

# RIVERWATCH

## SAVE THE AMERICAN RIVER ASSOCIATION, INC.

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### ***Massive Show of Support For American River Parkway At Supervisors Meeting***

by Dan Bacher

Over 300 people jammed a Sacramento County Board of Supervisors "budget workshop" on March 9 to protest projected county budget cuts that could result in a potential closure of the American River Parkway.

The massive turnout on a work day demonstrated how much Sacramento area residents are outraged that the County could even consider closing the parkway - a unique urban park that receives more visitors annually than Yosemite National Park.

Projected budget cuts, the result of a \$45,000,000 budget shortfall, would result in a \$3.3 million reduction in the parks budget. This budget reduction would end up making the parkway an urban eyesore rather than the county's "crown jewel," as well as closing other parks, such as Gibson Ranch County Park.

The closure of the parkway would have a huge impact upon the Sacramento area economy, since up to \$259 million annually are generated to the economy through fishing, rafting, bicycling and other recreational uses of the parkway.

"You are the focal point, you are the people that we look to for keeping the parkway open," Jim Jones, former president of the Save the American River Association and avid steelhead angler, pleaded to the board. "We want you to say that it is unthinkable to make cuts to the parkway!"

In May, the Board will decide whether or not to proceed with the \$10,000,000 in proposed cuts of "quality of life and safety net" programs of the county, including the county parks budget.

Ron Suter, director of County Parks and Recreation, presented a dire picture of the impact that projected budget cuts of 77 percent to the parkway and other regional parks would have.

From \$6.4 million in 1991-92, the parkway budget has already been cut to \$4,000,000 this year and is slated for funding of only 1.1 million in fiscal year 2004-2005. This leaves two very bad options, according to Suter.

In Option 1, routine maintenance would be reduced 60 to 70 percent. Bathrooms in the parkway would only be cleaned a few days each week and illegal camping would thrive. The bike trail would not be maintained. Trash cans would overflow with garbage, since the county would have the staff to pick up the garbage only one day per week.

"We anticipate that this will result in a lot of phone calls about illegal activity in the parkway, including illegal camping and dumping," he stated. "And as we cut park funding, the revenue we collect at the entrance gate will go down to \$900,000."

Option 2 would be to leave the gates open 24 hours - until a probable avalanche of complaints results in closure of the gates. "We will try to keep the gates open at all sites, but we are afraid we will get calls to close them," he stated. "Restrooms won't be open and garbage won't be picked up. And with 31 ranger positions eliminated, there will be days when no rangers are assigned to the parkway."

(continued on page 3)

## A Short History of the Parkway's Funding Problems

by Gary Keill

As Sacramento County prepares its budget for the fiscal year 2004-05 (FY 2004-05), the Sacramento County Department of Regional Parks, Recreation and Open Space has been directed to draft a budget that shows a reduction of 75% of the prior year county general fund allocation. While this level of reduction is clearly severe at face value, it becomes catastrophic for the American River Parkway when viewed in the context of the parkway's budget problems over the last two decades.

In August of 2000, the American River Parkway Funding Group, of which SARA is an active participant, and the Sacramento County Department of Regional Parks, Recreation and Open Space commissioned a study of the Parkway's financial needs. The purpose of the study then was to determine what it would take to put the parkway back into shape after two decades of inadequate funding and then care for it properly in the future.

The parkway is funded by a combination of funds including the County General Fund, use fees and grants. The Financial Needs Study found that in the twelve-year period FY 1987-88 and FY 1999-00 the general fund subsidy had risen from \$2,450,774 to \$2,670,699, an increase of \$219,925 or roughly 9%.

However, after adjustments for inflation, the parkway budget had actually lost between \$200,000 and \$400,000 in buying power, a loss of between 8% and 16%. In FY 2003/04, the Parkway general fund subsidy was \$2,782,058, essentially unchanged from the FY 1999-00 budget after adjusting for inflation.

The proposed 75% reduction in the Parkway FY 2004-05 budget would reduce the general fund allocation to only \$690,730.

The 2000 Financial Study also found that the parkway budget was already woefully underfunded and inadequate to maintain and operate the parkway. The study recommended an additional \$1,763,680 for basic operations, maintenance and administration. It identified \$710,304 in needed equipment, and deferred maintenance and repair of parkway facilities.

Another frightening comparison of just how severe the proposed budget cuts are in historical terms comes from the Parks Department's presentation at the Sacramento County Board of Supervisors March 9<sup>th</sup> budget workshop. The proposed parks department projects an overall decline in staffing of 54% from FY 1991-92 levels.

During the roughly same time frame, county population has increased over 22% and the acres managed by the parks department has increased by 41%. Parks department total budget allocation per county resident has declined from \$6.03 per resident in FY 1991-92 to \$0.82 per resident in under the proposed FY 2004-05 budget.

SARA believes that funding for the parkway has been inadequate for decades and that any further cuts in the parkway budget are unthinkable. Call, write, fax or e-mail the Board of Supervisors and let them know that you think so as well.

For phone numbers & e-mail addresses, check the county web site [www.co.sacramento.ca.us](http://www.co.sacramento.ca.us)

## Massive Show of Support from page 1

Also, the County won't be able to clean debris on the bike trail. "We have spent \$1.17 million to bring the trail up to standards that we can be proud of and this work would go to waste," he said.

The Parkway has already been stretched to its limits and can't afford any more cuts. The parkway supported 111 positions in 1991-92, 82 positions in 2002-03 and only 51 positions in 2003-04, according to Suter. These cuts have resulted in reductions in expenditures per county resident from \$6.03 in 1991-92, to \$3.37 per person in 2002-03, to only \$0.82 per person in 2004-05.

Meanwhile, the county has grown from a population of 1 million people in 1992 to 1.3 million people in 2004 and the acreage in county parks has risen from 10,000 to 14,500 acres. Also, with 40 percent anticipated cuts in the planning division, \$7 million would have to be returned to the state.

"If we are forced to close the County Parks because of lack of funds, we will have to turn them over to asset management, declare the parkway a public right of way and transfer it to the County Public Works Department," he said.

A variety of solutions to dealing with the budget crisis were proposed by the public. Jane Hagedorn, head of volunteers for the American River Parkway Working Group, proposed a solution to long-term funding by placing an initiative to fund county parks on the ballot in 18 months.

Skip Amerine had the courage to recommend the board to take money out of the Sheriff's budget and transfer it to County Parks to fund rangers to patrol the parkway. "It's not a bad idea," said Illa Collin, County Supervisor, who noted that the Sheriffs Department told the board that they wouldn't patrol the parkway.

Ted Robinson, a member of the Parks Commission, chided the BOS for considering pay increases to non-union county employees while some Parks Department personnel might lose their jobs. He also said the board needed to have the "backbone" to stand up to the Sheriff."

Michele McCormick, chair of the Parks Commission, summed up the feelings of many when she said, "Perhaps the crisis environment regarding the parkway will give us the opportunity to develop long range solutions to the problem. If we don't, the parkway will turn from an urban jewel into an urban blight."

Local anglers and parkway advocates are hopeful that the county will find a way to maintain this year's current funding while seeking a permanent solution to the parkway funding. For more information and the latest action alerts, contact the Save the American River Association.

website: [www.sarariverwatch.org](http://www.sarariverwatch.org)

e-mail: [riverwatch@comcast.net](mailto:riverwatch@comcast.net) or 383-1298  
[sara5204@pacbell.net](mailto:sara5204@pacbell.net) or 455-7083

### Note:

*Dan Bader writes editorials for The Fish Sniffer. Other articles by Dan can be accessed at [www.fishsniffer.com](http://www.fishsniffer.com)*

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### PARKWAY AMONG TOP 10 HIKING AND BIKING TRAILS IN USA

1. Breakneck Ridge Trail, New York
2. Dolly Sods Wilderness, West Virginia
3. Telluride to Moab Hut-to Hut, Colorado
4. Havasu Canyon, Arizona
5. Half Dome, California
6. Appalachian Trail: Chester Gap to Harper's Ferry, Virginia
7. Maddron Bald Overnight Loop, Tennessee
8. Appalachian Trail: NW Connecticut through western Massachusetts
9. American River Bike Path, California
10. Laurel Highlands Hiking Trail, Pennsylvania

The Top Trails of 2003 were selected based on the analysis of more than 10 million votes via subscribers and visitors to [www.trails.com](http://www.trails.com)

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### SARA and Others seek Long-term Parkway Funding Solution

by Gary Keill

SARA and many other interested groups and individuals are working together to identify and successfully implement long-term solutions to the American River Parkway budget crisis. The body carrying out this work is known as the American River Parkway Funding Group (ARPF) and has been working on the problem for over seven years.

ARPF is chaired on a volunteer basis by Jane Hagedorn, CEO of the Sacramento Lung Association. The group has the active support of the Sacramento County and receives limited staff support from the Sacramento County Department of Regional Parks, Recreation and Open Space.

Interest in the group and its and its work has grown, as the parkway budget problems have become critical in recent months. Recent meetings of the group have been attended by representatives from Congressman Matsui's and Assemblyman Steinberg's offices, the American River Parkway Foundation and the American River Natural History Association, the cities of Sacramento and Rancho Cordova, the Sacramento Area Flood Control Agency, Sacramento Area Bicycle Advocates, the Water Forum, Sacramento Open Space, the Sacramento Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce, and the Sacramento County Parks Department board of directors.

Sacramento County has asked Valley Vision to search for similar funding problems around the country and to identify the best practices others have used to solve those problems. Possible mechanisms to provide long-term funding include establishing an endowment through donations, additional support from other governments and agencies in the area, and a special benefit assessment district.

ARPF plans to hold a summit on the long-term parkway funding issue in the next few months.

Keep checking the SARA website at [www.sarariverwatch.org](http://www.sarariverwatch.org) for an identification of the time and place for the summit once it has been established.

### AUBURN DAM NOT BURIED YET?

Edited by Jack Sohl

The Auburn Dam Council (*who are they?*) recently discussed a proposal by its Board Chair Anthony Pascetti to ask the Boards of Supervisors of Placer, El Dorado, Sacramento, San Joaquin, and potentially Sutter and/or Yolo Counties to put Auburn Dam referendums on the November 2004 ballot in each of these respective counties.

It still remains unclear what the nature of the ballot measure will be. It could range from: (1) an "advisory" vote similar to the pro-Auburn dam ballot measure passed by Sacramento County voters in the late 1980s; (2) require the formation of an expanded American River Authority to build the dam, or (3), propose a vote to raise revenues to construct and operate the Auburn dam.

It would be helpful to discover what type of measure the Council will propose. With the possible exception of Yolo County, each of these Boards of Supervisors most like has pro-Auburn dam Board majorities. It may not prove very difficult to persuade these bodies to put such a measure on the ballot.

SARA and other interested organizations will try and find out more about this development and will keep you posted. This "Heads Up" was provided by Ron Stork of Friends of the River.

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## **“A TRUE ADVOCATE FOR THE PARKWAY” (?).....**

by Alan D. Wade, President

A new organization called the “American River Parkway Preservation Society,” under the direction of David Lukenbill, has recently begun an aggressive campaign for funds...Its stated aims are similar to SARA’s, and it has recently billed itself as “a true advocate for the Parkway.”

This new organization apparently wishes to take its place with (or replace?) the three long-term Parkway stalwarts, who have for many years (43, in the case of SARA, the founding organization) worked together to preserve and protect the Lower American River and the Parkway.

These three organizations are: ARNHA (the American River Natural History Association), the ARPF (American River Parkway Foundation), and of course, SARA, (the Save the American River Association). Each has its own role, and together are jointly committed to resolving the current “Parkway Peril.”

We have reviewed correspondence from the new organization, have perused its website, and have received an invitation to something called an “American River Parkway Forum” scheduled for April 22.

Calling the Parkway “the most dangerous place to go in Sacramento,” the invitation accuses Ron Suter (Parks Director) and Deputy Director Gary Kukkola of neglecting the needs of “our part of the Parkway” in favor of the “upriver areas.”

The ARPPS literature also advocates a plan for a conservancy for the Parkway. Such arrangements have worked in elsewhere, but begs the questions of stewardship and operations/maintenance funding. A conservancy would likely be headed by political appointees, perhaps with no commitment to the Parkway.

Take a look at the new organization’s website and read their financial statement. Note that their budget calls for staff salary of \$48,000., more than twice SARA’s entire annual budget.

We urge that anyone interested in supporting this group ask some of these questions.

- What is the track record of those involved?
- Where have they been over the past four decades of undying effort to preserve and advance the Parkway expended by the existing organizations?
- If they intend to qualify as a 501 C-3 organization, how do they expect to carry out the burden of political action that is required if new sources of Parkway funding are to be found?
- The new group was nowhere to be found or heard at the March 9 Parkway budget work shop—hundreds of others found time to be there. Where was their voice?
- What are the qualifications and background of their Board of Directors?
- What is their real goal?

Crises in American life invariably spawn saviors, charlatans, opportunists, pied pipers, scam artists, and, of course, well-meaning folk trying to help within the context of a society that values voluntarism. Which of these best describes the American River Parkway Preservation Society?

Let’s try to find out—and continue your support for the three sister organizations which have decades of experience in Parkway stewardship.

## EDITOR'S COMMENTS

by Elke Guenter

The previously unthinkable is not only rapidly becoming thinkable but also an alarming possibility!! Of course, I'm referring to the closure of the American River Parkway.

Many thanks to Dan Bacher for his excellent article! What a treat for our readers to hear from someone other than the same SARA directors and to gain some fresh perspective and perhaps insights as well!

In reviewing all the material going into this issue, one set of numbers "totally blew me away" — the decrease in per capita spending in the Parks Dept. budget from \$6.03 in 1991-92 to \$3.37 in 2002-03 to \$0.82 in the proposed budget for 2004-05!!!!

Let us hope that the old saying "every cloud has a silver lining" will also hold true for this, our most precious resource. When the general public will, hopefully in the not too distant future, be in the voting booth to approve a permanent funding source for the Parkway and perhaps other parks as well, that they will recall very vividly the current struggle to hold on to and protect something very special that we had just assumed would always be there!

And, that they will also remember their utter surprise and dismay how very vulnerable and tenuous a 5,000 acre parcel of land with a river running through it can be!!!

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### Fair Oaks Garden and Art Tour

Sunday, June 6, 2004 from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Ribbon cutting ceremony at 1:00 p.m. at the foot of Bridge Street. All proceeds will benefit the Bluffs.

For more information, call 961-4161 or go to:  
[www.savethebluffs.org](http://www.savethebluffs.org)

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## PARKWAY IN PERIL CALENDAR

### PDA (PUBLIC DISPLAY OF AFFECTION) FESTIVAL FOR THE PARKWAY

Just come to the Parkway between the hours of **11:00 to 1:00** on **Saturday, May 1**, and enjoy doing whatever you do there; meet your friends, talk with out of town visitors (there are more than you might guess); and just enjoy!

### FINAL COUNTY BUDGET HEARING DATES

**FIRST WEEK IN MAY** – stay in touch through the SARA website, [www.sarariverwatch.org](http://www.sarariverwatch.org) or call us at 383-1298 - or send your e-mail address to [riverwatch@comcast.net](mailto:riverwatch@comcast.net)

### Inauguration of "H" Street Pedestrian/Bicycle Access

by Frank Cirill, President Emeritus

On March 19<sup>th</sup> a ribbon cutting ceremony was held on the levee near the H Street Bridge to celebrate the opening of a new pedestrian - bicycle access to the American River Parkway bicycle trail. This new paved access provides a safe connection to the Parkway Bike Trail from the adjacent River Park neighborhood.

Previously persons going to the CSUS campus or using the existing bike trail for recreation or commuting had to cross the heavy traffic at the J Street entrance to CSUS. The other option was a dangerous crossing of H Street near the Bridge.

City of Sacramento Councilman Steve Cohn was primarily responsible for obtaining funding amounting to \$725,000.00 for the project. Design, funding and construction was accomplished in approximately three and one half years. The River Park Neighborhood Association presented to Councilman Cohn a plaque expressing its appreciation for his effort.

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## **THE POWER OF THREE: Parkway Organizations Unite**

by Alan D. Wade, President

The three organizations devoted to protecting the Parkway are working more closely together than ever before in resolving the current Parkway funding crisis. While each has always recognized the distinctive contribution of the other, the current crisis—the very real threat of actions tantamount to closing the Parkway—has brought us together in an effective working relationship.

Together, on short notice, we mobilized more than 200 Parkway supporters to attend a “Town Hall” meeting on January 10, where impact of the budget cuts was discussed, and an action plan formulated.

Valerie Holcomb of the American River Parkway Foundation (ARPF) moderated the discussion, and various activist groups, (SARA) Save the American River Association, and (ARNHA) American River Natural History Association, participated.

The next mobilization of the Parkway troops was for the March 9 Board of Supervisors public workshop on “Quality of Life” items, of which Parks is key. A beehive of activity took place there, with more than a hundred standing up in the audience when SARA’s Alan Wade asked for a show of support. (See Dan Bacher’s article on page 1 for a report on that meeting.)

More to go – April 13 was the date for the next workshop, this one on public safety items, including the sheriff’s budget and, as a sort of footnote, the Parks rangers.

As we go to press, the plan is once more to mobilize as many folks as possible to urge the board to take a “holistic” approach to public safety, pointing out that serious public safety issues will arise if the ranger force is reduced.

We have sent a special letter to all SARA members urging their presence at that session. A few hundred people in the audience can make a very large impact on the decision makers.

Final budget hearings will take place in early May, time and date to be announced. But before then, on Saturday, May 1, we are mobilizing a gigantic, first annual, “**Parkway Happening**,” called the “PDA” for Public Display of Affection (for the Parkway.) All Parkway users are urged to show up between 11:00 and 1:00 on that day, and just do what they usually do on the Parkway.

We have reason to believe that, in the face of a huge budget deficit, the BOS has nevertheless been made aware of the HUGE following that the Parkway has. The **POWER OF THREE** is making its point.

Meanwhile, as we learn to work together effectively, perhaps we can be positively creative in moving toward an effective working merger of the three Parkway sister organizations as we face a changing future. Maybe, ultimately, we can become an “**Army of One**” in protecting the interests of the Parkway. Join up, folks—make your voice heard, and help secure the Parkway’s future.



Sometimes  
it's the things  
you don't see  
that matter most.

**Nature Conservancy**

## McMANSIONS IN THE PARKWAY – AN UPDATE AND CALL TO ACTION

by Pat Waterbury

Parkway supporters who are interested in fending off mansions in the Parkway will be interested to know that the hearing of the Markis/Lein project has been rescheduled to May 12 - check [www.McMansions.org](http://www.McMansions.org) for confirmation of date and time). Denial of the project hinges on letters to the Supervisors and attendance at the hearing. For information on writing to your supervisors, go to the McMansions website, or e-mail [NoMcMansions@aol.com](mailto:NoMcMansions@aol.com).

After repeated rejection by various approval authorities, the Markis/Lein group has appealed to the Board of Supervisors in their effort to put three large houses in the American River Parkway. The project seeks to place houses totaling 15,000 sq. ft. of housing and garage on some 31,000 sq. ft. of buildable land in the Parkway Corridor Combining Zone in Carmichael. The size of the structures necessitates the developers to request a 20-foot setback for both of the two-story houses on the river bluff in an erosion zone which requires a 70-foot setback. The riverfront houses will include decking and benches which will come to within 5 feet of the edge of the bluff.

The Board of Directors of the Riverwood neighborhood, which surrounds the property, is opposed to this project. In the County approval process, the project has been opposed by the American River Parkway Advisory Committee, the County Recreation and Parks Commission, the Carmichael Community Planning Advisory Council, and it failed to win approval of the County Planning Commission. The Planning Department staff recommended denial of the project and suggested tow houses, approximately 50-feet back from the bluff, or a three-attached townhouse configuration.

Approval of this project by the Board of Supervisors will set a dangerous precedent for building within the Parkway Corridor Combining Zone. Approval will result in **de facto rezoning** of the Parkway. With a little help from engineering-reports and attorneys, no developer will have to conform to the County-mandated ordinances of the Parkway Corridor Combining Zone.

## LAWSUIT TO STOP PROPOSED CASSANO RESIDENCE ON FAIR OAKS BLUFF

by Frank Cirill, President Emeritus

In our winter edition of the Riverwatch we reported that the Environmental Council of Sacramento (ECOS) and the Save the American River Association (SARA) were participating in a lawsuit to stop the construction of the Cyndee Cassano residence, a 43 feet high single family residence adjacent to the Fair Oaks Bluff facing the American River.

Presently ECOS and SARA have become the primary plaintiffs in the lawsuit. We are in the process of setting up a team of attorneys who will perform the majority of the legal work on a pro bono publico basis. Because ECOS and SARA funds are very limited, it is critical that our legal expenses be kept as low as possible.

The lawsuit is presently in its preliminary stage and is expected to progress during early to middle 2004. In the meanwhile, because of the lawsuit, the construction of the residence has not started.

SARA welcomes any donations to help with the cost of the lawsuit. For more information, please call Frank Cirill at 455-2880.

### CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**Earth Day**, Saturday, April 24, 2004 at the CSUS Campus - 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

**Earth Day**, Saturday, May 8, 2004 at the American River College Campus  
10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

**Fair Oaks Garden & Art Tour**  
Sunday, June 6, 2004  
10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

**American River Scenes Art Show**  
Saturday, June 12, 2004  
Reception from 4:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.  
at the **Chroma Gallery**  
Part of the proceeds will benefit SARA



## AN UPDATE FLOW STANDARD FOR THE LOWER AMERICAN RIVER IS NEEDED

by Felix Smith

The Lower American River is a valuable regional asset, providing important fish and wildlife habitat. It is a source of high quality water, it is a critical floodway, a spectacular recreational resource, and is an outstanding Parkway. The American River's Chinook salmon is an important asset to the sport and commercial salmon fisheries.

The U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (Bureau) operates Folsom Dam and Reservoir for multiple purposes including water for irrigation, municipal and industrial uses, hydroelectric power, recreation, water quality, flood control and fish protection. The Folsom Reservoir project is operated under a State Water Resources Control Board permit issued in 1958 called Decision 893. Biological knowledge has been gained, legal and institutional conditions have changed substantially since D-893 was adopted. Today conditions specified in D-893 are not protective of the fishery resources within the American River. The ecological needs of the American River frequently play second fiddle to the Bureau's contractors south of the Delta.

The Water Forum, since 1996, has spent more than \$3 million dollars conducting biological studies and technical work with water engineers and fishery biologists to develop a flow standard that protects the aquatic resources, does not impact water supply or water quality, and is consistent with the Water Forum's two co-equal objectives. These co-equal objectives are: A reliable water supply for the region's economic health and planned growth through the year 2030, and protection of the resources of the Lower American River.

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### **DO YOU REMEMBER?**

"Anybody out there remember the American River Authority, the tri-county joint powers authority formed 22 years ago to pursue construction of an Auburn Dam, and if necessary, float millions of dollars worth of revenue bonds to help build the thing?"

Well, the ARA is a very low-profile outfit that meets every other month (alternating between Auburn and Placerville). As for what it's been doing, I'm told that the ARA's governing board recently earmarked \$50,000 for a 'public education program' to be hyped

In April of 2000, the Sacramento Region Water Forum Agreement was signed. This historic Memorandum of Understanding supports the two co-equal objectives. In dry years the water purveyors have pledged to reduce their diversions in order to help meet the fishery needs of the Lower American River.

The Water Forum has consulted regularly with the Bureau in the development of the improved flow standard. In January 2004 a draft flow standard was made available for public review. The Bureau pledged in a January 1999 letter to the SWRCB and again in a May 2001 letter to the City of Sacramento that it would work with the Water Forum to develop a proposal to improve the flows and conditions on the Lower American River. The Water Forum has worked with the Bureau to encourage it to include the improved American River flow standard in the Central Valley Project Operation Criteria and Plan (OCAP).

SARA is concerned that despite the Bureau's assurances, it will find reason to delay or put off indefinitely, implementation of the flow standard. Timing is critical. Under an administration mandate, the Bureau is scheduled to complete its OCAP process by June 30, 2004. SARA understands that the Bureau has included the added dry year inflows from Water Forum purveyors to Folsom Reservoir but not the Water Forum flow standard in its OCAP.

If the improved Lower American River flow standard is not included in this OCAP and EIS process, it is likely that obtaining a new flow standard would be substantially delayed, or simply would not happen at this time. The alternative for SARA and other Water Forum stakeholders is to seek public trust action through the State Board and the Courts. SARA strongly supports including the Water Forum's improved American River flow standard in the OCAP.

by the top-notch McNally Temple Associates public relations firm in Sacramento. 'The program will focus on water-related issues and, of course, a dam at Auburn will be one of the topics,' says an ARA aide.

The ARA's next meeting is set for May 12 at 7 p.m. in the Placer County Board of Supervisors' hearing room in Auburn."

*(Auburn Sentinel, Friday, April 2, 2003,  
The Auburn Auger by Joe Carroll, p. A4)*

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### 3 NEW DIRECTORS JOIN SARA BOARD

Elke Guenter

**Gary Keill** has worked as a planner and administrator for the Sacramento Area Council of Governments (SACOG) for over 25 years. This entity is the region’s transportation and air quality planning agency. His experience has included working with all the local jurisdictions, air districts and transit agencies in the six-county region as well as various state and federal agencies.

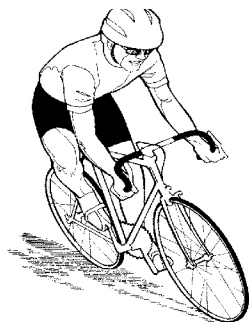
Gary states, “I’m now semi-retired and have the time to try to give back to the Parkway a small measure of what it has provided me over the years.”



**Jim Morgan**, a long-time member of SARA, works as a toxicologist of the California EPA. He has been an active member and hands-on volunteer for other local organizations – in particular, Friends of the river, South Yuba River Citizens League and most recently, the Butterfield-Riviera East Community Association, of which he is a founding member.



**Warren V. Truitt, Jr.**, a resident of Fair Oaks for almost 25 years, is SARA’s newest director. Warren has a degree in Business Administration and has held several sales and then management positions throughout California and Hawaii. He retired from West Publishing in 2000, the world’s largest legal and professional information company.



He also logs more than 6,000 miles annually on his bicycle on the bike trail. His wife Mary, a personal trainer, has conducted walk/jog classes on the bike trail for many years.

### *West Roseville Deal May Violate Water Forum Agreement*

SARA and other environmentalists claim that a dispute over part of the water supply needed for a proposed 8,390-home development west of Roseville threatens key Water Forum agreements that guide water use in the Sacramento region. The Roseville City Council recently agreed to annex the West Roseville Specific Plan Area for development, and has lined up a contract to buy Folsom Reservoir water from the San Juan Water District (SJWD) in Sacramento County. Environmental Caucus representatives say that the proposed sale would violate elements of the Water Forum Agreement. SJWD would transfer water they get from Placer County’s allocation.

The city and San Juan say the deal wouldn’t increase regional use of American River water beyond what was envisioned in the agreement, but environmentalists claim San Juan must either use the water allotted to it by its specific WF agreement within its own service area, or let the water remain in Folsom Reservoir until needed within the American/Sacramento river system. The amount of water at stake - 3,200 acre-feet, is relatively small. It equals about 0.3 percent of Folsom Reservoir’s capacity and could serve a little more than 3,200 homes. But environmental reps say that the transfer would set a troubling precedent. “It’s not a large amount of water,” said Ronald Stork, “but there is a principle here that if San Juan can do it, so can a lot of other water purveyors—and then we’re in trouble.”

A lawsuit seeking to block the West Roseville plan raises several points of contention. The suit claims the city has not adequately analyzed how it will provide water in the West Roseville area during droughts. San Juan’s Water Forum compact prevents it from using its full allotment during dry years, so San Juan would have nothing to transfer in those years.

Edited excerpts from a *Sacramento Business Journal* article written by Celia Lamb (3/14/04)

***Facts do not cease to exist because they are ignored.***

Aldous Huxley

**NOTE:**

SARA wishes to thank PRINT TECH and JET EXPRESS MAIL for their continued support in the printing and mailing process for the RIVERWATCH. Their contribution to SARA has been invaluable and we hope that you will support these business. We also wish to express our thanks to AMERICAN FLY FISHING CO. for donating the proceeds from their annual shad tournaments. Other donors are:

THE WHEELMEN, RIVER CITY PADDLERS, GRANITE BAY FLYCASTERS, AMERICAN RIVER RAFT RENTALS, and CALIFORNIA FLY FISHERS UNLIMITED (CFFU) as well as generous donations from several anonymous members. These donations help SARA continue activities to keep the American River and Parkway healthy.

**SARA OFFICERS & DIRECTORS**

- Alan Wade.....President
- Jack Sohl.....Vice President
- Elke Guenter.....Secretary
- Jack Sohl.....Acting Treasurer
  
- Frank Cirill.....President Emeritus
- Jim Jones.....Past President
- Joe Ceriani.....Bob Hanna
- Harold Kerster.....Gary Keill
- Jim Morgan.....Howard Ross
- Felix Smith.....Warren Truitt
- Bud Getty.....ARNHA Liaison
- Pam Maybury.....ARNHA Liaison
- Betsy Weiland.....Volunteer Coordinator
- Bob Burrows.....Advisor

**LOCATION FOR SARA BOARD MEETINGS**

SARA's Board Meetings are held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> 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.

Best number to call: Wanda Denson at (916) 383-1298

The SARA phone & fax line is: (916) 383-1763  
SARA E-mail: [riverwatch@comcast.net](mailto:riverwatch@comcast.net)  
SARA Web site: [www.sarariverwatch.org](http://www.sarariverwatch.org)

**Word Processing & Layout by Wanda Denson**

**SAVE THE AMERICAN RIVER ASSOCIATION, INC.**

**SPRING - 2004 ISSUE**

**MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL & APPLICATION FORM**

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_

STATE \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

ARE YOU A NEW MEMBER? \_\_\_\_\_

IS THIS A RENEWAL? \_\_\_\_\_

HOME PHONE: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

WORK PHONE: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

FAX: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

**ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES:**

**WANT TO VOLUNTEER?** \_\_\_\_\_

- FULL TIME STUDENTS.....\$ 10.00 YEARLY -
- SUPPORTING.....\$ 50.00 YEARLY -
- CORPORATE, BUSINESS, ASSOCIATION .....\$ 250.00 YEARLY (MINIMUM)
- LIFETIME / PATRONS .....\$ 1,000.00 / \$1,000. OR MORE YEARLY
- REGULAR.....\$ 25.00 YEARLY
- SUSTAINING .....\$ 100.00 YEARLY

DONATIONS FOR SPECIAL PURSUITS TO PROTECT AMERICAN RIVER \$ \_\_\_\_\_ PARKWAY \$ \_\_\_\_\_

PLEASE MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: SAVE THE AMERICAN RIVER ASSOCIATION, INC. (OR: SARA)

MAIL TO: P.O. BOX 277638 - SACRAMENTO, CA 95827-7638

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

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

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**AMERICAN RIVER SCENES** is the title of the new **CHROMA GALLERY** show featuring local river scenes, many of which were done on location. Part of the proceeds from the show will benefit the **Save the American River Association**.

This new show opens with a Second Saturday reception on June 12, from 4:00 to 9:00 p.m., and ends July 4.

The Chroma Gallery is Northern California's foremost plein-air gallery, and features more than twenty locally, regionally and nationally acclaimed impressionist artists.

Located at 10030 Fair Oaks Blvd., Fair Oaks, California, the gallery is open Wednesday through Sunday from 12:00 to 5:00 p.m., or by appointment.

**For information, call 966-6020.**

