

ASRA General Plan Public Meeting



California State Parks' development of a new general plan to guide future management of Auburn State Recreation Area has reached a critical juncture, with a public meeting seeking input on three possible alternative plans set for December 7 in Auburn. The "open house"

meeting will take place in the **Sierra Building at the Gold Country Fairgrounds between 5 and 8 p.m.** State Parks staff will be on hand to provide information and answer questions about the different options under consideration for inclusion in the new general plan, while

interested citizens will also have an opportunity to submit comments with their suggestions for what should be included in the plan that is ultimately adopted.

We believe one of the alternatives will call for construction of a recreational trail

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DATES TO ADD TO YOUR CALENDAR:

- December 7-Auburn SRA General Plan meeting pg 1
- January 1-Codfish Falls & Ladybug Hike pg 5
- March 17-W&S Film Festival pg 7
- April 1-Scholarship Essays Due pg 3
- April 21-Earth Day Cleanup pg 5



General Plan...

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bridge crossing the river at China Bar, along with many of the other trail improvements and recreational enhancements near China Bar that PARC has proposed. A huge turnout of people expressing their support for PARC's China Bar recreation development plan could be the difference maker ensuring our proposals are included in the final plan.

Please bring your friends to the meeting and voice your opinion on how you want our canyons to be managed. Auburn SRA is long overdue for a fresh vision, one that is committed to the long-term protection of the canyons' natural resources as well as enhancement of compatible recreational opportunities for the public. **Let's make sure State Parks hears our wishes!**

Local Government and Business Groups Proclaim Their Support For Preservation of The American River!

In response to yet another attempt by the Auburn Dam Council to secure funding for a new Auburn Dam study, the Auburn City Council, the Auburn Chamber of Commerce, and the Auburn Area Recreation and Park District have all adopted resolutions calling for preservation of the Auburn State Recreation Area ("ASRA") as a river-based recreation resource. The Placer County Board of Supervisors will consider adopting a similar resolution at its December 12 board meeting.

These public pronouncements constitute another defining moment in the history of the ill-fated Auburn Dam project. They reflect a growing consensus that those stretches of the North and Middle Forks of the American River that flow through ASRA, along with their canyons, are a local treasure deserving permanent protection.

The resolutions come at a perfect time, with the California Department of Parks and Recreation and United States Bureau of Reclamation in the midst of developing a new general plan that will guide how ASRA is managed in the future. The message sent by these resolutions couldn't be more clear: local residents and their elected representatives want ASRA to be managed in a way that will expand and enhance recreational opportunities while at the same time maintaining the park's semi-wilderness feel and rich ecosystem.

A strong public show of support at the **December 12** Board of Supervisors meeting could be key to approval of the Board's proposed resolution. The meeting will start at **9:00 am** at County Administrative Center (aka The Domes), located at 175 Fulweiler Avenue in Auburn. We anticipate the resolution will come up for discussion between 9 and 10 a.m. **Please attend if you can!**



A Poem by Roger...

Just Past Mid September

Beauty in a hint of turning
Leaves
Sun
I sit and count the reflections
Off the leaves and blades of grass
Each species has its own brush stroke
Cottonwood flutter flash and flash
The thin round needles of the pines
Produce diffuse illumination
A red hue on the Black Oak's green
The willows yellow and greenish
We start to wear more clothes
And waterproof our lives

Sixth Annual PARC High School Scholarship Essay Contest



2017 PARC Scholarship winners, from left to right: Laura Riccardelli-Del Oro, Maggie Swett-Placer, Kristine Dunn-Granite Bay, Miranda Fedoronzuk-Placer. Not in photo Marissa DeVille-Union Mine



2017 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 2018 Essay Contest

The Essay Contest topic for High School Seniors graduating in 2018 will be:

What is my connection to the American River and Canyons, and what would I change to create a better experience for visitors to 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.

Dead Line for submission is April 1, 2018. Details and application forms for the 2018 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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Living with the Wilderness at Our Doorstep

The untamed is closer than you think. The photo of this magnificent velvet buck was taken on the Pioneer Express Trail near ARD's recently approved bike park. Just a few feet behind the buck, walkers were enjoying a morning stroll on the Shirland Canal Trail. You don't have to go far to experience wildlife in the Auburn State Recreation Area ("Auburn SRA"). But this wildness at our front door cannot be taken for granted, especially in the rim areas that interface with neighborhoods or are at risk for development.



It is imperative that the public become involved in the Bureau of Reclamation's (BOR's)/ California State Parks' updated Auburn SRA General Plan process. An open house meeting is scheduled for

December 7th from 5:00 to 8:00 pm at the Sierra Building in the Gold Country Fairgrounds in Auburn. Learn about and comment on the plans State Parks and BOR have for the Auburn SRA and former Auburn Dam site. Clearly, we need a flexible plan that protects our river-canyon resources and encourages collaborative involvement by all.

Auburn SRA Volunteers: A Passion for Nature

Over 300 Auburn State Recreation Area volunteers gathered together in the spring and fall of 2017 to install new trail signs, cut out invasive scotch broom, remove graffiti, clean up abandoned miner's camps, and remove hundreds of bags of trash and recyclables from our American River park that brings so much pleasure and beauty into our lives. The Auburn SRA is blessed to have a river community engaged in the protection of our river resources for future generations to enjoy the scenic beauty and recreational opportunities -who also stand ready to defend our park from development threats.

We thank the dedicated Auburn SRA Staff and our seasonal sponsors the California State Parks Foundation, PG&E and the Sierra Nevada Conservancy who collaborate with PARC, the ASRA Canyon Keepers, the North Fork American River Alliance, Recology Auburn and many



others who continue to make these cleanup and park improvement days a safe enjoyable community experience.

It is so important to create opportunities for youth and families to connect with the river and canyons.

Together we can create a culture of river conservation. We look forward to continued success in 2018. Our sincere thanks to all our river volunteers. We would not be successful without you!



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The pictures are stunning!

Many thanks to Julie Thomas

Placer Land Trust Honors Eric and Paula Peach

The Placer Land Trust has named long-time PARC board member Eric Peach and his wife Paula as its “Conservators of the Year” for 2017. The Peaches were honored at PLT’s Conservator Awards Dinner held on October 19 at the Ridge Event Center in Auburn. PARC is thrilled that PLT chose to recognize Eric and Paula’s contributions to American River conservation efforts. For more than 40 years now, Eric and Paula have championed efforts to protect Placer County’s greatest and most threatened natural asset – the North and Middle Forks of the American River and their canyons.

The Peaches’ accomplishments are too numerous to comprehensively list here, but a sampling of highlights includes: introducing countless numbers of people to the wonders of the river and canyons by leading hikes and river trips; successfully fighting multiple efforts to revive Auburn Dam; developing effective partnerships with other environmental and community groups, as well as with Auburn SRA staff; promoting American River education efforts through design and publication of PARC newsletters, maps, brochures, and three editions of the American River guidebook; organizing and staging the American River Confluence Festival for 21 consecutive years; and coordinating twice-yearly canyon clean-up days for more than 30 years (and counting).

It’s no secret that the Peaches’ conservation efforts have been a labor of love, for they will tell you that the time spent exploring and working to protect the canyons has enriched their lives beyond compare. It is also beyond dispute that their efforts have been overwhelmingly successful. When they began their work in the late 1970’s, nearly everyone believed the Auburn Dam would eventually be built, and there was relatively little public awareness of what would be lost if the canyons were flooded. In the last four decades the dam threat has faded and public opinion has shifted dramatically, with widespread recognition that preserving the river and canyons is essential to maintaining the tremendous quality of life we enjoy here in Placer County. **Thank you, Eric and Paula, and congratulations on this most deserving award!**



Surrounded by colleagues, supporters and friends, Eric and Paula Peach received a standing ovation honoring them for receiving the 2017 Placer Land Trust Conservators of the Year award.

(Photo courtesy of Placer Land Trust.)

Outings and Volunteer Opportunities

Codfish Falls & Ladybug New Year’s Hike Monday, January 1

Meet 10:00 AM at the Bowman Park & Ride next to the CalFire Headquarters. Celebrate the New Year with an invigorating PARC hike to popular Codfish Creek Falls and side trip to check to see if the North Fork Ladybugs have returned to their cozy winter hibernation area. The hike is an easy 3 mile round-trip with river views. We can lunch at the Falls. Rain cancels hike. Email parc@jps.net or call 530-885-8878 for more information.

California State Parks Foundation Earth Day Saturday, April 21, 2018

Volunteers combined with grant funding from our sponsors ensure that the Auburn SRA –the park you love- is well maintained and protected each year. Save the date. More information to follow in our digital news blasts. We love our volunteers!



Popie Robertson finds an aggregation of Ladybugs. For more on this interesting spectacle check out: <https://www.mnn.com/earth-matters/animals/blogs/why-do-ladybugs-gather-massive-swarms>

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

(All membership levels will receive new PARC magnet pictured below.)

- () \$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!

For your convenience, 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 indicating to not send premium gifts.



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.*

2018 "On Tour" Wild & Scenic Film Festival with PARC

This upcoming March the "On Tour" 2018 Wild & Scenic Film Festival returns to the State Theater in Auburn with another incredible selection of adventure and environmental films to change your world. The theme of this year's festival is "Groundswell". Considered one of the nation's premiere environmental and adventure film festivals, this year's films combine stellar film making, 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 17th for a fun filled evening of films, great food, drinks and American River Canyon News & Updates. Tickets & information will soon 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: <http://escrip.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.*

ASRA to Improve American River Access

PARC has been working with ASRA to increase river access days at China Bar, which had been only open to the public on weekends from late May to late September. That policy denied river access to boaters during the spring boating season, users of the Pioneer Trail, and fishermen.

Last winter's high water created more river access problems, causing closure to both the Mammoth Bar OHV area and the Birdsall boating take-out. Oregon bar is now the only take-out before Folsom reservoir for boaters running the North Fork from the confluence, which gives boaters another mile of class 2-3 rapids in scenic canyons. However, damage to Oregon Bar road and frequent lack of parking made for a difficult and strenuous carry-out for boaters.

PARC Board members Tim Woodall, Eric Peach and Tony DeRiggi, with support from Theresa Simsiman of American Whitewater and Auburn City Councilman Bill Kirby, worked with ASRA for the following improvements:

- China Bar entry to Oregon Bar now open 4 days/week, Friday-Monday all year
- Parking at end of Oregon Bar road and river trail to be improved
- Mammoth Bar rafting takeout of the family friendly lower Middle Fork whitewater run scheduled to reopened in 2018
- Potential use of PCWA's Pump Station Road as a temporary seasonal access
- Possible access to Pump Station Rapids from the Cool-Knickerbocker Area
- Consideration of use of electronic payment system for parking fees

AUBURN & COOL TRAILS BANDANA MAP



If you love stunning canyon views, the potential opportunity to observe wildlife or share healthy trail recreation with friends, this is the perfect map for you. The 22"x22" bandana map is now available to order in a natural color, screen-printed, 100% cotton at parc-auburn.org.