



Board of Directors

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FRIENDS OF TRINITY RIVER NEWSLETTER

September 30, 2005

HOW THE TRINITY LOST ITS WATER

Attorney **Dane Durham** spent countless hours, weeks and months documenting with incredible precision the history of the **Trinity Division** of the **Central Valley Project**. His work is not fully up to date since much has transpired since he last researched and wrote. **Mr. Durham** ultimately hopes to complete this work, and to make it more exciting reading. He has said, "I'm no **Marc Reisner**" author of *Cadillac Desert*. That may be, but the work is fascinating to those of us who care about restoration of the **Trinity River**, its ecosystem, tributaries, and the economy dependent upon this once vital river system.

His work is a factual story about how the **Trinity River** lost its water. Few people know this history of intrigue, politics, the drive for higher elected office, and federal taxpayer beneficence for a few wealthy "farmers" in the far off **Westlands Water District** in the **Western San Joaquin Valley**, mostly a desert wasteland before it received **Trinity River** water. These irrigated lands now pollute the **San Joaquin River** and **San Francisco Bay** because of high levels of selenium and other contaminants that leach from its irrigated soils.

The price for the **Trinity Division** was destruction of a critical economic resource of **Trinity County**, as well as a major economic blow to the entire **North Coast of California** from **San Francisco** north to **Southern Oregon**, and the demise of a once thriving commercial fishery. It was, simply, a behind-the-scenes massive wealth transfer.

Mr. Durham has given us permission to place his work on our website: www.fotr.org so that those who are interested in this untold story now have access to his valuable research. Any use of the material must credit **Mr. Durham**.

MEMBERS OF RESTORATION PROGRAM STAKEHOLDER GROUP APPOINTED

After a delay of just a couple of weeks less than a year, the **Interior Secretary** on September 9 reappointed or appointed new members of the **Trinity Adaptive Management Working Group (TAMWG)**, the mostly public so-called stakeholders group that advises on policy, management, and other **Restoration Program** elements. The initial meeting of the newly appointed group will be November 4 in **Weaverville**. The group generally meets quarterly in March, June, September and December.

This initial meeting, including several new members, will be organizational largely, the intent being to familiarize members with the history and status of **Trinity River** restoration. Matters for decision include establishment of working committees and some possible appointment of persons to serve on them. The objective of the meeting is to position **TAMWG** to be as effective a force within the **Restoration Program** as it must and should be.

As now constituted, **TAMWG** consists of the following persons, together with their affiliations: **Arnold Whitridge**, TAMWG Chairman, Safe Alternatives for Forest Environment, **Serge Birk**, TAMWG Vice Chairman, Central Valley Project Water Association, **Steve Anderson*** U. S. Bureau of Land Management, **Ed Duggan**, Willow Creek Community Creek Services District, **James Feider**, City of Redding Electric Utility Department, **Patrick Frost**, Trinity County Resource Conservation District, **Joan Hartmann*** Trinity Landowner, **Dan Haycox**, Miners Alliance, **Dana Hord**, Big Bar Community Development Group, **Byron Leydecker**, Friends of Trinity River, **Richard Lorenz**, Trinity County Resident, **Elizabeth Soderstrom**, Bay Delta Science Consortium, **James Spear**, Natural Resources Conservation District, **Spreck Rosekrans*** Environmental Defense, **David Steinhauser**, Six Rivers Outfitter and Guides Association, **Thomas Weseloh**, California Trout, Inc.

Alternates are: **Ann Hayden*** for Environmental Defense, **Joe Neil*** for Friends of Trinity River, and **Steve Rotherth*** for Bay Delta Science Consortium.

Designated federal official to TAMWG is **Mike Long, U. S. Fish & Wildlife Service (USF&WS)**, Arcata, CA., who also serves on the **Trinity Management Council (TMC)** and currently is its Acting Chairman.

*Indicates a new member. Others are persons who were reappointed.

NO FALL WATER RELEASES FOR LOWER KLAMATH

The **Bureau of Reclamation (BOR)** purchased 20,000 acre feet of water from the **Sacramento Valley Water Association** at a cost of \$618,000. to prevent another possible fish kill in the **Lower Klamath River** this fall. This appears to have been a total waste of money since the water won't be used, and undoubtedly won't be carried over to next year.

A report from **Trinity River Restoration Program (TRRP)** scientists that had worked with several other agencies/entities/tribes determined criteria that would establish the need for additional water in the **Lower Klamath**. Criteria developed, among other things, included size of fish run, water volume, water temperature, disease monitoring, and looking for possible dead fish. There has been no evidence of conditions likely to produce another fish kill, such as occurred in 2002. It was determined that additional water was not needed, although monitoring of critical criteria continued.

BOR originally anticipated using **Trinity River** water if additional flows were needed. Use of **Trinity** water met with uniform opposition. It was totally inconsistent with **Trinity Record of Decision** prescribed **Trinity** flows, or adaptively managed use of **Trinity** water for river restoration purposes. **BOR** then pursued use of water from behind **Shasta Dam** through the \$618,000 purchase. This is accomplished by releasing less water from **Trinity Dam** through the tunnel to **Whiskeytown Lake**, and then to **Keswick Reservoir** and the **Sacramento River**. Thus, **Trinity** exports are reduced by purchased water from **Shasta Dam**.

COMMENTS ON STATE WATER ISSUES AFFECTING TRINITY RIVER

Joined by other organizations, we recently commented extensively on two issues that could impact adversely **Trinity Restoration: San Luis Drainage Feature Re-evaluation Draft Environmental Impact Statement** and the proposed water delivery service **Renewal Contract for Westlands Water District (WWD)**. The comments provide insight into **BOR's** somewhat incomprehensible approaches toward these crucial possible actions. The proposed actions also reflect **BOR's**, or the **Interior Department's** perception of its constituency as **South of San Francisco Bay Delta** irrigator contractors – **WWD, San Luis and Delta Mendota Water Authority**.

Comments are posted on our website: www/fotr.org for those interested in reviewing them.

RESTORATION PROGRAM WEBSITE

Trinity River Restoration Program recently established a website. It is quite extensive, and contains much that would be of interest to those seeking information about the **TRRP**. Site address is: www.trrp.net There's also a link to it on our **FOTR** website.

HOCKER FLAT CHANNEL MANIPULATION PROJECT

Construction is well underway on the **Hocker Flat** channel manipulation project. It is a fairly massive undertaking. This project is designed to accomplish the “unhandcuffing” of the river in that area, and ultimately to provide for additional juvenile rearing habitat. When completed this October, the project should enhance the river's own natural alluvial function. This would be true especially with an increase in water returned to **Trinity River**.

Hocker Flat is located below **Junction City** and **Canyon Creek** and, therefore, should be self sustaining – a **Program** objective. Its maintenance as a natural river characteristic presumably is not dependent upon increased water releases from **Trinity Dam**. It may be, however, that additional flows may need to be adjusted to ensure that the project is self sustaining, that is, vegetation and other growth does not destroy its intended effectiveness.

For more information about this project, including maps, go to **TRRP** website www.trrp.net click on Site Index and then click on Mechanical Channel Rehabilitation.

FRIENDS OF TRINITY RIVER STAFFING

We continue to work to add staff beyond a single volunteer, the support of **Tom Weseloh**, **Northcoast Manager of CalTrout** and member of **FOTR's** board, and **Gary Seput** who serves on **FOTR's** board. We are hopeful to have a highly qualified person on board by the first of the year.

As reported in our last Newsletter, we need a full-time, on the ground person of unquestioned credentials and stature to be involved in every facet of the **Restoration Program**. This person needs to interact continually with **Program** staff, **Trinity Management Council (TMC)** and **TAMWG** members and the technical representatives of both groups, the **Science Advisory Board** and with members of scientific **Independent Peer Review Panels** when they are appointed.

To fulfill this significant need means that we will require additional funding. We are implementing plans to obtain this funding for both the short and long term. As our plans progress, we will inform you.

RENEWAL AND NEW MEMBERS, AND SPECIAL RECOGNITION

We again want to express appreciation and our thanks to **Mr. Jeff Bright**, of **Jeff Bright Design** in **San Francisco** www.jeffbrightdesign.com - graphic and website design services - who updates our website for us when we're able to provide information to him to do so.

If you have renewed your membership, or joined FOTR since our June Newsletter and your name(s) has been omitted below, please let us know – we want to recognize your support. Also, in a couple of cases, contributions sent to us have not been received. People notified us and we resolved the issue of stray mail.

New members, or those renewing since our June Newsletter are:

Anonymous, Anonymous Foundation, Roy Barker and Janice Parakilas, John M. Barrena, Joel Cohen, Cal-West Custom Rods, Andrea and Richard Carlson, Norman Christensen, M.D., Samuel David Cohen, Allen Cooper, Douglas Durham, James Ferguson, Fly Fish Northern California, Susan and Stephen Haskell, Kenneth Haupt, Donald Hicks, Steven Huddleston, Carla and Francis Huelman, David Imper, Jen and Michael Lash, M.D.

Also, Francis Matthews Family, James C. McIntosh, William Morrish, Rex Murphy, Vincent O'Malley, Dennis Pagones, Dr. John Palmer, Dr. Douglas R. Patterson, David Peck, David J. Peck Landscape, Peninsula Fly Fishers, Marian L. Perry, C. J. Ralph, Ramshaw Services, Brian Sasaki, Harold Frost Saufley IV, John Schmidt, Marilyn and Fred Wadsworth, Joseph Walsh, M.D., Larry Wilson, and John R. Winzler, D.D.S.

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