



FRIENDS OF THE RIVER

Bay Area Office • Bldg. C. Fort Mason Center • San Francisco, Ca. 94123 • (415) 771-0400

Dear Friend,

The waters are rising behind the New Melones Dam and with each new storm that hits our state the treasures of the Stanislaus River Canyon are being inexorably destroyed.

That's right! Interior Secretary James Watt and his federal bureaucrats have decided to flood our treasured Canyon even though their own lawyers told an Appeals Court that they would release enough water from behind the dam to protect the Canyon.

Now, with our national government defying all reasonable attempts at compromise and our state government paralyzed by the political clout of powerful agricultural interests, we need your help more than ever. *The Stanislaus River Canyon needs your help more than ever.*

The fight to save the Stanislaus, the Tuolumne, the American, and all our other great rivers has demanded so much of our resources since Watt came to office that our bank account is nearly drained. *If we don't hear from you in the next three weeks with your contribution of \$25, \$35, \$50, \$100, or more if you can, we may not have the funds to carry on the fight.*

Things are that desperate. If we don't act quickly, the Stanislaus, as we know it, will be gone by next Summer—flooded under the waters of the New Melones Dam. And we cannot act without your immediate support. We must have the funds to wage the political and legal battles necessary at this crucial time.

At the same time, there is another important fight for water reform going on in California that deserves your support. It is the campaign to put the Water Resources Conservation and Efficiency Act on the November ballot. That proposition will help curtail future damming and diversion of our rivers and it will set limits on when and how the New Melones Dam can be filled.

Because that initiative is so important and because our own financial needs are so immediate, we have reached a special agreement with the California Water Protection Council, which is sponsoring the ballot initiative. They are paying the cost of this mailer to help us. In return, we agreed to share the proceeds from the mail with them because we are allies in this critical fight for water reform.

What that means is that you get double impact for your contribution. Every dollar you contribute will go directly to help Friends of The River carry on the *fight to save our rivers.* And at the same time it will help the Water Protection Council *promote the most important water policy reforms of our lifetime.*

Your continuing generous support has made it possible for us to protect the life of the Stanislaus River Canyon the past three years. So, think carefully. And when you write your check, be sure you are doing everything you can to support these two vital efforts. But please, do it now. The waters are rising. Every day brings us close to losing our beloved Stanislaus River Canyon. Only you can make the difference.

For our rivers,


Catherine Fox
Director


Mark Dubois
President

P.S.—There are two more important things you can do to help right now.

1. At the same time you send in your check, get two or three friends or relatives to join you in signing the enclosed initiative petition to help qualify the water reform initiative for the ballot. *(You all must be registered to vote.)* If you can send your check and your signed petition in one envelope, that would be great. If not, please send your contribution now and send along your petition later. **BUT REMEMBER—deadline for turning in signatures is mid-April. So act now.**
2. Write a letter to Assembly Speaker Willie Brown and Senate President David Roberti, State Capitol, Sacramento, CA 95814. Tell them you support the state's fight to save the Stanislaus. Also, send copies of your letter to your local State Senator and Assembly representative so they will know you care.