



North Fork of the American River

Born to be Wild & Scenic

Honorable Governor Gavin Newsom

Summer Solstice, 2019

Office of the Governor California State Capitol, Suite 1173
Sacramento, California 95814

Dear Governor Newsom,

California is a Land of Rivers and Mountains

It is with great pleasure that We the People, Protect American River Canyons, based in Auburn, and the North Fork American River Alliance, based in Dutch Flat, congratulate you on your well-earned Governorship of the Golden State –an area of enchanting beauty. The rivers and mountains of California are among its most magnificent attributes. We are writing you to ask for your support in long unfinished business. Governor elect Newsom we ask you to balance the resource needs of the Golden State with wild natural resource conservation and elevate a 5.5 mile stretch of the North Fork of the American River to California Wild & Scenic River status.

North Fork American River ~ Born to be Wild & Scenic

The North Fork of the American River near Colfax, just a half hour from Sacramento and 15 minutes from Dutch Flat is worthy of CA Wild and Scenic protection. In the final moments of Jimmy Carter's administration in 1978, he designated 35 miles of the North Fork of the American River into the National Wild & Scenic system. Unfortunately, the final 5.5 mile of this magnificent gorge from Mineral Bar to Shirttail Creek was not included due the proposed 1970's Auburn Dam project. The Auburn Dam has expired due to seismic safety, economic and environmental issues. The hardworking 2,000 square mile American River Watershed already delivers huge benefits to the people of California through massive hydro, water storage and recreational facilities located on all three forks of the American.

Protect Nature. Protect Rivers. Protect Your Future.

California's Wild & Scenic River Legacy

This 5.5 mile publicly owned stretch of American River was declared W&S eligible in a 1993 Bureau of Reclamation study. With the assistance of your Secretary of Natural Resources you can recommend this stretch of river for California Wild and Scenic designation to our State Assembly. Thank you again for taking the lead in this revived effort to bring protection to rivers and biodiversity that allows nature to continue to reinvent itself a place where heaven and earth unite in harmony blessing all living things.

Best wishes to you from We the People, Protect American River Canyons and North Fork American River Alliance Boards of Directors! We look forward to meeting you and your family. Please join PARC for our annual American River Earth Day Cleanup on Saturday, April 13th from 9:00am to noon at the Confluence of the North and Middle forks of the American River just below Auburn.

Name: _____ City: S _____

Comment: _____

Letters from educators, recreation interests, conservation leaders and families, authors and artists and others contain compelling Wild & Scenic themes that outline the benefit to the river ecosystem, educational and recreational opportunities, historical significance and inspirational scenic beauty.

Here is what others have to say about California Wild & Scenic designation for North Fork American:



“... individuals and organizations want the North Fork American to remain ‘wild and scenic’ and contribute to our local economy, environment and quality of life now and for future generations.”

- Jeff Darlington, Exec. Director Placer Land Trust

“As an educator I have given my life to providing scientific knowledge to younger minds. I have advocated for responsible sustainable development ... the designation of the North Fork American River as a California Wild and Scenic River would be a very wise step in the right direction.”

- Joseph Medeiros, Professor and Chief Editor Sierra College Press

“The intersection of the biological richness of the North Fork American River and the close proximity of the river to the Sacramento Region amplifies its unique value.”

- Lisa Thompson, PhD former Fisheries Specialist UC Davis Wildlife, Fish and Conservation Biology Department

“... we are fortunate to have this healthy free-flowing river for the ecological benefits we gain from it. It’s crystal clear waters contribute to the health of the lower American River and Sacramento River Delta.”

- Nicholas Ewing, Professor Emeritus, Cal State University Sacramento Department of Biological Sciences

“We encourage you to help protect the fisheries interest in this locally and nationally significant river.”

- Dustin Rocksvold, President, Sac-Sierra Trout Unlimited

“The North Fork of the American River is a critical rare wild river habitat that we turn to, when possible, for its qualities as natural free-flowing river educational site in the foothills.”

- Linda Desai, Education Director Placer Nature Center

“... the North Fork American provides recreational opportunities that increase the quality of life for people of the region.”

- Ron Gould, author North Fork Trails Guidebook

“It would be a personal heartbreak to see changes that would keep me from drawing inspiration from such a scenic area.”

- Juan Pena, Award Winning Watercolor Artist and Teacher

“... this wild, natural historically significant landscape contributed to the quality of life in our area and wanted to protect and share it with present and future generations.”

- Lisa and Doug Balwain, North Fork Preserve Land Donors

“While working on my books, Rivers of California and Field Guide to California Rivers, I’ve been privileged to learn about our waterways statewide, and I can say with confidence that the North Fork of the American is the most outstanding among all California’s natural streams that still lack protection.”

- Tim Palmer, Writer and Photographer

“When I worked on California policy issues and lived in Sacramento I kayaked and rafted this stretch of river countless times with other Capitol based colleagues. It offered a sense of challenge, comradery and a peaceful sojourn from the rigors of working for the public good...”

- Gerald Meral, PhD Director, California Water Program

“... preserving high quality whitewater runs is an important conservation tool for ensuring that future generations can enjoy the beauty of this free-flowing river.”

- Dave Steindorf, Theresa Simsiman, American Whitewater

“Given the opportunity to reinvent itself naturally, each seasonal cycle, the North Fork is a place of peace where heaven and earth unite their powers in harmony blessing all living things.”

- Eric Peach, Protect American River Canyons



Protect American River Canyons

For more information explore PARC’s website at parc-auburn.org, or contact Eric Peach at 530-210-5717 or email eriverpeach@gmail.com • P.O. Box 9312, Auburn, CA 95604

