

CAN THE OLD AUBURN DAM SITE FIND NEW LIFE?

THE CONFLUENCE

December 2016



Is it possible that the long-abandoned Auburn dam construction site can be redeemed and transformed into a premier recreational destination and source of community pride? We think it can, particularly in light of the tremendous

progress we have made in the last year on PARC's proposal for revitalization of the former dam site, now known as China Bar.

In July, we provided California State Parks and the Bureau of Reclamation with detailed plans for suggested recreational

improvements and enhanced access to China Bar. Our proposal envisions the transformation of the former dam construction zone into a reclaimed and recovering canyon environment and recreational

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Can Old Auburn Dam Site Find New Life?...

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playground. Key components of the plan include construction of a multi-use recreational trail bridge crossing the American River just downstream of the former dam diversion tunnel outlet, new trail segments connecting existing trails on both sides of the river to the bridge, improved trail signage and interpretive panels, and strategic placement of picnic tables, shade structures, bear-proof garbage receptacles, and toilets. These recommended improvements will build much-needed trail capacity and connectivity, ensure safe use of China Bar trails by all user groups, and facilitate convenient access to a fascinating but currently under-utilized part of Auburn State Recreation Area. (For more details on PARC's proposal, please visit our website at www.parc-auburn.org.)

We have generated an impressive groundswell of community support for our China Bar plan. Thousands of postcards and letters have been submitted to Reclamation/State Parks by canyon users, advocating for construction of the trail bridge we have proposed. Letters of support for the proposed bridge have now been submitted by local government entities and other stakeholder groups, including the City of Auburn, Placer County Board of Supervisors, Auburn Recreation District, Sierra Nevada Conservancy, Auburn Chamber of Commerce Government Affairs

Committee, Placer Community Foundation, Loomis Basin Horsemen's Association, and Folsom-Auburn Trail Riders Action Coalition (FATRAC).

We are gratified our proposal has met with such widespread community support to date. Ongoing community involvement will be critical to the success of PARC's campaign to see our China Bar vision adopted and implemented by State Parks and Reclamation. The next step on that path will require active public participation in the development of a new general plan/resource management plan to guide future management of the Auburn SRA. Several alternative draft plans are currently being developed and should be completed in the next several months, and a public workshop to provide input on the draft plans will be held in the spring of 2017. We believe one of the alternatives will be clearly superior to the others, and will include broad support for the China Bar bridge and other recreational improvements recommended by PARC. It will be vitally important to have a strong show of support at the public workshop for the favored alternative. We will post the date, time and location of the workshop on our website once a date is set.

Following the spring workshop, State Parks and Reclamation will adopt one of the plan alternatives as the proposed plan, further refine it, and then present it to

the public at another workshop in the fall of 2017. A draft EIR/EIS will subsequently be prepared by the spring of 2018. Following a public comment period, it is anticipated that the final plan will be submitted for approval by the State Parks and Recreation Commission during the summer of 2018. Once the final plan is adopted, PARC will lobby for immediate implementation of a China Bar specific project plan.

Together we can make the redemption of China Bar a reality, hastening its recovery from the damage inflicted by dam builders many years ago, while at the same time creating a recreational attraction the entire community can be proud of. We thank you for your continuing support of this exciting proposal!

A Poem by Roger...

Centennial Dam, Why?

a release from the heat
high 80s in ferrenhite degrees
cottonwood leaves flash for the breeze
as woodpeckers kakal and peck

a time of low flowing rivers
a time to bless the reservoirs
just tweeking the water cycle

"making" more water
by hyperplumbing Sierra
with flow rates, lawyers and laws.
contracts for water that may not exist
California sits on a flat bell curve
normal is a number not a reality.

we can buy a few small drops of time
with more dams or conservation
even not flushing after number one.
then our choices are
suck the pacific
or use a condom.

Gray Pine

More info: www.savebearriver.com

Fifth Annual PARC High School Scholarship Essay Contest



2016 PARC Scholarship winners, from left to right: Anna Christeson-Charter University Prep High School, Lara Macon-Placer High School, Paige Roper-Placer High School, Josh Matthews-Placer High School, Kiana Kasravi-Del Oro High School



2016 PARC Scholarship winners attended their scholarship awards ceremony at the Annual Earth Day Cleanup at the Confluence Area of the American River below Auburn. They each read their winning essays to family members, PARC volunteers and the general public.

Scholarship Awards to Total \$2500 for 2017 Essay Contest

The Essay Contest topic for High School Seniors graduating in 2017 will be:

What is my connection to the American River and Canyons, and what is my vision for improving recreational opportunities in the Auburn State Recreation Area?

Students can apply for the PARC Scholarships by submitting an original essay of no more than 500 words describing their response to the topic question about the North and Middle Fork American Rivers and canyons located upstream of Folsom Reservoir, in the Auburn State Recreation Area.

Details and application forms for the 2017 PARC High School Senior Scholarship Essay Contest are NOW available on the PARC website www.parc-auburn.org.

THE CONFLUENCE...

is a seasonal, or as needed, publication of **Protect American River Canyons**.

THE CONFLUENCE is included with basic annual membership. Email us to get on our digital e-news list.

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Edited by Eric Peach

Layout by Alice Tenscher Dunbar



Volunteers Make a Tangible Impact in the Auburn SRA

*Conservation is a cause that has no end.
There is never a point at which we say, "Our work is finished." - Rachel Carson, author Silent Spring*

Twice a year for over two decades hundreds of dedicated PARC volunteers and Canyon Keepers have been gathering at the Confluence to clean the Auburn SRA. The cleanups have gone very well...so well that we have been able to cut the dumpster size in half and focus on other park improvements in the last few years. The north and middle fork rivers and canyons are much cleaner and safer for wildlife and recreation. Everybody loves the river and trails and all the enrichment they bring to our lives. Thanks to generous grants from our ongoing partners, the CA State Parks Foundation, Sierra Nevada Conservancy and PG&E we have expanded to include park improvement projects. Beginning with Earth Day 2016 and continuing throughout the year under the direction of Auburn SRA management we have made tremendous progress in providing visitor amenities and learning opportunities:

- Seven weatherproof permanent park trails and river map panels were installed at popular access points and trailheads. The panels provide detailed river, trails and road information including safety tips as well

as ASRA rules and regulations for park visitors. More map and interpretive panels are planned in 2017.

- Over a dozen new trail signs were installed in the popular Cool-Knickerbocker trail network. This elaborate maze of trails, established by miners and early homesteaders, is being demystified. This is a very popular area for competitive runs and rides. More Knickerbocker Trail signs and boardwalk stream crossings are planned for 2017. A special effort has also been made throughout the park to clear deadfall trees blocking trails especially on the Indian Creek Trail that was

severely impacted in the 2012 Robbers Fire.

- The native plant garden at headquarters has been expanded to include more "signed" beds that contain a great variety of canyon plants. Invasive weed removal is planned for various locations in the park for 2017.
- Temporary picnic tables were placed at various park locations throughout the park to facilitate "picnics with a view". More permanent tables are planned for 2017.
- The Junior Rangers program continues to flourish and expand to include weekend programs at Upper Lake Clementine in the summer.



PARC President Tim Woodall expands cleanup to include Highway 49 from Auburn to the Confluence.

The North Fork American River "Born to Be Wild!"



Decades of damming, diversion and development have led to the almost complete loss of free-flowing Sierra Nevada Mountain Rivers. A few have escaped the dam fate. Now is the time to formalize North Fork protection with California State Wild & Scenic River designation that is good for water quality, wildlife and you. We must protect the delicate balance between demands for hydro power, flood control and irrigation by keeping the North Fork free-flowing -protecting the outstanding natural, cultural and recreational values and allowing existing uses to continue where they do not conflict with river protection.

PARC supports CA Wild & Scenic designation for the North Fork from the National Wild & Scenic boundary at Iowa Hill Bridge to its confluence with Shirttail Creek. This stretch is a perfect Wild and Scenic Gorge etched by crystal clear free-flowing mountain water.

What this means to YOU.

California State Wild & Scenic designation guarantees protection, management and public access to blue-ribbon fishing for rainbow and brown trout, hiking, swimming, gold panning and spectacular whitewater rafting and kayaking.

What you can do NOW.

Go to PARC's website, parc-auburn.org, sign the online petition, enter your comments and network with your friends to sign the petition. When we have 1,000 signatures we will deliver the petition to CA Natural Resources Secretary John Laird for his support. Write your letters of support and send to PARC either snail or email parc@jps.net. We will post on our website and deliver them to Secretary Laird with the petition.

Outings, Hikes and Volunteer Opportunities

Winter Solstice Picnic Hike Saturday, December 17th

Hike the Wild & Scenic North Fork Indian Creek Trail near Yankee Jim's! Meet 11:00 am at the I-80 Bowman Park & Ride near the CalStar helicopter pad. This is a four mile round trip hike on a narrow trail with spectacular scenic views of the North Fork. Special guests will interpret the canyon ecology. Call Eric @ 530-885-8878 for info.

California State Parks Foundation Earth Day 2017, Saturday, April 22

Volunteers combined with grant funding from our sponsors ensure that the Auburn SRA –the park you love- is well maintained and protected each year. Let's make everyday Earth Day, enjoying the outdoors, getting your hands dirty, learning new skills, meeting new people and making a real difference for the Auburn SRA and all its visitors. We love our volunteers!



Membership and Donation Opportunities

Protect American River Canyons is a river education and conservation organization dedicated to the protection of the natural, cultural and historical resources of the North and Middle Forks of the American River and its canyons. PARC is very active in the community, sponsoring a variety of social, educational and river service events each year. PARC remains vigilant to destructive development and political threats to the river and canyons. Visit our website www.parc-auburn.org.

Yes! I want to join/renew membership with PARC and help shape the future of the American River!

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIPS

- \$25 Regular Member ~ Receive three river cards
- \$50 River Guardian ~ Receive waterproof version of PARC's new Auburn SRA Trails and River map
- \$100 River PARCster ~ Receive the American River Insiders Guidebook
- \$250 River Crusader ~ Receive Laws Field Guide to the Sierra Nevada
- \$500 River Champion ~ Receive both the AR Guidebook and Laws Field Guide to Sierra
- \$1,000 River Angel ~ Receive a surprise!

Please take a moment now to complete and return the enclosed envelope to renew your membership. If you prefer to renew online, go to www.parc-auburn.org and click on "Join PARC."

There is also a link on our website for contributing to the **PARC Legacy Fund and Scholarship Award Fund.**

PARC is a non-profit 501(c)3 organization. Donations are tax deductible to the extent of the law.

You can request your entire donation go to protect the American River by us sending you no premium gifts.

Other Giving Opportunities Noted on Renewal Envelope:

Support the PARC High School Scholarship Program with an additional tax deductible donation of \$_____

Support the PARC Legacy Fund with an additional tax deductible donation of \$_____

Estate Planning and Leaving Your Own River Legacy



The PARC Legacy Fund is available for those who want to protect the American River and its canyons forever. This endowment fund will grow and provide PARC with a solid financial foundation to continue protecting this unique and irreplaceable environment. The Placer Community Foundation professionally manages the PARC Legacy Fund.

To learn more about estate planning options, please contact Veronica Blake, Executive Director, Placer Community Foundation by phone (530) 885-4920 or by email at: VBlake@placercf.org. *Please consider leaving a river legacy.*

2017 "On Tour" Wild & Scenic Film Festival with PARC

This upcoming March the "On Tour" 2017 Wild & Scenic Film Festival returns to the State Theater in Auburn with another incredible selection of films to change your world. The theme of this year's festival is "At The Edge." Considered one of the nation's premiere environmental and adventure film festivals, this year's films combine stellar filmmaking, beautiful cinematography and first-rate storytelling to inform, inspire and ignite solutions and possibilities to restore the earth and human communities while creating a positive future for the next generation. Festival-goers can expect to see award winning films about nature, community activism, adventure, conservation, water, energy and climate change, wildlife, environmental justice, agriculture, Native American and indigenous cultures.



Please join PARC on Saturday, March 18th for a fun filled evening of films, great food & drinks and American River Canyon News & Updates. Tickets & info will be updated and posted at LiveFromAuburn.com or PARC-Auburn.org.



Support PARC when shopping at Save Mart. Join the "Save Mart Shares" program powered by eScript." This "no cost to you" program means PARC earns when you shop. Enroll at: savemart.com/shares

Best of The Best 2016!!



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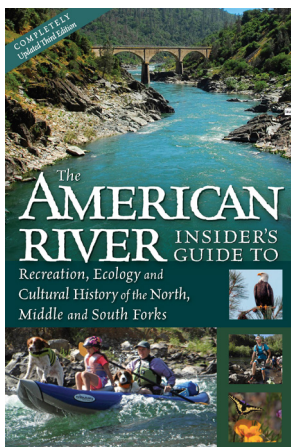
*Protect American River Canyons
 protects the natural, recreational and
 cultural resources of the North and
 Middle Fork American River Canyons
 for all to care for and enjoy.*

PARC Guide Book Review

The Insider's Guide to the American River –

North, Middle and South Forks

A thoroughly researched, accurate and up-to date trail and river exploration guide to American River recreation and ecology that is also a beautiful account of what one can discover while intimately exploring the river and canyons. The American River Insider Guide transports the reader from ancient geologic time through Native American, Gold Rush and present-day natural river history. The guide also includes a mile-by-mile detailed boating guide for over 70 miles of river, John Muir Law's plant and animal color illustrations, map illustrations and contact information for planning American River adventures. Available at local bookstores or www.parc-auburn.org.



Earth Day volunteers place trail signs in the Knickerbocker area (left) and install new trail map panel at Mammoth Bar (below.) Thanks volunteers!



Celebrate the Winter Solstice with PARC on KVMR's Sunday Showcase Program with Kim Bryant, Larry Hillberg & Eric Peach December 18th 5:00-7:00 pm.

Winter Owls are the topic of our special guest Rudy Darling who will offer information & play the calls of the owls of our area. A birder since 1963, Rudy is president of the Sierra Foothills Audubon Society. He leads field trips & teaches classes through Sierra College specializing in owls & birding by ear. Dan Diccio founder of Loping Wolf Flute & Drum Circle will provide Native American Cedar Flute interludes. PARC Board members will provide updates on upcoming American River projects and events. Be sure to tune in to KVMR at 89.5!