

RIVERWATCH

SAVE THE AMERICAN RIVER ASSOCIATION, INC.

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FALL - 2005

Progress is being made toward an American River Flow Standard

by Felix Smith

On September 8, 2005 the Bureau of Reclamation agreed to support the Water Forum's flow regime. The intent of a Water Forum flow regime is to keep fish resources and other aquatic life in "good condition" per Fish and Game Code Section 5937.

The California Department of Fish and Game, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Marine Fisheries Service (NOAA Fisheries) have agreed to support the Water Forum's flow regime for the Lower American River.

The regulatory minimum flow regime is approximately 800 to 1750 cfs with Chinook salmon spawning conditions about 2,000 cfs or more in many years depending on ARB hydrology, upstream storage and CVP storage. A temperature component is also a part of the flow regime to protect summering over steelhead and to provide water temperature protective of holding adult Chinook salmon and to provide water temperature for spawning and egg incubation.

Summer and early fall water temperatures should be less than 65 F degrees with water temperatures of 58 to 60 F degrees during the Chinook salmon and steelhead spawning, egg incubation and rearing.

The Central Valley steelhead is listed as ***threatened*** under the Federal Endangered Species Act and their Evolutionary Significant Unit encompasses the American River. The American River has a high conservation value for steelhead. The general meaning here is that the American River provides those physical and biological features that are essential to the conservation of the species and that may require special management considerations or protection.

This flow regime is an important tool in protecting the fish resources and aquatic habitats of the Lower American River. SARA has been in the forefront in fighting for a flow standard that is protective of the Chinook salmon and steelhead resources of the American River. The Bureau of Reclamation operates Folsom / Nimbus Dams and Reservoirs for multiple purposes including water for irrigation, municipal and industrial uses, hydroelectric power, recreation, water quality, and flood control and fish protection. The Folsom / Nimbus project is operated under a State Water Resources Control Board permit issued in 1958 called Decision 893. The Flow Management Standard when approved by the State Water Resources Control Board will become a condition of the Bureau of Reclamation's water right permit for the operation of the Folsom / Nimbus Dams and Reservoir projects.

Still to be agreed upon is a team of players on the River Management Group and its role in managing the American River as an integral part of the Central Valley riverine system, agreement with upstream water right holders and a monitoring program must be formulated. Also the Bureau of Reclamation is to formulate an Annual Operations Plan by May 1 of each year, which will describe how Folsom Project operations will achieve the flow and temperature prescriptions for the various flow regimes. Surface Water Resources, Inc., fishery consultants to the Water Forum have contributed greatly to the development of the Flow Management Standard for the Lower American River.

Stay tuned for updated information or read the Bee.

EDITOR'S CORNER

by Elke Guenter

As our name suggests, SARA's mission has always been the preservation, enhancement and protection of the American River and Parkway. Of course, this 5,000-acre parcel of land with a river running through it does not exist in a vacuum. Hence, SARA at times is forced to step outside the box as water and land use issues become increasingly complex, population pressures continue to mount and priorities continue to shift.

And now, a cataclysm named Katrina has hit the Gulf Coast, but the sheer magnitude of it all has swept across our entire nation----a human tragedy that defies description, that is too immense and complex to fully embrace.

John Adams, President of the Natural Resources Defense Council writes, "As the flood waters begin receding, Americans are also beginning to gain some much-needed perspective on our fragile place in the natural world. Few events in our lifetime have revealed so dramatically the deep interconnectedness between people and nature.

Katrina has exposed the fiction that we can dredge, bulldoze and fill millions of acres of coastal wetlands without paying a price. This disaster has also destroyed the fantasy that we can blithely go on increasing our dangerous dependence on oil--whether imported or domestic. Our oil-addicted economy is just too vulnerable to supply disruptions."

Oil addiction, global warming, wetland destruction, environmental injustice--Katrina has swept them all into our national consciousness.

Will this catastrophic event finally be **THE WAKE-UP CALL** not only here in the River City but throughout our nation? If not, Katrina will be our future.

THANK YOU TO PARKWAY SUPPORTERS

by Warren Truitt, Vice President

The Sacramento County Board of Supervisors agreed to add \$450,000. to the 2005-2006 American River Parkway Budget. 2005-2006 Parkway funding had been originally set at \$3,127,000. or less than 2/10th of 1% of the total County Budget. The proposed amount was actually 20% less than the Parkway funding level of 5 years earlier, and only 39% of the amount the County commissioned *Dangermond Study* stated was the appropriate amount to properly secure and maintain the Parkway.

Thank you to so many of you who took the time to send letters and e-mails to the Board of Supervisors, to voice your support for the Parkway. The appearance by Parkway advocates before the Board, and especially communications from the community -- **your communications** -- made the difference.

More funds would have been better but considering that the supervisors enhanced only a few County agency budgets--primarily law enforcement agencies - Parkway advocates are grateful for the increase which will allow for the additional rangers and more adequate maintenance of this community treasure.

Thank you one and all. I know that many of you pass on these Parkway alerts to other individuals and groups. Thank you for doing so.

The Parkway is truly the community's to save or lose.

As one of many who have spent hundreds of hours on various Parkway issues, as well as hundreds of hours attending meetings and events working to restore the American River's fisheries, this decision by the Board is a huge victory for supporters of the Parkway!

If we fail to save the wetlands, we will be losing more than an economic and aesthetic asset that never be recreated. The loss may also signal an impending and crushing defeat in the larger effort to maintain an environment that civilized man can inhabit.

William Saxbe, U.S. Attorney General, 1974

We are very pleased to share with you Gary Eblen's letter to the County Board of Supervisors. Gary is co-owner of American Fly Fishing on Fair Oaks Blvd.

Letter to Board of Supervisors

by Gary Eblen - American Fly Fishing Co.

I have been the co-owner of American Fly Fishing for over 12 years. During that time I have taken many people from out of town and from within our local area fishing on the American River. Every time I take someone there, whether they are from the Bay Area or Texas or Washington, DC, the comments are always the same. They just can't believe how beautiful it is and how lucky we are to have such a wonderful wild life area in the center of our town. It is without a doubt the single most attractive thing about the Sacramento Metro Area.

When you compare us to other cities in the world...and I have been to lots of them...we really do not understand or take care of our most precious asset and we really don't show it the right way. The right way is to keep it clean, maintained and safe for our local citizens and visitors from out of our area.

With that said, it just astounds me that we can even consider reducing the budget on our Parkway. If anything, we should do even more and talk about what we have right in the middle of our city.

I know the Sacramento Kings are important to our community, but they pale in comparison to our most valued community asset – The American River Parkway. I hope you will think about this when it comes time to consider the budget for our Parkway.

Water is the basis of life
and our stewardship
of it will determine not
only the quality
but the staying power
of human societies.

Sandra Postel

MANY PITCH IN ON LABOR DAY

by Elke Guenter

In an effort to prevent another trashing of the American River and Parkway as had occurred over the July 4th weekend, the American River Parkway Foundation, assisted by SARA and County Parks, spearheaded an effort to recruit other organizations such as the Native Plant Society, SABA and the Bike Hikers to pass out trash bags to rafters in various put-in locations and collect full trash bags at take-out points.

Volunteers manned sites at both north and south Sunrise, El Manto, Ancil Hoffman Park and Goethe Park, also passing out water bottles to whomever needed them.

This proactive trash prevention exercise was very well received by the rafters and was quite successful. Everyone was totally cooperative and quite amazed that volunteers would spend half their day helping them keep the River clean and safe.

6th GRADERS JOIN EFFORT

by Elke Guenter

Kudos to a number of 6th grade students their parents, totalling 33 people in all throughout the day who joined in our trash prevention project at the north Sunrise location. They all attend **Gold River Discovery Center**.

Under the leadership of their enthusiastic teacher Guy Galant, they are not new to environmental projects! They have been involved with **SAVE THE FAIR OAKS BLUFFS** as well as the **TREE FOUNDATION** and have recently also adopted a mile on the Parkway. Mr. Galant is also planning on working with the California Native Plant Society. He added, "This year both sixth grade classes will pick up trash on each of our 10 field trips."

NOTICE TO SARA MEMBERS

Please check the expiration date line above your name. That date was the last date you could have renewed **in order to remain current. It also means that your last renewal was received one year before that date. We are currently testing a new policy that may make it much easier for you to remember when to renew, that being, that renewals now will always revert back to the same month. Please renew now to remain current. To all those who have already renewed, THANK YOU!**

WATER FORUM WORKING TO STRENGTHEN CONSERVATION PLANS

One of the key elements of the Water Forum Agreement (WFA), signed by SARA and other stakeholders in 2000, is water conservation. By agreeing to implement water conservation plans, water purveyors in the Sacramento region can help meet water supply needs and minimize need for increased groundwater use and surface water diversions from the American River.

To satisfy the water conservation element of the WFA, water purveyors negotiated specific water conservation plans based upon established Best Management Practices (BMPs).

Two important elements of these plans are water meter retrofits and conservation pricing. Implementation of these BMPs allows water users to know how much water they are using and receive accurate data to encourage the most economical use of water.

The rate of residential meter retrofits depends upon each purveyor's plan. For their non-residential customers, purveyors agreed to retrofit 85 to 90 percent within ten years. As of 2004, 11 of 15 reporting agencies had completed their non-residential meter retrofit programs and the others were making progress in their programs.

Implementation of several other BMPs has been disappointing, including interior and exterior water audits and toilet replacement programs. Often the retrofits, such as installation of a water efficient toilet, can trigger more expensive requirements, such as building permits or compliance with other laws.

It is estimated that landscape water use accounts for 50 percent of the water used by residential customers in California. Water Forum purveyors agreed to certain actions aimed at reducing landscape water use by their customers.

In 2004 the Water Forum convened a task force made up of Forum stakeholders, city and county planning agency personnel and members of the landscape industry to examine the implementation of more stringent landscape ordinances in the Sacramento region.

The task force developed a draft list of recommendations to strengthen requirements and implementation of local ordinances. These will be reviewed (and hopefully adopted and enforced) by the Water Forum and local agencies in the coming months.

Also last year, WF staff and stakeholders began the process of updating water conservation plans with each water purveyor, as called for in the WFA.

The goal of the update process is to help purveyors design conservation programs that are more suitable to their needs, based on their experiences during the ramp-up period, while continuing to achieve the conservation goals originally established in the WFA.

By: Sarah Foley, Program Manager
Sacramento Region Water Forum
(Edited by Jack Sohl)

CONSUMPTION
USED TO BE
THE NAME
FOR A MORTAL
WASTING DISEASE
IT STILL IS.

Anna Quindl en, Newsweek

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SAVE THE AMERICAN RIVER ASSN., INC
P.O. BOX 277638
SACRAMENTO, CA 95827-7638

PARKWAY COALITION - 3 BOARD MEETING

by Warren Truitt

The American River Parkway Coalition, created in early 2004, is an alliance of the three original and historic Parkway protection and preservation organizations: Save the American River Association (SARA); the American River Natural History Association (ARNHA), and the American River Parkway Foundation (ARFP).

Each member organization has its own unique personality and mission, yet by combining diverse backgrounds, interests and resources, the resulting synergy has generated new energy and events designed to bring positive attention to –and support for – the **American River Parkway**.

The Coalition has already: * held two successful PDA Days (Public Display of Affection) at several locations along the Parkway; * sponsored the **2005 Parkway Stakeholder Summit** that attracted and informed over 150 user organization and government leaders; * met with each County supervisor and attended County budget hearings – activities which definitely contributed to the decision to fund the Parkway for 2004-05.

In addition, Coalition members were very active in the development of the 1st annual **Parkway Pass Promotion** and honored a consistent Parkway supporter on **Illa Collin Day** last December.

All of this has been accomplished by a small group of individuals from the 3 organizations. Coalition members feel it is now time to bring the boards of the 3 organizations together at one time and place – to update everyone on the activities, accomplishments and goals of the Coalition.

A Coalition representative from each organization will briefly review the mission and goals of their respective organization, and the Coalition vision of what needs to be done in the future will be presented. A feedback session will follow the presentations. A get-to-know each other party will follow the business portion.

The first-ever 3 Board Meeting will be held the evening of Friday, October 14th, graciously hosted by ARPF Board Member Scott Wolcott, at his home on the American River. Formal invitations will be sent to current board members of the 3 Coalition organizations.

UPDATING OF THE 1985 AMERICAN RIVER PARKWAY PLAN

The Sacramento Board of Supervisors and the Sacramento City Council jointly initiated in April 2003 the update of the 1985 American River Parkway Plan. To accomplish this task, the Update Citizens Advisory Committee was formed.

The Update Committee consists of twenty-three persons who serve as representatives of the Board of Supervisors, the Sacramento City Council, environmental organizations, and clubs representing Parkway users. The Update Committee is assisted and guided by project Staff, facilitators and consultants. Also assisting is a Project Management Team comprised of staff from local, state and federal agencies with Parkway responsibilities or involvement.

The role of the Update Committee is to work to reach maximum agreement on advisory recommendations to the Sacramento County Board of Supervisors and the Sacramento City Council for update of the 1985 Parkway Plan. The Update Committee meets on a monthly schedule.

The spring and summer of 2005 was used to review the lower reach of the Parkway consisting of Discovery Park, Woodlake and Cal Expo areas, referred to as the Integrated Plan Areas. Starting in September 2005 the remainder of the Parkway will be studied so that the Update Committee can make additional recommendations.

By Frank F. Cirill, SARA President Emeritus

SARA's Wish List — Many New Members!

If you are not a SARA member, **please** consider joining us in our continuing **efforts** to keep the American River Parkway a natural preserve. If you are a SARA member, please urge your friends, co-workers, relatives, neighbors and others to join.

Each **Riverwatch** has a membership application. An application form can also be downloaded from our website: www.sarariverwatch.org - With the holiday season approaching, you might also consider giving a gift membership.

The SARA Membership Committee



THANKS TO ALL OUR SUPPORTERS!

SARA gives special thanks to Print Tech for the reliable, prompt and valuable service that they continue to provide to us in furnishing our printing needs, not just the Riverwatch newsletter, but for all of our printing. Their contribution to SARA represents their continued support for our efforts towards protecting the American River and Parkway. Others who have provided ongoing support include the following: Jet Express Mail, who mail the Riverwatch for us,

American Fly Fishing Co., Granite Bay Flycasters, the River City Paddlers, American River Raft Rentals, California Fly Fishers Unlimited, and Fly Fishers of Davis. We continue to receive much needed support from many **loyal SARA members**, some of whom are long-time SARA members, who signed up in the early 1960's, shortly after SARA was formed.

We sincerely appreciate your support !

SARA OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

- Alan Wade.....President
- Warren Truitt.....Vice President
- Elke Guenter.....Secretary
- Jack Sohl.....Treasurer
- Frank Cirill.....President Emeritus
- Jim Jones.....Past President

- Wayne Chubb.....Bill Griffith
- Burt Hodges.....Gary Keill
- Harold Kerster.....Mary Beth Metcalf
- Jim Morgan.....Kevin Regan
- Felix Smith.....
- Betsy Weiland..... Volunteer & ARNHA Liaison
- Bob Burrows.....Advisor
- Howard Ross.....Advisor

LOCATION FOR SARA BOARD MEETINGS

SARA's Board meetings are held on the 3rd Tuesday of each month at 7:30 p.m. Meetings are currently being held in the Conference Room in the County Parks and Recreation Dept., located at 3711 Branch Center Road. From Bradshaw Road turn right onto Ecology Lane - Turn right again into the first parking lot. Call ahead of time for possible changes to date or location.

For information call Wanda Denson at (916) 383-1298

The SARA phone & fax line is: (916) 387-1763
SARA E-mail: riverwatch@comcast.net
SARA Website: www.sarariverwatch.org

Word Processing & Layout by Wanda Denson

**SAVE THE AMERICAN RIVER ASSOCIATION, INC.
MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL & APPLICATION FORM**

FALL - 2005 ISSUE

NAME: _____

NEW MEMBER? [] RENEWAL? []

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____

HOME PHONE: [] _____

STATE: _____ ZIP CODE _____

WORK PHONE: [] _____

E-MAIL ADDRESS _____

FAX: [] _____

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES (YEARLY)

WANT TO VOLUNTEER? ___

- [] **\$ 10.00 FULL TIME STUDENT** [] **\$ 25.00 REGULAR** [] **\$ 50.00 SUPPORTING** [] **\$ 100.00 FAMILY**
- [] **\$ 100.00+ SUSTAINING** [] **\$ 250.00 CORPORATE/BUSINESS** [] **\$1,000. OR MORE - LIFETIME/PATRON**
- [] **\$ _____ LEGAL FUNDS** [] **\$ _____ PARKWAY**

PLEASE MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: SAVE THE AMERICAN RIVER ASSOCIATION, INC. (OR SARA)
 MAIL TO: **SARA - P.O. BOX 277638 - SACRAMENTO, CA 95827-7638**

NOTE: BECAUSE SARA IS THE PRIMARY ADVOCATE APPEARING BEFORE GOVERNMENT & COMMUNITY AGENCIES ON BEHALF OF THE AMERICAN RIVER PARKWAY, YOUR MEMBERSHIP DUES AND/OR SPECIAL DONATIONS ARE NOT TAX DEDUCTIBLE.

**SAVE THE AMERICAN RIVER
ASSOCIATION, INC.
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SACRAMENTO, CA 95827-7638**



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**SALMON FESTIVAL
SATURDAY & SUNDAY
OCTOBER 8 and 9
10 A.M. TO 4 P.M.**

**LAKE NATOMA / NIMBUS HATCHERY
www.salmonfestival.net**

**SANDHILL CRANE FESTIVAL
SATURDAY AND SUNDAY
NOVEMBER 5 AND 6
10 A.M. TO 4 P.M.**

**For location, contact:
www.lodichamber.com/cranefestival.asp**

**SARA ANNUAL MEETING
SATURDAY - DECEMBER 3
10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
COMMUNITY CENTER BUILDING or
TROPHY ROOM - ANCIL HOFFMAN PARK
ANNOUNCEMENTS WILL BE MAILED TO MEMBERS
CALL 383-1298 FOR LATEST INFORMATION
www.sarariverwatch.org**
