

RIVERWATCH

SAVE THE AMERICAN RIVER ASSOCIATION, INC.

VOLUME 46, ISSUE 2

ORGANIZED AND INCORPORATED MARCH, 1961

SUMMER - 2007

A HAPPY 4TH - AB 951 ENACTED

by Warren Truitt, President

Just in time for the 4th of July, Governor Schwarzenegger signed AB 951 as an Urgency Bill, prohibiting alcoholic beverages, whether open or closed, on non-motorized vessels along the American River between the Hazel and Watt Avenue Bridges during three summer holiday periods - Memorial Day, the 4th of July, and Labor Day.

AB 951 is a bill that SARA pushed for and testified on behalf of, as a necessary measure to quell alcohol-fueled violent and inappropriate behavior, and unbelievable trashing of the American River and Parkway during the summer holidays. The bill was carried by Assembly Member Dave Jones of Sacramento, who did an excellent job of presenting and shepherding the bill through both houses of the California State Legislature.

SARA volunteers, as well as Coalition partners from the American River Parkway Foundation and the American River Natural History Association, manned two sites - the Goethe Park raft takeout and the beach area at Ancil Hoffman Park on the 4th of July, providing trash bags and trash removal assistance to debarking rafters.

In sharp contrast to the last few years, the 4th was peaceful, fun and safe with over half of the rafters on the water appearing to be families. In addition, the volume of trash collected was approximately 10% of the amount collected on July 4, 2006.

The goal of returning the river to families and reducing the level of trash were both accomplished on the 4th this year.

MARKIS USE PERMIT UPDATE

by Pat Waterbury

Members of SARA and readers of this publication know the campaign to preserve the Parkway continues endlessly. Threats to the integrity of the Parkway Plan and its zoning ordinance - Parkway Corridor Combining Zone - (PCCZ) are numerous and constant, like the ongoing Markis/Lien project in Carmichael. Within the next few months, the Planning Commission will decide whether to grant a 35-foot setback to the two Markis/Lien houses (totaling more than 12,000 sq ft) on the Riverwood bluffs in Carmichael, where a 70-foot setback is required.

Because of SARA's successful legal challenge to the County (litigation paid for by many SARA members in addition to other Parkway supporters), the judge ordered the County to commission an environmental impact report (EIR). The EIR was performed by the Markis/Lien engineers; *it is the opinion of SARA that the draft EIR is inaccurate, misleading, negligent, and dangerous to the Parkway.*

Parkway supporters can defend the integrity of the Parkway Plan and its zoning code, and can make a difference in the resolution of this issue by writing to their supervisors. All necessary information for creating and sending a letter can be found at www.McMansions.org. Include "Markis Use Permit" in the subject line. If you need help in creating a letter, please send an email to NoMcMansions@aol.com.

The County is required to deal with all of the letters, questions, and challenges presented by the public during the comment period. When that has been completed, a final EIR will be published, followed by a hearing and final decision before the Planning Commission.

The American River - Going, going, gone?

by Jack Sohl

One needs only to observe the very high flows of over 4000 cfs (cubic feet per second) being released from Folsom Dam over the last several weeks to understand that all is not well in the Lower American River (LAR). Water flowing into Folsom Reservoir is about 900 cfs, and storage is close to 50% of capacity...this situation will only get worse as we get further into the summer months.

In a more normal year, we would see releases of 1500-2500 cfs and in-flow in the 1000-2000 cfs range. The skimpy snow pack and rainfall this winter and spring are certainly major contributors to the problems the river faces in coming months, but there are other considerations.

Very likely, by early October, flows will be around 1000 cfs, and a water temperature too high to allow successful spawning of salmon, and later by steelhead. So why is so much water being sent down the river, into the delta, and south down the central valley? Could it possibly be the political clout of the huge agricultural corporations and large southern California water purveyors? Federal and state agencies are charged with protecting the public interests.

The Federal Clean Water Act requires that the people are to be protected from "unwise and unreasonable" uses of Federal & State waters.

Editor's Corner by Elke Guenter, Editor

Several months ago I had the pleasure of meeting Susan Sarback, an internationally known painter and founder of The School of Light and Color in Fair Oaks. International Artist Magazine has named her one of the Master Painters of the world. She is also the co-founder of the Chroma Gallery in Fair Oaks Village and has authored several books as well, which are sold world-wide.

When I thanked her and the Gallery for sponsoring another fund raising event for SARA

Federal and State Environmental Protection Agencies are responsible for ensuring that the lands and waters are not *degraded—yet the needs of fish, wildlife and recreational values are given low priorities when it comes to water distribution.* We need responsible actions by the agencies. Even worse news may be coming.

Fourteen thousand, (yes, that's 14,000) new homes have been approved for a development in western Placer county (the Vineyard Project)—and at this time there is *no water source approved.* Likewise, Folsom is planning to approve the building of 4500 new homes south of Highway 50—again with *no approved water supply.* Regardless, if water is taken from either the Sacramento or American rivers, or from underground sources to meet the needs of new development, the American River will be negatively impacted.

The river's water distribution requirements are currently over subscribed. Will we experience the *Ex-American River?* SARA, the Water Forum, and other environmental organizations will do their best to prevent this from happening — *but we'll need your support.*

(For a more inclusive and technical discussion on these topics, please contact Felix Smith via our administrative assistant Wanda Denson at 383-1298.) _____

her response took me completely by surprise—a very, very pleasant surprise!

"Well, you know," she said, when prospective students initially contact me about taking one of my classes, one of their first comments is that they want to paint along the American River. And I want you to know, she continued, "people come here from all over the world—as far as Japan and Australia, South America and Europe, and, of course, North America." I might add that the American River is featured very prominently both in her advertising brochures and her books.



Gary Eblen, owner of American Fly Fishing Co. recently presented generous donation checks from American Fly Fishing Co. of Sacramento, Fly Fishing Specialties of Citrus Heights, and private individuals of Sacramento, to Warren Truitt, President of SARA. SARA is most appreciative of the continuing support from the fly fishing community, which includes Granite Bay Flycasters.

SARA has also received generous and MUCH appreciated donations from the following this year: Sacramento Wheelmen - River City Paddlers and Chroma Gallery. We are very grateful to Print Tech, not only for their donation of printing, but for their expert advice and excellent service, and to Jet Express Mail, for mailing the Riverwatch for us. These donations and the renewals from our loyal members enable us to continue with our mission.

(Website addresses for these establishments will be listed on the insert page.)

SARA OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

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

Deborah Baron..... Wayne Chubb
Bill Griffith..... Burt Hodges
Mary Beth Metcalf..... Jim Morgan
Ken Press..... Felix Smith

Betsy Weiland..... Volunteer/ARNHA Liaison
Dan Kopp..... CGNA Liaison
Chelsea McDaniel..... Student Intern

SARA MEETING LOCATION

SARA's Board meetings are held on the 3rd Tuesday of each month, at 7:00 p.m. Meetings are being held in the Conference Room in the County Parks and Recreation Department Building at 3711 Branch Center Road. From Bradshaw Road turn right onto Ecology Lane - turn right again into the first parking lot. Please call ahead of time for possible changes in meeting schedule or location.

For information, please call Wanda at (916) 383-1298 Best to call after 10 a.m. - Leave name, message & phone number if you get a recording. Calls will be answered as soon as possible.

SARA PHONE & FAX: (916) 387-1763
SARA E-MAIL: riverwatch@comcast.net
SARA WEBSITE: www.sarariverwatch.org

NOTICE: SARA WILL NOT HAVE A BOARD MEETING DURING THE MONTH OF AUGUST.

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

CHECK THE SARA WEBSITE FOR UPDATES

The website is updated with relevant changes to specific issues as soon as possible.

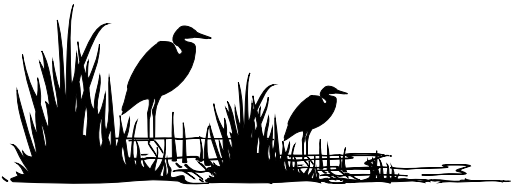
www.sarariverwatch.org

IN THIS ISSUE, THE APPLICATION / RENEWAL FORM WILL BE INCLUDED AS AN INSERT. PLEASE RENEW IF YOUR EXPIRATION DATE IS *PRIOR TO JUNE, 2007*. THE EXPIRATION DATE IS DIRECTLY ABOVE YOUR NAME & ADDRESS ON THE MAILING LABEL.

NOTE: LATEST NEWS: PLAN TO ATTEND THE PLANNING COMMISSION HEARING ON THE MARK'S USE PERMIT UPDATE ON MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, AT 5:30 P.M. - CHECK www.McMansions.org FOR MORE DETAILS.

SAVE THE AMERICAN RIVER
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SACRAMENTO, CA 95827-7638

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“Many a time have I merely closed my eyes
at the end of yet another troublesome day
and soaked my bruised psyche in wild water—
rivers remembered and rivers imagined.

Rivers course through my dreams,
rivers cold and fast,
rivers well known and rivers nameless,
rivers that seem like ribbons of blue water
twisting through wide valleys,
rivers that have eroded down deep
into a mountain’s belly,
sculpted the land,
peeled back the planet’s history,
exposing the texture
of time itself.”

Harry Middleton
Rivers of Memory

FOR YOUR CONVENIENCE, WE ARE LISTING THE WEBSITE ADDRESSES OF THOSE WHO HAVE DONATED FUNDS TO SARA THIS YEAR, AND BUSINESS ADDRESSES OF OTHERS LISTED. AVAILABLE WEBSITES WILL BE LINKED FROM OUR WEBSITE SOON.

- AMERICAN FLY FISHING CO: www.americanflyfishing.com - 3523 Fair Oaks Blvd. Sacramento, CA 483-1222
- FLY FISHING SPECIALTIES: www.flyfishingspecialties.com - 6412 Tupelo Dr. Ste. C - Citrus Heights, CA - 722-1055
- SACRAMENTO WHEELMEN: www.sacramentowheelmen.org - 840 Duncan Way - Folsom, CA 95630
- GRANITE BAY FLYCASTERS: www.gbflycasters.org - P.O. Box 1107 - Roseville, CA - 95678
- CHROMA GALLERY: www.thechromagallery.com - 10030 Fair Oaks Blvd., Fair Oaks - 966-6020
- PRINT TECH: 8605 Folsom Blvd., Sacramento, CA 95826 - 388-5618
- JET EXPRESS MAIL: 2947 Ramona Ave., Sacramento, CA 95826 - 451-6364

SOME OF SARA'S ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Led community effort to establish the American River Parkway
- Led bond measures to buy A.R. Parkway & complete bike trail
- Led bond measure to stop sewage discharges into river
- Fought for clean water and adequate flows
- Participated in all ARP Plan Updates
- A founding member of the Water Forum
- Founding member of the American River Parkway Coalition
- Formed Advisory Council of knowledgeable community leaders

ONGOING BATTLES

- Fight for adequate flow guarantees to support fish & wildlife.
- Fight inappropriate public & private development along ARP
- Fight for adequate long term ARP funding
- Monitor and fight against upstream sewage discharges.

PLEASE JOIN US IN OUR FIGHT TO PRESERVE AND ENHANCE THE AMERICAN RIVER PARKWAY AND RIVER.

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 AT THIS TIME.

TO JOIN SARA OR TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP, YOU CAN VISIT OUR WEBSITE AND JOIN ONLINE WWW.SARARIVERWATCH.ORG

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

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

SUMMER - 2007 ISSUE

NAME: _____ NEW MEMBER? _____ RENEWAL? _____

ADDRESS: _____ WANT TO VOLUNTEER? _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____ HOME #: () _____

E-MAIL ADDRESS: _____ WORK #: () _____

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY FOR ACCURACY

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES

- \$ 10.00 FULL TIME STUDENT
- \$ 25.00 REGULAR
- \$ 50.00 SUPPORTING
- \$100.00 FAMILY
- \$ 100.00+ SUSTAINING
- \$250.00 CORPORATE/BUSINESS
- \$1,000.00+ LIFETIME - PATRON
- \$ _____ LEGAL FUNDS
- \$ _____ PARKWAY FUNDS
- \$ _____ GIFT
- \$ _____ OTHER

DON'T FORGET TO NOTIFY SARA OF ANY CHANGES TO YOUR ADDRESS OR EMAIL ADDRESS.