

New Hope for the Stanislaus !!!

The good guys still have a chance to save a nine-million-year-old river. Last April, Governor Brown's new administration asked Congress to protect the Stanislaus and its canyon until there are real and tangible commitments for the water that New Melones will store if it is built. (The request was made because commitments for the water don't exist, and probably won't exist for 50 years, if ever.) **THAT REQUEST HAS JUST BEEN REFUSED BY THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT!** Governor Brown knows the value of the Stanislaus and its canyon. He knows the dam is a wasteful, destructive project. He knows that last year's vicious campaign was a victory for the big money boys who paid for it. He also knows that the election results from last year are questionable, in light of new information that we have presented him. Some time in July or early August, the Governor will decide whether or not to withdraw State support for the dam project. It is absolutely essential that he hears from every river-friend who cares about the Stanislaus, and who was outraged by the election campaign that doomed her. We can save the river with our letters and postcards. The following River Rap gives all the details. Excuse its length, but there is much to relate. **PLEASE . . . read on and ACT TODAY !!!**

Dear Friend of the River,

After a winter of sadness and outrage, and a spring of hard work and new life, Friends of the River is fighting for the Stanislaus again. New information and new circumstances offer a great deal of hope—and our juices are flowing. I hope the warm winds of summer find you in similar spirits.

Proposition 17 Campaign

If you were watching your television set on election night, you probably experienced the same range of emotions that little groups of volunteers all over the state experienced: excitement and elation as the initial results poured in and our lead increased in small increments, then sadness and shock when the Southern California results came in, and the dam builders won. Most of us were outraged by the results, because of the type of campaign that was waged against us. The No on 17 interests spent almost a half million dollars—primarily on what many political observers call the most distorted, sleazy media campaign in California initiative history. Newspaper ads all over the state showed houses floating down rivers. Billboards screamed about a "Wild River Hoax", and implored the voters to "Stop Pollution on the River." Radio spots featured sincere little old ladies and slick announcers who condemned the "Rafters' Rip-Off," and talked about "slow polluted death" for the Stanislaus. And television ads, which saturated the Los Angeles area, showed overhead shots of the infamous PG and E pipeline which "creates" the whitewater stretch, and black and white photos of dead fish piled high. The results of this incredible media blitz speak for themselves: some 2.8 million people voted "No" on Proposition 17, while only 2.5 million people voted "Yes." The people of California had pronounced their verdict on the Stanislaus . . . or had they?

Post-Election Poll

We couldn't believe that the people of this state could be so overwhelmingly misled by such a despicable campaign—especially in the wake of the Watergate horrors. And so, immediately after the election, we contracted with one of the top campaign polling companies in California to do a statewide poll, asking people how they voted on the issue and why. **The poll showed that 60% of all the people who voted on Proposition 17 thought they were voting against the dam, to save the**

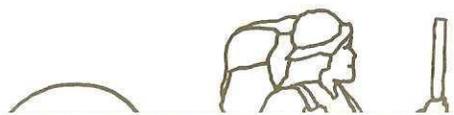
Stanislaus! This wasn't too surprising, because our first poll, taken last August, showed a similar positive public sentiment statewide to the issue. The "No" organization knew about public sentiment from their poll. So they spent a half-million dollars to lie, slander, misrepresent and CONFUSE the voters of California. According to the poll results, they were successful in their confusing tactics.

The Big Money Boys

We knew where Friends of the River money came from—mainly, from Friends of the Stanislaus all over the state, five and ten dollars at a time. But we didn't know how the "No" interests could finance such a heavy media campaign, since their campaign reporting statements before the election didn't show huge amounts of money. Then we found out what happened. The "No" interests held a cocktail party in the Central Valley a few weeks before the election. It was a pre-election "victory party," celebrating their assumed victory and some recent developments that seemed to insure it. The company that stands to make somewhere between 6 and 16 million dollars from building New Melones Dam (depending upon whose set of statistics you believe), had just pledged \$150,000 to the campaign.

This brought their total ante up to \$175,000—more than Friends of the River spent on the entire election period. And the "No" group was clever enough to arrange for this and other "special" contributions to be given after the last campaign filing deadline. That way, nobody could find out who financed their campaign until well after the election.

A few others joined the "late money" parade—bringing the "late" total to well over a quarter of a million dollars, or more than half of all the money that the "No" campaign received. Included in this group were contributions from unions (\$17,600), and sundry contributions from real estate, construction, contractor and building equipment interests to the tune of \$39,350. Corporate money in the "late" group included: Wells Fargo—\$1,500; San Diego Gas and Electric—\$1,000; Southern Pacific Land Company—\$2,500; Southern California Edison—\$4,000; Union Bank—\$500; Kaiser Industries—\$1,000; Kaiser Cement—\$500; Kaiser Steel—\$1,500; Goodyear Tire and Rubber (Akron, Ohio)—\$5,000; Texaco, Inc.—\$5,000; Commercial Shearing Company (Salt Lake City)—\$1,000; Atlantic-Richfield—\$2,500; Crocker National—\$500; Dravo Corporation (Pitts-



burgh, Pa.)—\$2,000; Morgan Equipment Company—\$4,000; DeL Monte Corporation—\$1,500; Peterson Tractor Company—\$10,000; Hyster Company (Portland, Oregon)—\$2,000; E. I. DuPont DeNemours—\$10,000; Bank of California—\$2,000; Allis Chalmers (York, Pa.)—\$1,000; Corroon, Black, Miller Ames—\$2,400. In addition, the cement company on the lower Stanislaus which destroyed so much of the salmon spawning beds gave money, as did PG and E, which currently operates a dam on the river.

This and previous reporting lists beg some very important questions, such as 1) Why should a "public" utility company be allowed to contribute money to either side of a citizens' initiative campaign? 2) Why should out-of-state money be allowed in a California campaign? 3) How can massive donations from large national corporations be allowed in a citizens' initiative fight? 4) What connection does each of these "investors" have with the Corps of Engineers or the New Melones Project? 5) Why did so much money come in so "conveniently" after the last reporting date? **And when we get around to thinking about where the 400 million dollars for New Melones will be spent, we can't help wondering about the investors in the "No on 17 Campaign." Special interests? You bet. That's who won the election—not the people of California.**

The Feds vs. the State

Right after the election, a network newsman, offering condolences, said, "Gee, it's too bad, but you win some and you lose some." Friends of the River doesn't feel that New Melones is a win-or-lose issue. We feel it is a **right-or-wrong** issue. What happened during the campaign was **wrong**. Special interest money buying an election is **wrong**. Burying the Stanislaus under tons of reservoir water is **wrong**. We are committed to rectifying these wrongs and justifying a nine-million-year-old river's existence.

Since the first of the year, we have spent a substantial amount of time digging around Sacramento, writing letters to Washington, and finding out where the state stands on New Melones. Here's what we've found, and what we can do about it.

One of the primary reasons we were able to bring the issue to a vote last year, is that the State of California had gone on record during the Reagan Administration that New Melones should not be filled if built, unless there was demonstrated a need for that much water. The Federal Government wasn't able to obtain commitments for the water last year, nor are they any closer to finding customers this year. **A new state report shows that the Central Valley Project—of which New Melones would be a part—is virtually "floating" in excess water. In fact, Federal Government testimony in court indicates that water from New Melones probably won't be necessary until the year 2020!** In spite of this testimony, the federal government wants to fill the dam all the way, thereby destroying the upper Stanislaus and its canyon. The group spearheading this Federal effort is led by a powerful Congressman named John McFall, in whose district New Melones will be built. He is a high-ranking member of the House Public Works Appropriations Subcommittee, which decides about appropriations for New Melones. The main reason McFall is fighting so hard to fill the dam up all the way, is that under Federal guidelines, the project probably couldn't be justified on economic grounds if it weren't filled. McFall wants the dam built very badly, even though the **benefits**—as challenged by the state—and **economic justifications**—as embodied in the project itself—are extremely questionable.

On the State level, the Brown Administration **seems** committed to a protective stance on the Stanislaus New Melones question. In late April, Ron Robie—Director of Water Resources—sent a letter to McFall's committee giving an o.k. to next year's 58 million dollar appropriation request for New Melones, IF—and this is an important IF—language were written into the appropriations bill protecting the upper river from needless

destruction. **In other words, the State's message to the Federal Government was, "Don't fill the reservoir up until there's a need for the water!" True to form, McFall has denied the State's request for protection of the upper river.**

This action puts the State into a quandry: they can either forget about protecting the upper river, and let McFall get his way, or they can oppose the project. Final determination for whatever action will be taken is in the hands of Governor Brown. In light of what he knows about the project, in light of the campaign that was run and the results of the poll, in light of what Governor Brown knows about the river and the canyon, in light of water needs and the new state report on water in the Central Valley Project, and in light of the economic questions about New Melones, we feel that **the Governor could make a decision to oppose the project.** The Army Corps of Engineers has a policy of not working on a project unless it has continued support from the governor of the project state. So Governor Brown's decision is extremely critical to the future of the Stanislaus River Canyon!!!

A Cry for Public Input

This letter is going to you and 34,000 river-friends who circulated petitions last year to get Proposition 17 on the ballot. We lost that battle, to the big-money boys and a sleazy campaign. Governor Brown's decision will be **greatly affected** by what the people of his state think. **He needs our input, and he needs it right now.** PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE . . . take a few minutes today to write the Governor a note or a postcard, and let him know how you feel. We have to show Governor Brown that the results of our post election poll are valid. **He will probably make his decision sometime in July or early August. So the cards and letters must begin immediately. Without public input, he may think the issue is dead, and simply not act on it. The Governor rafted through the canyon last year.** He also endorsed Proposition 17. He knows this letter is being mailed to Friends of the River all over the state, and he will be waiting to see what kind of a response it will bring. Let's not disappoint him. Address your notes to:

Honorable Edmund G. Brown, Jr.
State Capitol
Sacramento, Calif. 95814

Please act quickly. Ask other family members and friends to write a note also. It doesn't have to be a long note. But letters and cards from all of us little people can stop the big money and the special interests behind New Melones from destroying such an important part of our natural legacy for their own personal gain. And THANK YOU, AGAIN, FOR THE RIVER!

Doug Allen

Doug Allen
Executive Director
Friends of the River

P.S. We have some support in the legislature, too, so the battle will continue on other fronts. We're beginning a press campaign soon, to let everybody know about what's happening. And we'll be meeting with Governor Brown to plead our case. But the letter-writing job is the most important, so please, **DO IT TODAY!**

P.P.S. Costs for this mailing (\$4,000) add to an already existing debt from the campaign. If you can spare a few dollars to help us defray these costs, we'd appreciate it. Make out your check to "Friends of the River" and mail it to the address on this newsletter. Sursum Corda!