATION PRESENTS THE FOURTH ANNUAL WILD RIVERS CONFLUENCE ON MAY 9,10 & 11 ON THE U.C.D. CAMPUS. YOU MAY USE THE RESERVATION FORM BELOW. SEND IT NOW. SAVE \$2.00. SEEYOU THERE.

I have enclosed \$18.00 pre-registration. A program, motel list, and map will be mailed upon receipt. Registration at the door will be \$20.00.

Name _____

Phone _____

Address _____

Zip _____

Number in party _____

We are interested in childcare _____

housing _____

Make checks payable to: Friends of the River Foundation
Building C Fort Mason Center
San Francisco, California 94123

INTERESTED IN LIVING UP BY THE STANISLAUS? INTERESTED IN A JOB?

Possible options...

River Trip Coordinator for Friends of the River - You should be familiar with the river community, with operating and maintaining river equipment and with the logistics of running a trip. Guides coordinator - That's supplying the guides with pertinent and updated information on the political river issues for them to share with their passengers.

Contact Laurie in the Bay Office for more information.

THANK YOUS

To Ann Burns who was a regular volunteer (from Davis Chapter of FOR) during the month of March. She is responsible, cheerful, and very hard working. To Laurie Paye down from Corvallis, Oregon for much help with FOR assignments from Sacramento to San Francisco and for baked bread and beautiful guitar music along the way. To Sharin Rowbotham who designed and did all of the work on the Stanislaus Campaign brochure. Her energy and expertise are appreciated so much. And another brochure is in the making! Thanks to Laura Rubin who has put her bookkeeping knowledge and skills to use for FOR, to Gail Hamilton, a great and dependable graphic artist, an excellent calligrapher who puts out great stuff often with short notice, and to Cathy Creager for helping to coordinate the East Bay telephone tree.

Heartfelt thanks to Katherine Higgens for the donation of her GMC Van to FOR Foundation. This is a very generous contribution to our efforts to educate people about the Stanislaus.

Many thanks to Martin Litton of Grand Canyon Dories who enthralled several hundred people in Davis and Marin County with his movie Grand Canyon by Dory and a lively narration. The fund raising events, co-sponsored by UCD, College of Marin and FOR were successful, and very enjoyable too!

STILL NEEDED - a bicycle for Catherine Fox. Anyone who has one to donate to the cause and help cut down on her driving to and from work, please call 415-776-0265.

Thought for the day..."If we change the world, let it bear the mark of our intelligence."

Pass the word on to the politicians...

Is Friends of the River better friends of the dam
than even Friends of the Dam??

More and more people are realizing that this is probably so. Here's why.

Everyone knows that the government has spent \$341 million on New Melones Dam. A few people are adamantly calling for policy makers to fill the reservoir. And many people accept the simple "logic" that since the dam is built it should be filled. But operation of the dam is not such a simple matter. Most people would agree that the dam/reservoir should be operated in such a manner as to reap the greatest return on investment. The government has invested the taxpayers' money in this project and Friends of the River insists on the best use of the dam. FOR insists that the dam be operated properly, not improperly.

FOR has researched the benefits of a moderate sized reservoir in comparison to the benefits of a massive reservoir. The findings show that the best balance can be struck by operation of a moderate reservoir. More specifically, the findings are as follows:

1) Flood Control: The moderate reservoir has greater flexibility to protect downstream lands and river levees during the winter rainy seasons, as demonstrated this year. If the reservoir had been filled during January and February, flows of 8000 cubic feet per second (cfs) or greater would have been released for 27 days in order to make storage space for spring runoff. The moderate reservoir allowed NO days of 8000 cfs flows, only 5 days of 5000 cfs or greater and there were several days with no releases; thus land was protected and crops and money saved.

2) Irrigation Water: The massive reservoir provides 180,000 to 200,000 acre feet (A/F) of water. At the same time the specific or appropriate recipients of this yield have not been determined and systems to deliver the water have not been built or planned. The moderate reservoir provides 15,000 to 35,000 A/F of water.

3) Energy: The moderate reservoir will provide 141 million kilowatt hours. Since there would be little new irrigation water to pump, all or most of this energy will be used for domestic and industrial uses. The massive reservoir will produce more energy but not more for domestic or industrial uses. Project power is planned to pump irrigation water.

4) Recreation: The moderate reservoir would allow for a little less flatwater recreation than the massive reservoir and would allow for the preservation of the extraordinarily precious and rare whitewater recreation upstream.

5) Fish and Wildlife: The moderate reservoir will maintain or enhance downstream salmon fisheries through proper timing of releases. The massive reservoir would destroy 90% of the existing salmon fishery because high spring flows would be captured and would not flush the salmon fry out to sea.

6) Water Quality: The moderate reservoir will provide some water quality releases. Since little new water for irrigation will produce little polluted "return flow," the moderate reservoir will provide moderate improvements in downstream water quality. The massive reservoir would provide minimal improvements, if any.

7) Jobs: The moderate reservoir will guarantee the retention of 375 full and part time river recreation jobs plus 60 new reservoir jobs. The massive reservoir will destroy 375 jobs, adversely impact many small businessmen, and put some OUT OF BUSINESS.

Conclusion: The moderate reservoir provides better flood protection, better water quality, better fish and wildlife protection, more energy for domestic and industrial uses, more valuable and diverse recreation and preserves existing jobs.

The massive reservoir does provide more irrigation water. It has been calculated that this water is equal to that amount needed to produce one Big Mac per Californian per year. (And that is just for the alfalfa for the cattle feed! It doesn't even count the wheat for the buns, the tomatoes for the ketchup, etc.)

The Stanislaus River Canyon: Isn't it reasonable to insist that preserving this exceptionally popular wilderness recreation river is worth a lot more than a few Big Macs? The Canyon is irreplaceable and it must be preserved. It is impossible to place an economic value on natural wonders. The Stanislaus River Canyon continues to change a great many peoples' lives. It nourishes their spirits...our spirits. The moderate reservoir provides great benefits to a large number of Californians. The massive reservoir would provide small benefits to Californians.

* Spread the word. Share the truth...with your friends, with the politicians. Let them know that you know the real story. Contact Dick in the Bay Office for copies of handouts on "The Comparative Benefits of a Massive and a Moderate Reservoir Behind New Melones Dam" and "The Promise and the Reality of New Melones Dam."

MEDIA EVENTS

On Friday, March 14, Mark and Megan discussed the Stanislaus issue on radio KGNR. They did a fantastic job!

On Thursday, March 20, Channel 6 presented a 1 hour and 45 minute special panel on California Water issues. Panels discussed the Peripheral Canal, the Tuolumne River and New Melones Dam. Ron Robie, John Hertle and Dick Roos-Collins were on the last panel. The show was great and so was Dick! At the end of these two programs several people called to tell FOR that they had been against the river at the beginning of the programs but had changed their attitudes. It was GREAT!

NOTE: Upcoming event. A debate between Dick and Mark and Friends of the Dam on April 21 on KGNR. That's 1300 AM from 8 - 11 p.m. Don't miss it!



REGIONAL HIGHLIGHTS



NORTH COAST

With Nancy Reichard becoming a full-time Graduate student, Jeannie Larkins and Mary Kelley have become the new directors of NCFOR. Activities continue here for the Stanislaus as well as for the North Coast rivers. Several FOR members recently were in Sacramento and met with their state senator Barry Keene, and Assemblyman Doug Bosco. Brad went along for the meeting with Assemblyman Bosco and discussed the economic aspects of New Melones. When AB2164 came to a vote on the Assembly floor, Bosco voted AGAINST the bill although he had been a coauthor! YAHOO! The group also spent some time at the Stanislaus. After coming down and seeing what has been happening at the river for themselves, they report that it all "makes more sense." They are now back home with even more motivation for saving the Stanislaus. They continue to work on getting endorsements for HR 4223. The city council of Arcata is one of the latest additions to the list.

Friends of the River fund raising raft trips are going to be held on the Trinity River on the last week-end in April and the 2nd and 3rd week-ends in May. Call Mary, 707-822-9438 for more information.

MOTHER LODE



The Mother Lode Chapter of Friends of the River now has an 8 member Board of Directors. They are busy with various activities including

- **organizing river trip fund raisers April 20th and 26th. A \$25.00 membership in FOR gets you a free river trip. Call 532-8605 to book!
- **having interviews with local candidates for Supervisor and Congress
- ***continuing to seek endorsements for HR 4223
- ****doing a full page Modesto Bee ad on flood control and other benefits of a moderate reservoir
- *****getting mailing lists and the organization whipped into shape, and
- *****using the phone tree to recruit letters against AB 2164

SACRAMENTO CITY COLLEGE

The SCC Chapter is now publishing a Newsletter, and it's beautiful! Alright! Issue #2 focused on AB 2164 and AJR 58. Issue #3, coming out very soon, will focus on HR 4223.

April 24, the chapter will have another music and politics fund raiser from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. on the school quad. Members are planning to assist at the California Wheelchair Games April 17-20 at the college and are working out ways to be sure everybody is aware of the Stanislaus as a recreational resource for the disabled. Members are also carrying most of the load of a massive voter registration drive on the campus. Chris Bradfield, longtime FOR person, provided the initial impetus and energy to get the drive going.

LOS ANGELES --- Report from Craig Wright



March saw FOR in Los Angeles organizing to fight AB 2164 with great success. A large number of members of the Assembly were convinced to oppose AB 2164 and support the river. Even more gratifying has been the enthusiasm with which FOR members and friends have called and written their representatives and enlisted their friends to do the same. Thanks to all. Your enthusiasm is contagious.

The top priority for April is to greatly expand our already good grassroots network.

SONOMA-CLAUSEN CONNECTION - a report from Dianne Poslosky

The 3 point PLAN (GRASSROOTS, ENDORSEMENTS, MEDIA) has been well greased and is rolling right along....

GRASSROOTS - We have called lots of folks who have been down rivers in California and the letters are flying in to Clausen. Lots of enthusiasm! Mark spoke to a receptive and inspired crowd at Sonoma State College.

ENDORSEMENTS - Have received quite a few endorsements ranging from Sonoma County Tomorrow to Foppiano Vineyards and the Great New Construction Company (both big supporters of Clausen). Clausen's main aide in the area has been really receptive but it is yet to be known if he can reach his boss.

MEDIA - Have done a couple of radio shows and gotten a few editorials in to local newspapers.

I know Clausen has been hearing our voices ringing, but we still don't know which side of the fence he'll jump to when it's time to vote; or if the political pieces will fall into place to swing him our way. Keep letters going in to him. Hope to have a meeting with Clausen in a week or two.

Friends of the River
401 San Miguel Way
Sacramento, CA 95819

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U.S. Postage Paid
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Sacramento, CA

MELINDA WRIGHT
P.O. BOX 852
KNIGHTS FERRY, CA 95361



SANTA BARBARA

The Stanislaus Campaign News

The Santa Barbara Chapter continues to get endorsements for HR 4223. They are working to secure Congressman Lagomarsino's vote - a particularly important vote because he is one of only five Californians on the House Interior Committee. He has softened his public stand from negative to non-committal.

PLEASE NOTE: Roberta Jortner's correct address is 6774 Trigo, #4, Goleta, CA. 93017, 805-685-2266.

EAST BAY

About 30 enthusiastic people showed up for the East Bay organizational meeting last month and now they are getting moving. Kevin Gallagher and Jeffrey Herz are the volunteer coordinators for this new group and will be assisted by Karyn Taylor, Oakland resident of the FOR staff.

First activities include participation in Earth Day in the East Bay and in a Peripheral Canal sculpture project in the Emeryville mudflats in cooperation with Water Watch regarding S.B.200.

DAVIS

The Davis Chapter just had their first meeting of the new quarter. New people joined old members and activities scheduled include; gearing up for events on Picnic Day (April 19) and the Whole Earth Festival (May 2,3, & 4); A raffle planned with prizes of trips down the Stanislaus; an FOR benefit raft trip on April 20; and helping out with the FOR Foundation Confluence.

The group had a mass mailing to 600 Sierra Club members in Davis encouraging them to write letters in support of HR 4223. And a bit of good news! The Water Use in California class has become a part of the regular course catalog. FANTASTIC!

UPDATES ON THE STAFF

We are pleased to welcome Betty Andrews as our new Research Director. She continues the excellent tradition established by Tom Burton and Rick Hardie. Betty graduated in the Department of Technology and Human Affairs from the School of Engineering at Washington University in St. Louis. She has already settled in to the research office, trailing telephone cords and getting buried under mounds of paper...

All of us at FOR thank Rick Hardie for his guidance and leadership in the Sacramento office during the last 8 months. All of us will miss his down-home spirit, style and humor. Rick will remain in touch at his new base of operations near Redding. Thanks, Rick.

Alexander Gaguine, recently back from Los Angeles after Santa Barbara, is in the North Coast for a week, from there it's ... (We'll let you know next time where he went from there!) Dianne Poslosky deserves great commendation for her 2 months of excellent organizing in the Santa Rosa-Sonoma area. Thanks Dianne.

"Speak to the earth and it shall teach thee."



For the Stanislaus,
Carol
friends of the river



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