

American River Parkway Preservation Society
Annual Organizational Report
October 1, 2013- September 30, 2014

Mission

**Preserve, Protect, and Strengthen the American River Parkway,
Our Community's Natural Heart.**

Vision

**We want our Parkway, seven generations from now, to be a vibrant,
accessible, and serene sanctuary, nourishing and refreshing the spirit of all
who enter it.**

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**American River Parkway Preservation Society
Organizational Leadership**

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President

Michael Rushford, President
Criminal Justice Legal Foundation

Vice President/Executive Director

Kristine Lea, Training Developer
Scientific Applications International Incorporated

Treasurer/Senior Policy Director

David H. Lukenbill, President
Lukenbill & Associates

ENDOWMENT ADVISORY GROUP, CHAIR

William C. Schopfer, President
Fund Development Associates

SLOBE PARKWAY ADVOCATE AWARD RECIPIENTS:

Robert J. Slobe, President
North Sacramento Land Company

Franklin Burris, President
North Sacramento Chamber of Commerce

Mary E. Tappel, Environmental Scientist
California State Water Board

Dave Lydick, Deputy Director
American River Parkway & Regional Parks Division

Rob Kerth, President
North Sacramento Chamber of Commerce

Phil Serna, Supervisor, 1st District
Sacramento County Board of Supervisors

Marcos Breton, Columnist
Sacramento Bee Newspaper

Introduction

This has not been such a good year for the Parkway.

After a rousing series of article in the *Sacramento Bee* in 2012 concerning the devastating impact illegal camping by the homeless in the North Sacramento area of the Parkway; Sacramento County, who manages the Parkway, began a serious effort to remove illegal campers.

However, even after several months of the increased ranger activity, it apparently hasn't reduced the illegal camping, as noted by County Parks Director Jeff Leatherman in this July 7, 2014 story from KCRA News.

Leatherman said his rangers increased patrols for illegal campers a year and a half ago from four days a week to seven days a week.

However, he said, since then, the number of homeless people camping in the parkway has remained about the same.

Retrieved September 7, 2014 from <http://www.kcra.com/news/fire-reignites-debate-over-american-river-parkway/26834284>

That is very sad news.

However, operating under the principle of subsidiarity, this could be changed for the better.

According to the *Oxford English Dictionary*, subsidiarity is defined as:

The quality of being subsidiary; *spec.* the principle that a central authority should have a subsidiary function, performing only those tasks which cannot be performed effectively at a more immediate or local level.

This principle has guided our thinking in calling for a Joint Powers Authority (JPA) to be established by the Parkway adjacent governmental entities: Sacramento County, Sacramento City, Rancho Cordova, and Folsom.

The JPA would then contract with an existing nonprofit for daily Parkway management or create a new nonprofit to fill that role.

ARPPS advocates a management scope including the entire Parkway, ensuring Parkway dedicated management, which would be very appropriate for a signature regional park known nationally as a premier river parkway recreational site.

The management model we use is the Central Park Conservancy, which manages Central Park under contract with the city of New York where a JPA is not needed as Central Park lies within one governmental jurisdiction, whereas the Parkway lies among four, plus the State of California.

The principle of subsidiarity has also guided our conducting of the start-up facilitation—now completed—of a local group of organizations working to improve conditions in the North Sacramento area of the Parkway, which they define as the area from the confluence of the American and Sacramento rivers, up to the H Street Bridge.

For the two founding meetings we organized in September of this year—wonderfully facilitated by Kristine Lea, ARPPS Executive Director, who established inclusive agenda and meeting dialogue flow models—the group focused on sharing organizational issues and developing a geographic scope, which the group concluded should be focused on their local neighborhood.

Ideally, and congruent with the principle of subsidiarity, the primary organizations involved in developing a strategy for the North Sacramento area of the Parkway would be North Sacramento-based groups.

Our organization has always been open to helping other Parkway organizations to come together and become more effective, and we envision that this new North Sacramento group, as yet unnamed, will result in more effective Parkway advocacy for an area desperately needing it.

So, though not such a good year for the Parkway, we believe we have made some headway in resolving the lingering issues.

Public Communication & Education

Weblog

ARPPS maintains a daily weblog at <http://riverparkwayblog.wordpress.com/> and during our program year, from October 1, 2013 to September 30, 2014 we posted 198 individual messages concerning articles, reports, news items, and event information connected to our mission.

E-Letters/Newsletters

ARPPS ensures that all public leadership with some form of public participation in Parkway related issues receives our monthly e-letters and quarterly newsletters, as well as press releases, research report and policy briefings and position papers.

Public Advocacy, Support Letters, Press Releases

Public Advocacy

Senior Policy Director & ARPPS President attended the North Sacramento Chamber of Commerce meeting about Camp Pollack in the American River Parkway at Camp Pollack in Sacramento, April 17, 2014.

ARPPS President, Vice President/Executive Director and Senior Policy Director attended a start-up meeting of North Sacramento groups wanting to address issues related to the North Sacramento area of the Parkway, which ARPPS Vice President/Executive Director facilitated, August 28, 2014.

ARPPS Vice President/Executive Director facilitated/chaired the second start-up meeting of North Sacramento groups wanting to address issues related to the North Sacramento area of the Parkway, September 24, 2014.

Press Releases

PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release April 22, 2014 Sacramento, California

Open Letter to Sacramento City Council

A plan to expand an existing homeless gathering place by more than 100%--from approximately .75 acre to 1.78 acres—as reported by the April 21, 2014 story in the *Sacramento Bee*, would compound the disaster upon the already disastrous concentration of homeless services in the River District and their contribution to the illegal camping by the homeless in the downtown area of the Parkway, which has devastated habitat, polluted the river and Parkway, and rendered that area totally unsafe for the adjacent communities—which are among the poorest in the region—from enjoying the Parkway.

The *Bee* story notes:

“The disheveled guests at Friendship Park have finished their turkey sandwiches and potato chips. They’ve had their showers, made their free phone calls, finished their appointments with addiction counselors, chatted with acquaintances and taken naps under shade trees. It is late afternoon, time to make their pilgrimage from the park at the Loaves & Fishes homeless services complex in Sacramento to nearby riverbeds, bridges, churches and doorways, where they will lay down their bedrolls and spend the night.”

Retrieved April 21, 2014 from <http://www.sacbee.com/2014/04/21/6339373/plan-to-relocate-loaves-fishes.html>

The argument made in the article that it will not attract even more homeless to the already over-burdened area does not stand up to common-sense.

Any homeless gathering place that provides this level of all-in-one service in a relatively welcoming climate close to free camping along a beckoning river will continue to attract the homeless from across the country.

The American River Parkway is highly desirable to the homeless for illegal camping for four reasons:

- It is close to a concentration of homeless services
- It is close to downtown panhandling opportunities
- It is overgrown and easy to hide illegal campsites within
- It is close to a fresh water river

With the already recorded devastation that has resulted from illegal camping in the downtown area of the Parkway, our organization stands firmly against any expansion of homeless services in the River District, which will only add to the devastation of the Parkway.

We also continue to stand completely in support of providing service to the homeless and applaud the Sacramento community for its many years of compassionate help to those needing a hand-up, but strongly feel the type of all-in-one service asking for expansion approval for a homeless gathering place needs to be denied.

Organizational Leadership
American River Parkway Preservation Society
Sacramento, California
April 22, 2014

PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release August 8, 2014 Sacramento, California

Links Golf on the Parkway

Local media has recently noted the synergy being created by the downtown Kings Arena and the potential downtown soccer arena as a major catalyst elevating Sacramento's long woeful downtown into a vital urban center.

This synergy portends downtown revitalization well beyond anything that has ever been in Sacramento. Additionally, the possibility of a links golf course in the Parkway's North Sacramento/Cal Expo area adds recreational diversity and increased utilization.

The construction of a links course in this area would virtually end the long-term and wide-spread illegal camping problem and the Parkway degradation caused by related Parkway fires, pollution, and crime.

Links golf courses are built with minimal disturbance of the underlying land, and a peek at the tragic photos taken by Bob Slobe after the most recent Parkway fires, see at <https://plus.google.com/photos/105011935601249535342/albums/6043945907271184689?banner=pwa&authkey=Cl2Ntc2Bt--jzgE> reveal the links ready land underneath the burned out greenery.

As new downtown hotels and housing begin emerging from the arena building synergy, the ability to play golf along the American River and in view of the confluence with the Sacramento River, offers an experience for downtown and North Sacramento residents long enjoyed by upper Parkway residents at Ancil Hoffman and Campus Commons golf courses on the Parkway.

Besides the site itself, the beauty of a links course there is that the Parkway site is historic—the Niesnan Indian village of *Yamanepu* was located on a knoll on the north

bank of the American River a bit east of the Sacramento River—and disturbing as little of the land as possible retains the historic contour of Sacramento’s first residents.

Organizational Leadership
American River Parkway Preservation Society
Sacramento, California
August 8, 2014

Articles Published

Published in Sacramento Press January 21, 2014 @
<http://sacramento.press.com/2014/01/21/drought-water-storage/>

Drought & Water Storage

by **David H. Lukenbill**
January 21, 2014 12:11 PM

The only conclusion you can reach from a few paragraphs in the recent story about the drought and water storage is that Los Angeles is smart and Sacramento is dumb.

As the article notes, Los Angeles has built enough water storage over the past several years to provide water through 2016 even under the present drought conditions, while Sacramento has built none.

While it is obvious that Los Angeles’ planning is based on their scarcity of water, and our lack of planning is based on an abundance of water, each assumption has exceptions and Sacramento is now living under such, with Folsom Lake becoming almost empty and the American River low enough to walk across, as many of us remember was the situation almost every summer before Folsom Dam was built.

As we have continually advocated, and as the original engineering done for the California State Water Project several decades ago called for, a higher Shasta Dam and building Auburn Dam would virtually end California’s drought and flood water problems.

We cannot count on abundance, as the current drought is making crystal clear.

For the long-term future we need the Auburn Dam, which Congressman Tom McClintock notes: “Ultimately, it will be constructed,” McClintock said. “The only question is if it’s built in time to prevent the (Sacramento flooding) calamity.” *Sacramento Bee*, “Auburn dam back in play as McClintock takes over House panel”, January 15, 2011

Additionally, for the absolute best storage, the raising of Shasta Dam from the current 600 feet high to the 800 feet high it was originally engineered to be, which would triple storage from the existing 4,552,000 acre feet to 13,890,000 acre feet.

We all know that the political will—as shown by public leadership in Los Angeles—to embark upon this type of water storage development for the Sacramento region does not appear to be on the horizon, but that is no reason for all of us not to continue to remind political leadership that there is a solution out there, and for them to continue calling for conservation without working for that solution, which could provide abundant water in wet years and enough water in dry years, is to continue failing a basic principle of public leadership; leadership.

David H. Lukenbill, Founder, American River Parkway Preservation Society

Letters Published

None

AMERICAN RIVER PARKWAY PRESERVATION SOCIETY FINANCIAL STATEMENT

October 1 2013 to September 30, 2014

PART I Revenue, Expenses, and Changes in Net Assets or Fund Balances

Revenue

1. Contributions, gifts, grants, and similar amounts received	\$2,152.32
2. Program service revenue including government fees and contracts	\$0
3. Membership dues and assessments.....	\$0
4. Investment income.....	\$0
5a. Gross amount from sale of assets other than inventory	\$0
b. Less: cost or other basis and sales expenses	\$0
c. Gain or (loss) from sales of assets other than inventory	\$0
6. Special events and activities	\$0
a. Gross revenue (not including contributions on line 1)	\$0
b. Less: direct expenses other than fundraising expenses	\$0
c. Net income or (loss) from special events and activities	\$0
7a. Gross Sales of inventory, less returns and allowances.....	\$0
b. Less: cots of goods sold	\$0
c. Gross profit or (loss) from sales of inventory	\$0
8. Other revenue (describe).....	\$0
9. Total Revenue (Add 1, 2, 3, 4, 5c, 6c, 7c and 8).....	\$2,152.32

Expenses

10. Grants and similar amounts paid.....	\$0
11. Benefits paid to or for members.....	\$0
12. Salaries, other compensation, and employee benefits	\$0
13. Professional Fees and other payments to independent contractors.....	\$1,444.76
(\$1,100.00,Capacity Building Consultant) (\$225.00 Web Services)	
(Website Hosting \$119.76 for 2 years, 3/23/14 to 3/23/16)	
14. Occupancy [web], rent, utilities, and [web] maintenance	\$0
15. Printing, publications, postage, and shipping	\$283.75
(\$283.75 Postage)	
16. Other expenses (describe) [Supplies, Meetings, Awards, Dues]	\$321.94
(Ink Toner \$175.97) (Meetings \$79.97) (Bank Fees \$36.00)(Parkway Blog Site Free of Advertising for one year \$30.00)	
17. Total Expenses (Add 10-16).....	\$2,052.45
18. Excess or (deficit) for the year (Subtract 17 from 9)	\$99.87
19. Net assets or fund balances at beginning of year (from line 27, column A)	\$94.62
must agree with end-of-year figure reported on prior years return	
20. Other changes in net assets or fund balances (attach explanation)	\$0
21. Net assets or fund balances at end of year. Combine lines 18-20	\$194.49

PART II Balance Sheets

22. Cash, savings, and investments	\$194.49
23. Land and buildings	\$0
24. Other assets (describe)	\$0
25. Total Assets.....	\$194.49
26. Total Liabilities (describe)	\$0
27. Net assets or fund balances (line 27 of column B must agree with line 21)	\$194.49

Current Membership Status

FINANCIALLY SUPPORTING MEMBERS

The membership composed of students, individuals, families, businesses, nonprofit organizations, chambers of commerce, and foundations that provide financial support on an annual or one-time donation basis.

Subtotal **324 Members**

Retention Rate **69%**

HONORARY LIFETIME MEMBERS

Honorary memberships given to students, individuals, families, businesses, nonprofit organizations, chambers of commerce, and foundations that have provided extraordinary support to the organization.

Subtotal: **50 Members**

HONORARY LEADERSHIP MEMBERS

Memberships given to individuals in public leadership roles related to the Parkway.

Subtotal: **309 Members**

ADVISORY GROUP MEMBERS

The membership comprised of community members who have donated time and support working on one of several committees and/or advisory groups, or who are part of a community leadership group.

Subtotal: **35 Members**

TOTAL MEMBERSHIP **718 Members**

Strategic Plan (2009-2014)

The American River Parkway Preservation Society Strategy & Implementation

Preserve, Protect & Strengthen the American River Parkway *For As Long As The River Runs Through It* 2009 – 2014

Introduction

The leadership in our community has a responsibility to create a vision that preserves, protects and strengthens the treasured resource of the American River Parkway in perpetuity.

We have invested our first five years—since our organization was founded in 2003—pursuing a strategy of organizational capacity building and conducting research in the practical approaches, emanating from our guiding principles, we've determined can address the critical issues impacting the Parkway, and communicating with our members and the public those results.

Six Critical Issues & Corresponding Guiding Principles

1) Continuing depletion of public funding to provide vital ongoing maintenance, facility repair, law enforcement presence, invasive plant management, and fully restore a sense of safety for those using our priceless public resource.

Our Guiding Principle: Preserving the Parkway is not an option, it's a necessity.

2) Continuing pressure on the river, whether through flooding, illegal sewage discharge, or taking water for new development, hurts the salmon and other aquatic life.

Our Guiding Principle: What's good for the salmon is good for the river.

3) Continuing habitat devastation, fires, and pollution from widespread illegal camping by the homeless, primarily in the North Sacramento area of the Parkway.

Our Guiding Principle: Regarding illegal camping by the homeless in the North Sacramento area of the Parkway: Social and environmental justice calls upon us to help the poor and distressed person but not at the expense of the adjacent community to visit the Parkway safely.

4) Continuing development pressure to build large homes along the Parkway edges, intruding on the view space, and encroaching into the commons.

Our Guiding Principle: If it can be seen from the Parkway, it shouldn't be built along the Parkway.

5) Continuing exclusion of responsible usage by new Parkway user groups is contrary to the spirit upon which public ownership of a natural resource is predicated.

Our Guiding Principle: Regarding new parkway usages: Inclusion should be the operating principle rather than exclusion.

6) Continuing encasement of open space, restricting suburban community development upon which a sustainable tax base funding necessary public works is built, is contrary to sound future planning.

Our Guiding Principle: The suburban lifestyle—as surrounds the American River Parkway—which is imbued within the aspirational center of the California Dream and whose vision is woven into the heart of the American Dream, is a deeply loved way of life whose sustainability we all desire.

This past five year period resulted in the creation of our first strategic plan—designed to guide our work from 2004 to 2009—a stable membership base of about 700, designation of an annual parkway advocate (five individuals were acknowledged), and

regular communications (letters, articles, daily blogging, monthly e-letters, quarterly newsletters, annual organizational reports and four research reports covering critical issues, and periodic planning position papers).

All of this information is available on our website.

Strategic Summary

We will be investing the next five years in two directions; one major, the other ongoing.

The major work will focus around trying to encourage local government to bring into reality the one idea from our research into approaches that can most significantly impact the major critical issues—funding and management—which is the creation of a Joint Powers Authority (JPA) to govern the Parkway.

The ongoing work will focus on continuing to help build a community knowledge base around the results of our four research reports, buttressed by new information that becomes available.

The American River Parkway is the most valuable natural resource in our community and one of the most valuable in the nation.

Because of this singular nature, it has the potential to be governed through a singular process, a Joint Powers Authority (JPA), as other signature park areas in the country are governed.

This type of governance will give our Parkway the dedicated management and fund raising capability that are so necessary to retain and enhance its premier local and national status.

Implementation Summary

To help create an environment where the JPA policy concept we have presented become accepted public policy it is important to provide information about successful adaptations of the concept to other public park areas in the nation, to the public and public leadership through the following venues.

Community Information

- Daily blogging: The Parkway Blog at <http://riverparkwayblog.wordpress.com/> is part of the ongoing work of ARPPS public education and advocacy around public policy issues that may be related to the Parkway and the adjacent communities along the American River in Sacramento, California. (200 - 250 blog postings annually)
- Daily letters to members of the public: We will be sending information to members of the public, concerning the advisability of creating a JPA to govern the Parkway. (500 - 600 letters annually)
- Monthly & special e-letters to membership and public leadership: We will continue the monthly e letters, with a focus, when possible, on illegal camping in the North Sacramento area of the Parkway and JPA governance. (12 - 16 annually)
- Quarterly newsletters to membership and public leadership: We will continue the quarterly newsletters with a focus, when possible, on JPA governance. (4 annually)
- Regular letters to the editor: We will seek opportunities to send letters that focus on JPA governance, Auburn Dam & Illegal camping. (4-10 annually)
- Occasional articles in local publications: We will seek to have articles published that look at governance by a JPA and a nonprofit conservancy as a viable option for the Parkway. (1-3 annually)
- Occasional policy planning papers: We will, when possible, cover the viability of Parkway governance by a JPA. (1-3 annually)
- Organizational report (1 annually)

Public Forums

- Regular forums around Parkway issues: We will seek opportunities to conduct public forums around the issue of JPA governance. (1-2 annually)
- Presentations to local business and neighborhood organizations: We will seek the opportunity to present information about JPA governance. (1-2 annually)
- Meetings with public leadership: We will meet with public leadership to discuss the option of JPA governance. (4-6 annually)

Study Mission

- Advocate for a study mission to the San Dieguito River Park in San Diego, which is governed by a JPA.

Review & Update

This plan is subject to annual review and updating every five years.

Status Summary

Our Guiding Principles, Critical Issues & Suggested Solutions: Status of Progress

Guiding Principles

- 1) *Preserving the Parkway is not an option, it's a necessity.*
- 2) *What's good for the salmon is good for the river.*
- 3) *Regarding illegal camping by the homeless in the North Sacramento area of the Parkway: Social and environmental justice calls upon us to help the poor and distressed person but not at the expense of the adjacent community to visit the Parkway safely.*
- 4) *If it can be seen from the Parkway, it shouldn't be built along the Parkway.*

5) *Regarding new parkway usages: Inclusion should be the operating principle rather than exclusion.*

6) *The suburban lifestyle—as surrounds the American River Parkway—which is imbued within the aspirational center of the California Dream and whose vision is woven into the heart of the American Dream, is a deeply loved way of life whose sustainability we all desire.*

Status: These guiding principles—Number 6 was added in 2011—still animate our work, being prioritized as warranted.

Critical Issues/Solutions

We encourage policy discussions about the Parkway, addressing the five critical issues and our proposed solutions.

1) Continuing depletion of public funding to take care of the Parkway.

Solution: *Create a Joint Powers Authority and nonprofit organization for daily management and fundraising.*

Status: Being discussed by a designated committee with representation from Sacramento County and the cities of Sacramento, Folsom, & Rancho Cordova.

2) Continuing pressure on the river, whether through flooding, illegal sewage discharge, or taking water for new development, hurts the salmon and other aquatic life.

Solution: *Build the Auburn Dam.*

Status: On hold, but still a congressionally approved dam site which could be revived by Congress, and the Regional Water Forum sponsored by the Auburn Dam Council in June of 2012 was a welcome addition to the public discussion for the need for Auburn Dam.

3) Continuing habitat devastation, fires, and pollution from widespread illegal camping by the homeless in the Lower Reach.

Solution: *Strengthen and enforce laws against illegal camping.*

Status: Sacramento County has embarked upon a vigorous effort to reduce illegal camping, conducting daily searches, and with the addition of four new rangers in the budget passed in September of 2013, this effort should intensify.

4) Continuing development pressure to build large homes along the Parkway edges, intruding on the view space, and encroaching into the commons.

Solution: *Prohibit such new building.*

Status: The new Parkway Plan strengthened the restrictions.

5) Continuing exclusion of responsible usage by new Parkway user groups is contrary to the spirit upon which public ownership of a natural resource is predicated.

Solution: *Give such groups an opportunity to make their case.*

Status: New groups seeking access to the Parkway, such as dogs-without-leases groups, mountain-bike groups, disc-golf groups, mini-train groups, etc. are still finding little opportunity to present their proposals—which almost always includes doing the maintenance and initial set-up themselves—to the Parkway governing agency which has traditionally favored passive recreation over active.

6) Continuing encasement of open space, restricting suburban community development upon which a sustainable tax base funding necessary public works is built, is contrary to sound future planning.

Solution: *Support the growth of suburban communities.*

Status: There is an advocacy element in the Sacramento region which does not support suburban communities, and we shall continue to note that suburban communities are where the majority of people wish to live, and that planning decisions need to reflect this.

Appendix I: E-Letters

American River Parkway Preservation Society

E-Letter #138, October 8, 2013

Rangers & Suburbs

In a great piece of news, four more Parkway Rangers were approved last month by the County Board of Supervisors which brings the ranger force up to 20; still too low for the workload they have, but a big improvement.

And in another great piece of news, our favorite urban planner and historian, Joel Kotkin, professor of Urban Development at Chapman University will be the keynote speaker at the State of the County Luncheon Friday, November 15, 11:30 AM- 1:30 PM at the Sheraton Grand Hotel in Sacramento.

The theme this year is “Popular or Politically Incorrect? The Importance of having Prosperous and Livable Suburban Communities”

Tickets are available and for more information, you can call the Metro Chamber at 319-4261 or go online go to the “Events” tab at the Sacramento Metro Chamber website, <http://metrochamber.org/>

We have been admirers of the work of Professor Kotkin for many years, which we have followed through his books and his blog site, New Geography, <http://www.newgeography.com/>

His seminal book, *The City: A Global History* is extraordinary, and the review by Alan Ehrenhalt in *Governing Magazine* first introduced me to Professor Kotkin’s work.

Here is an excerpt.

“When I was a kid in Chicago, my dad used to take us for rides along the Lake Michigan shore line, from Hyde Park on the South Side, past Soldier Field and the great lakeside museums in Grant Park, around the twists and turns east of Michigan Avenue, and then down by the Near North beaches crowded with bathers in the summertime. Every once in a while, he would gesture toward the lake itself and utter what he considered a timeless truth. "You can't find a city anywhere with a lakefront as magnificent as this."

“I didn't have any standards of comparison at the time, but I couldn't help wondering if I was mostly just listening to one man's exuberant but eccentric personal chauvinism.

“Years later, I noticed that quite a few other residents of my father's city felt the same way he did. A much more famous one, the newspaper columnist Jack Mabley, wrote something even more hyperbolic. "You ride the length of Chicago's magnificent shore line," Mabley proclaimed in the Daily News, "and think that other cities, corruption or no, should have been able to produce something as beautiful."

“The more I thought about Mabley's assertion, the sillier it seemed. Cities don't "produce" shorelines the way they produce convention centers. Nature produces them. The best that civic leaders can do is try to avoid messing them up.

“But there's another way to look at this issue: For urbanites in the generation of my father and Jack Mabley, there was a bigger-than-life quality to aspects of the physical environment that surrounded them. Something capable of inspiring awe within them virtually anytime they glanced upon it. Something--one might even venture to say--that possessed a touch of the sacred.

“I admit to feeling a little tentative about bringing up ideas like that. Joel Kotkin, on the other hand, delivers them with utter confidence. In his new book, "The City: A Global History," Kotkin declares simply and forcefully that there are three basic elements to a superior urban experience. One is economic power. A second is personal security. And the third is sacredness--which he relates to a capacity for awe on the part of the citizens. "Cities can thrive,"Kotkin warns, "only by occupying a sacred place."”

Retrieved October 1, 2013 from <http://www.governing.com/columns/smart-mgmt/Sacredness-City.html>

American River Parkway Preservation Society

E-Letter #139, November 5, 2013

Rivers of Gold National Heritage Area

Part of our organizational vision has always been the creation of a National Heritage Area encompassing the American River Watershed as the site of the California Gold Rush, which we have suggested be called the Rivers of Gold National Heritage Area.

We wrote about this idea in our 2007 research report: *The American River Parkway*:

Governance, Ecoregionalism & Heritage; A Vision & Policy Primer, which can be read online at <http://www.arpps.org/Report3-Governance.pdf>

We have not mentioned this project for some time because a team has begun work on a National Heritage Area encompassing the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta which needs to come to completion before beginning another effort close-by which would involve some of the same legislative leaders and community organizations.

Success in this effort would clearly help in the implementation of Rivers of Gold.

Earlier this year, February 6, 2013, the *Sacramento Bee* noted the legislation presented:

“California's U.S. senators introduced a bill in Congress on Monday to name the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta as a National Heritage Area.

“The bill by Dianne Feinstein and Barbara Boxer will recognize the Delta as a "nationally important landscape" with unique "natural, cultural, and historic resources.”

“A similar bill was proposed in 2011. The designation is also supported in the Delta Reform Act of 2009, a state law.”

Retrieved October 28, 2013 from <http://www.sacbee.com/2013/02/06/5168835/national-heritage-area-status.html>

On April 23, 2013 the National Park Service offered support in a statement to the Senate Subcommittee on National Parks, Committee on Energy & Natural Resources:

“The Department supports the objectives of S. 228. The Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta (Delta) area has been found to meet the National Park Service’s interim criteria for designation as a National Heritage Area. However, the Department recommends that Congress pass program legislation that establishes criteria to evaluate potentially qualified National Heritage Areas and a process for the designation, funding, and administration of these areas before designating any additional new National Heritage Areas.

“There are currently 49 designated national heritage areas, yet there is no authority in law that guides the designation and administration of these areas. Program legislation would provide a much-needed framework for evaluating proposed national heritage areas, offering guidelines for successful planning and management, clarifying the roles and responsibilities of all parties, and standardizing timeframes and funding for designated areas.

“S. 228 would establish the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta National Heritage Area within the counties of Contra Costa, Sacramento, San Joaquin, Solano, and Yolo, in the State of California, with the Delta Protection Commission designated as the Heritage Area’s management entity.”

Retrieved October 28, 2013 from
http://www.delta.ca.gov/Delta_NHA_Proposal.htm

A Feasibility Study was completed July 2012 and is available at
http://www.delta.ca.gov/res/docs/NHA/Delta_NHA_Study.pdf with a map of the study area on page 15.

American River Parkway Preservation Society

E-Letter #140, December 6, 2013

Is Local Media Anti-Suburban?

Well, sometimes it appears so, and the arrival of noted suburban defender Joel Kotkin who was invited to speak at the Sacramento Metro Chamber November 15, 2013 *State of Sacramento County* event created quite a response from the local paper who took Mr. Kotkin, the Chamber, and by inference pretty much everyone else who lives in the suburbs to task in one news article
<http://www.sacbee.com/2013/11/16/5916630/taking-aim-at-suburban-growth.html>
and two editorials, one November 16th
<http://www.sacbee.com/2013/11/16/5915897/editorial-chamber-peters-use-straw.html>
and one December 1st <http://www.sacbee.com/2013/12/01/5957047/editorial-adrift-sac-metro-chamber.html> .

The folks opposing the suburbs are generally well-intentioned and their case for urban infill/growth is a good one, and should be supported; but the case for suburban growth is also a good one, and should also be supported.

Most folks would agree that housing developments that are done poorly and without proper review are not a good thing, but virtually all of the development in and around Sacramento has been done pretty well and with substantial review—not only from the local political entities that approve the developments but the judicial reviews caused by the inevitable law suits surrounding any suburban development in our region.

And, though all of this usually raises the cost of housing, it still usually results in a better ultimate project, and it would be refreshing to see the major newspaper in our suburban region acknowledging that once in awhile.

The paper claimed the organizers of the Metro Chamber's event Joel Kotkin spoke at, were creating a straw man by claiming a war on the suburbs; and then in a strange lack of awareness, continued the media war on the suburbs.

The event itself was a sellout, as reported by the Chamber leader in the same paper, <http://www.sacbee.com/2013/11/23/5938433/another-view-county-forum-successfully.html> with almost 300 people in attendance, a clear indication that many in Sacramento appreciate hearing good things about where they choose to live, rather than the normative drumbeat about the bad.

The war on the suburbs is orchestrated by a minority—some members of the urban planning community, the environmentalist movement, and the media—while the majority of people continue to choose to live there; which has been true throughout the world since suburbs first began appearing thousands of years ago; all of which the website Joel Kotkin writes at, *New Geography* <http://www.newgeography.com/> reports.

In 2012, our organization produced the research paper: *The American River Parkway's Suburban Setting: The Sacramento Dream; A Vision & Policy Primer* which is on our website at <http://www.arpps.org/Report5-SuburbanSetting.pdf>; as our support of the wonderful benefits of the Sacramento suburban lifestyle—much of which lies alongside the Parkway—we so enjoy.

American River Parkway Preservation Society

E-Letter #141, January 6, 2014

Parkway Organization Sues County

As reported in this story from the *Sacramento Bee* on Christmas Eve, <http://www.sacbee.com/2013/12/23/6024337/sacramento-county-sued-over-parkway.html> Sacramento County is being sued for Parkway management related issues.

This is not a strategy our organization supports.

ARPPS has had disagreements with the County over the management of the Parkway, but we have never felt compelled to take those disagreements to the courts.

In our dealings over the years with Sacramento County, even given the disagreements, we have found them to be well-intentioned, competent individuals trying to do the best job they can within the financial, political, and bureaucratic environment they work in.

Our long-term call for management to be conducted by a nonprofit organization rather than a governmental department is based on our research that it is a better management tool for signature parks given the accessibility to philanthropic funds, and the resulting management dedication to the Parkway rather than the dilution caused by being part of a regional park system managed by government.

What becomes of this lawsuit is, of course, unknown, but from our perspective, it is an unfortunate development, especially given the action over the past year, under current County executive leadership, to clean up the North Sacramento area of the Parkway; action which has gone a long way towards solving the seemingly intractable problem of illegal camping in the Parkway.

American River Parkway Preservation Society

E-Letter #142, February 4, 2014

Water, Optimal Thinking

One of the central aspects of our mission, as expressed in our first ARPPS Newsletter in January of 2004 is: “ARPPS will encourage thinking optimally rather than minimally.”

Consequently, in each of the areas outlined by our critical issues and our proposed solutions (which can be linked to from the right hand box at our home page <http://www.arpps.org/>) we have always researched what is being done around the world regarding the particular issue, and if it is something that may work here, we advocate for it to be considered as part of the process.

In the case of water storage; having enough storage to provide the proper flow and temperature to ensure optimal conditions for salmon health in the Lower American River, protect against the certain danger of major flooding at some point in time, or being prepared for periodic drought conditions, the optimal solutions come from California itself as a result of the Central Valley Water Project plans that would have built Shasta Dam 200 feet higher—it is engineered for that—and completed the Auburn Dam.

Had both those strategies been completed we would have increased our Northern California water storage by about 12 million acre feet (Folsom Dam holds about 1

million acre feet) and California would probably not have declared a drought emergency.

Given the situation we now have, obviously water conservation has to be the word of the day, but it helps to keep in mind that optimal solutions are, and have been, out there.

And sure, building Auburn Dam or raising Shasta Dam can cause problems needing solutions, and worst case scenarios are still something to take into account in the process; but continuing to live under the ever-present danger of inadequate water quality and quantity, flooding and drought, isn't written in stone, regardless of how much the environmental movement wishes it were.

We can fix things, we can make things work better, we can prepare, and optimal thinking about water is a very good strategy.

American River Parkway Preservation Society

Special E Letter #6

February 6, 2014

Yesterday's Congressional Remarks on Auburn Dam

**Water and Power Sub-Committee Hearing on:
H.R. 3980, "The Water Supply Permitting Coordination Act"
H.R. 3981, "The Accelerated Revenue, Repayment" and
Discussion Draft, "To Amend the Secure Water Act of 2009 to authorize the
Secretary of the Interior to implement a surface water storage
enhancement program, and for other purposes"**

February 5, 2014

Opening Remarks by Water and Power Subcommittee Chairman Congressman Tom McClintock:

The Subcommittee on Water and Power has taken a great deal of testimony on what needs to be done to break down the barriers that have stopped serious

development of new water storage, and this hearing begins the process of distilling that testimony into practical legislation. We have two bills and one discussion draft today to begin that process.

Droughts are not preventable. But suffering from droughts is preventable. Water is abundant, but it is unevenly distributed over time and space. We build dams to take water from wet years so that it is available in dry ones, and we build aqueducts to move water from wet areas to dry areas.

The poster child for California's failure to do so is the Folsom Dam, the principle water storage for Sacramento and its suburbs. One million acre feet when full – it is now nearly empty. Up-river from Folsom is the site of the Auburn Dam. Half-built in the 1970s and then abandoned in the first Jerry Brown Administration, it would have provided 2.3 million acre feet of storage. It would have generated 800 megawatts of clean and inexpensive electricity for the region. At a time when we are spending billions of dollars for levees in the Sacramento Delta to protect against a 200-year flood, Auburn by itself would have provided protection against a 400-year flood.

That dam by itself could have stored enough water to fill Folsom Lake nearly two and a half times.

Retrieved February 6, 2014 from <http://mcclintock.house.gov/2014/02/opening-statement-water-and-power-subcommittee-1.shtml>

American River Parkway Preservation Society

E-Letter #143, March 5, 2014

Congressman McClintock on Water Policy

Congressman Tom McClintock addressed the House last week, and his talk is posted below.

Congressman McClintock is a strong advocate for common sense water policy and we are very fortunate he is in Congress.

His talk:

California Water: It's the Storage

House Floor Remarks

February 27, 2014

Mr. Speaker:

Two weeks ago, President Obama visited the drought-stricken Central Valley of California. He announced his administration's response: he wants to spend another billion dollars to study climate change.

I can save him the trouble. The planet has been warming – on and off – since the last ice age, when glaciers covered much of North America. The climate has been changing since the planet formed, often much more abruptly than it has in recent millennia.

Until the earth begins moving into its next ice age, we can reasonably expect it to continue to warm. That will mean less water can be stored in snow packs and therefore more will need to be stored behind dams.

There, I just saved a billion dollars.

Everyone thinks that the Colorado River is the mother lode of all water in the Western United States, but the Colorado is a junior sister to the mighty Sacramento River system. The difference is that we store 70 million acre feet of water on the Colorado and only 10 million acre feet on the Sacramento.

Droughts are nature's fault and they are beyond our control. WATER SHORTAGES, on the other hand, are OUR FAULT.

We have not built major water storage on the Sacramento system since 1979 because of opposition from the environmental left, and most recently from this administration.

Indeed, we have had to fight back against its attempts to destroy perfectly good existing dams, including four hydroelectric dams on the Klamath River.

Even in years of plenty, this administration has insisted on diverting 200 billion gallons of water from Central Valley agriculture for the amusement of the Delta Smelt, devastating the economy, drying up a quarter million acres of fertile farmland and throwing thousands of Californians into unemployment.

Because of opposition from the environmental left, we have been unable even to raise the spillway at the Exchequer dam by ten lousy feet in order to add 70,000 acre feet of storage at Lake McClure.

Because of radical environmental regulations, 800,000 acre feet of desperately needed water – that’s a one acre column of water 150 miles deep –was drained from Shasta, Oroville and Folsom lakes last fall – knowing full well that we were heading into a potentially catastrophic drought.

Governor Brown proposes to spend \$14 billion for cross-delta tunnels that will produce exactly ZERO additional storage and exactly ZERO additional hydro-electricity.

Yet for a fraction of that cost – roughly \$6 billion – we could complete the Shasta Dam to its design elevation, meaning 9 million acre feet of additional water storage – nearly doubling the capacity of the Sacramento River system.

Everyone has seen the eerie pictures of Folsom Dam as its lake lay almost completely empty. For just a few billion dollars, we could complete the Auburn Dam, upriver of the Folsom, that would hold enough water to fill and refill Folsom Lake nearly 2 1/2 times. That’s in addition to 800 megawatts of electricity for the region and 400 year flood protection for the Sacramento Delta. The fortune we are currently spending on Delta levee repairs is to protect against a 200-year flood.

Enough is enough.

We are at a cross-roads and it is time to choose between two very different visions of water policy.

One is the nihilistic vision of the environmental left: increasingly severe government-induced shortages, higher and higher electricity and water prices, massive taxpayer subsidies to politically well-connected and favored industries, and a permanently declining quality of life for our children, who will be required to stretch and ration every drop of water and every watt of electricity in their bleak and dimly lit homes.

The other is a vision of abundance, a new era of clean and cheap and plentiful hydro-electricity; great new reservoirs to store water in wet years to assure abundance in dry ones; a future in which families can enjoy the prosperity that abundant water and electricity provide, and the quality of life that comes from that prosperity. It is a society whose children can look forward to a green lawn, a backyard garden, a family swimming pool, affordable air-conditioning in the summer and heating in the winter, brightly lit homes and cities and abundant and affordable groceries from America’s agricultural cornucopia.

Retrieved March 3, 2014 from <http://mcclintock.house.gov/2014/02/california-water-its-the-storage.shtml>

American River Parkway Preservation Society

E-Letter #144, April 7, 2014

Auburn Dam & Policy Misdirection

That was the tactic used in the answer to the third question in this Q & A article from the Sacramento Bee about the drought: Why don't we build the Auburn dam? Article is at: <http://www.sacbee.com/2014/03/23/6262025/drought-qa-pros-and-cons-of-artificial.html#>

The first two reasons the article notes for not building the dam are easily addressed when Congress gives the go ahead for Auburn to be built, which at some point we hope it will.

However, the other reason given, that it doesn't store enough water, is the misdirection, one that is also being used by the environmentalists opposing the dam.

They claim that by adding in the increased storage Auburn would create and then subtracting the already committed amounts of water to end users, environmentalists come up with a mere 200,000 acre feet of new water that would be created for use in the total of 2.3 million acre feet of new storage, misdirecting the argument to: that isn't enough new water to justify the expense of building Auburn Dam.

However, when you take into account the reality, like this year of drought, when those who have water committed aren't getting it because there is not enough in the storage system, it becomes obvious that the argument is more of an attempt to further impede the building of Auburn Dam rather than a serious addition to the public discussion.

American River Parkway Preservation Society

E-Letter #145, May 5, 2014

Policy Window Open

Congressman Tom McClintock understands that the policy window for constructing Auburn Dam is open because of the drought and the clear need for clean power and flood protection; and in his recent remarks at Folsom Dam, he noted that.

Remarks at Folsom Dam Improvement Dedication Folsom Lake, California April 26, 2014

A few months ago, Folsom Lake was almost empty. The drought was the catalyst, but the reason was unnecessary water releases from this Dam and a lack of additional water storage upstream.

For three days this past week, knowing we are still facing a potentially devastating water shortage this summer, water releases out of the dams on this river TRIPLED to meet environmental mandates that place the interests of fish above those of people.

We cannot ask our people and businesses to scrimp and save and stretch and ration every drop of water they use, while this government treats that same water supply so recklessly and wastefully.

We celebrate the arrival of the first of the new gates for the auxiliary spillway. It is an important step in protecting the Sacramento region from a 200-year flood, and that's a good thing.

But we should also note that upstream from this location is the unfinished Auburn Dam. Completion of that project would mean 400-year flood protection for Sacramento and enough water storage to fill and refill Folsom Lake nearly 2 1/2 times. It would mean enough clean, cheap hydroelectricity to power a million homes, and a major new recreational center in our region.

Even at the artificially-inflated prices caused by environmental mandates, completing Auburn would cost much less than the pending proposal for a cross-delta facility that would provide zero additional water storage and zero additional hydroelectricity.

Today we mark an important step toward better and more efficient flood control and it is reason to celebrate and to congratulate and thank the contractors installing these improvements.

Yet the recent memories of an empty Folsom Lake should remind us that we need to restore common sense in managing our current water supply AND in meeting our future needs.

We have a choice. We can continue with our current policies and face a future of increasing scarcity as we ration every drop of water and every watt of electricity in our parched and dimly lit homes -- or we can re-dedicate ourselves to a bright and prosperous future of abundant, inexpensive and clean water and power.

Is that really such a hard choice to make?

Retrieved April 30, 2014 from <http://mcclintock.house.gov/2014/04/remarks-at-folsom-dam-improvement-dedication.shtml>

American River Parkway Preservation Society

E-Letter #146, June 2, 2014

More Misdirection on Dams

The *Sacramento Bee* continues to offer misdirection rather than sound policy regarding the so obvious it almost hurts to keep mentioning it, need for more dams in California, in their front page article from yesterday.

What the environmentalists and the *Bee* are again offering as definitive, is that new dams aren't needed because the actual result, the "new" water stored won't be worth the cost of creating storage for the "new" water because so much of the "old" water is already committed anyway.

This is an argument of misdirection when the actual equation is a whole lot simpler.

Dams function as banks.

You store water in them to plan for future needs, whether those of hard times (drought or flood) or those of good times (growth of new residential and business communities).

Prudent public leadership always keeps a "rainy-day fund" on hand.

Prudent public leaders also believe in conservation and recycling, so those should always be included in California water policy discussions.

Eliminating from the discussion the increased water storage new dams could create does not represent a sound water policy strategy.

As California's lean and plenty water cycle is historically well-established, it behooves public leadership to consider banking water during years of plenty to carry us through the lean years; which new dams and recharging groundwater storage can do.

Fortunately, more and more people in public leadership understand this.

The Bee article in question is available here,
<http://www.sacbee.com/2014/06/01/6448005/should-california-use-taxpayer.html>

American River Parkway Preservation Society

E-Letter #147, July 7, 2014

Reviewing ARPPS Mission, Vision, Critical Issues, Approaches, Solutions & Guiding Principles

Mission

Preserve, Protect, and Strengthen the American River Parkway,
Our Community's Natural Heart.

Vision

We want our Parkway, seven generations from now, to be a vibrant, accessible, and serene sanctuary, nourishing and refreshing the spirit of all who enter it.

Critical Issues

1) Continuing depletion of public funding to provide vital ongoing maintenance, facility repair, law enforcement presence, invasive plant management, and fully restore a sense of safety for those using our priceless public resource.

Our Approach: This is not a new problem, nor is it going to go away any time soon. Years of deferred maintenance have deeply damaged the Parkway, and without the development of alternative funding and management structures, it will continue to deteriorate. We will work with nonprofit organizations,

universities, businesses, neighborhood associations, government entities, and churches to develop alternatives to maintain and preserve the Parkway.

Solution: Create a Joint Powers Authority and nonprofit organization for daily management and fundraising.

Our Guiding Principle: Preserving the Parkway is not an option, it's a necessity.

2) Continuing pressure on the river, whether through flooding, illegal sewage discharge, or taking water for new development, hurts the salmon and other aquatic life.

Our Approach: People want to live in Northern California, so it is not surprising that development continues at record levels. Each new city in our area brings new pressure for growth, more opportunity for sewage accidents, and more potential harm to the salmon. We will approach government, at all levels, to seek concrete solutions, and encourage them to increase their commitment to improving river water quality and preserving the Parkway.

Solution: Build the Auburn Dam. With congressional re-approval of the dam, led by Congressman Tom McClintock, the Bureau of Reclamation can reapply for the lost water rights.

Our Guiding Principle: What's good for the salmon is good for the river.

3) Continuing habitat devastation, fires, and pollution from widespread illegal camping by the homeless, primarily in the North Sacramento area of the Parkway.

Our Approach: The dignity of the human person, including the poor and distressed, must be respected, but the dignity of the poor and distressed community must also be respected. We will collaborate with homeless advocacy organizations, local government entities, businesses, churches, universities, and neighborhood associations to seek grant funding to build more nature centers on the Parkway, and provide Parkway maintenance jobs to the homeless.

Solution: Strengthen and enforce laws against illegal camping.

Our Guiding Principle: Regarding illegal camping by the homeless in the North Sacramento area of the Parkway: Social and environmental justice calls upon us to help the poor and distressed person but not at the expense of the adjacent community to visit the Parkway safely.

4) Continuing development pressure to build large homes along the Parkway edges, intruding on the view space, and encroaching into the commons.

Our Approach: Given the stunning beauty of the Parkway, it is no wonder people want to build along its edges, even though their homes may visually intrude on the commons, destroying the sense of being embraced by nature that is the essential Parkway experience. We will work to ensure that the American River Parkway Management Plan will include restrictions against visually intrusive construction that are clear and irrevocable.

Solution: Prohibit such new building.

Our Guiding Principle: If it can be seen from the Parkway, it shouldn't be built along the Parkway.

5) Continuing exclusion of responsible usage by new Parkway user groups is contrary to the spirit upon which public ownership of a natural resource is predicated.

Our Approach: The Parkway belongs to all of us. It is a community resource. The Parkway Management Plan should contain no absolute restrictions on user activity, rather a process of study and decision-making. Along with off-leash dog walking, mountain biking, full access for the disabled, inline skating, and a greatly expanded network of picnic and sitting places, there are a variety of new usages that should be under consideration to become part of the Parkway experience.

Solution: Give such groups an opportunity to make their case.

Our Guiding Principle: Regarding new parkway usages: Inclusion should be the operating principle rather than exclusion.

6) Continuing encasement of open space, restricting suburban community development upon which a sustainable tax base funding necessary public works is built, is contrary to sound future planning.

Our Approach: Suburban communities are where the overwhelming majority of American families wish to live, and the opportunity in our region for those communities to be built for the families who hope to live in them, is a shared supportive responsibility for those of us who presently enjoy our life in the suburbs and for those who hope to enjoy the suburban family lifestyle in the future.

Solution: Support the growth of suburban communities.

Our Guiding Principle: The suburban lifestyle—as surrounds the American River Parkway—which is imbued within the aspirational center of the California Dream and whose vision is woven into the heart of the American Dream, is a deeply loved way of life whose sustainability we all desire.

American River Parkway Preservation Society

E-Letter #148, August 6, 2014

The American River Parkway: Management by a Nonprofit Organization

The American River Parkway is one of the premier recreational and natural resources in the capital region; over 4,000 acres of walking, equestrian, and bike trails, fishing and rafting spots, picnic areas, parks, golf courses, islands and a beautiful river drifting through one of the major urban/suburban and richly historic areas of the nation.

Often called *Our Crown Jewel*, it has become a corroded jewel due to the illegal camping and subsequent problems such as Parkway fires and environmental degradation in the North Sacramento/Cal Expo area; but these are solvable problems.

Our first guiding principle is:

“Preserving the Parkway is not an option, it’s a necessity”

From this perspective the best way to preserve, protect, and strengthen the Parkway as a vitally necessary ingredient to our quality of life, is to provide daily management for the Parkway through a nonprofit organization.

With an independent nonprofit organization providing management, the ability to accomplish long range goals for the Parkway, such as increased public safety, greater environmental protection and endowment fund development, will be greatly increased.

In our opinion, the best strategy is to first form a Joint Powers Authority (JPA).

A JPA makes sense and could create a stable base funding stream and provide balanced governance oversight of a contract with the managing nonprofit.

Bringing in the cities as partners in a JPA addresses the current political and economic climate facing the County causing the County’s financial situation to continue to deteriorate leaving even less future funding for the Parkway.

The best example of a nonprofit management strategy locally is the Sacramento Zoo, established in 1927 and managed—since 1997—by the non-profit Sacramento Zoological Society under contract with the city.

The Zoo property, buildings and animal collection remain assets of the city of Sacramento.

In addition to providing the necessary maintenance for the Zoo, the Society has continually moved to strengthen the operation.

This type of visionary thinking comes from an organization dedicating itself solely to the Zoo and the service it provides to the public.

The same dynamic could happen with a nonprofit organization managing the Parkway.

The national model for what a nonprofit can do for a park is the Central Park Conservancy, which took over management of Central Park in New York several years ago when the city was struggling financially. The Conservancy has restored Central Park's luster as one of the world's great parks, building an endowment well in excess of \$100 million in the process.

The elements exist in the American River Parkway—central to the greatest migration of people in the western hemisphere during the Gold Rush and with its sister rivers framing the capital of one of the world's great economies and governing centers—to enhance an already magnificent parkway.

It will take leadership realizing the great value of the natural resources in our region and enlisting the public and other government leaders in the effort to grow and fund this great natural heart of our community.

In conclusion, our suggestion would be to form a JPA with the County, Sacramento, Rancho Cordova, and Folsom, establishing a base financial commitment, and the JPA to contract with a nonprofit organization to provide daily management and dedicated philanthropic fund development for the Parkway.

Finally, the capability of a nonprofit organization to advocate for two of the most important public policies affecting the Parkway, public safety and environmental protection in the North Sacramento/Cal Expo area—so long suffering from the impact of wide-spread illegal camping and Parkway fires—would be considerable.

American River Parkway Preservation Society

E-Letter #149, September 3, 2014

Rivers of Gold National Heritage Area

One of the most interesting ideas we have come across related to preserving, protecting and strengthening the American River Parkway is the National Heritage Program of the National Park Service, see their website at <http://www.nps.gov/heritageareas/>

We wrote about it in our 2007 research report: *The American River Parkway: Governance, Ecoregionalism, & Heritage, A Vision & Policy Primer*, where we wrote about the National Heritage Area program as it could relate to the American River Parkway, (pp. 30-35) available on our website at <http://www.arpps.org/Report3-Governance.pdf>

We wrote in the report:

“There are several models for what we would like to see become the Rivers of Gold National Heritage Area, encompassing the American River Watershed, the gold discovery site at Coloma and the American River Parkway, but the one with another metal very important to the nation central to it, would be the Rivers of Steel National Heritage Area in Pennsylvania.” (pp. 32-33)

The *Sierra Sun Times* ran a story about the National Heritage Area’s 30th Anniversary last month and here is an excerpt.

“August 22, 2014 - Washington – The National Park Service is celebrating the 30th anniversary of the first national heritage area, which led the way for a program that uses a grassroots, community-driven approach to support historic preservation, natural resource conservation, recreation, heritage tourism, and educational projects across the country. Through their resources, national heritage areas tell nationally important stories that celebrate our nation’s diverse culture and heritage.

“For three decades, national heritage area entities and their partners across the country have been reviving historic downtowns, preserving battlefields and industrial sites, providing new and improved recreation opportunities, and conserving forgotten waterways and wetlands all while telling our nation’s history in innovative ways,” said National Park Service Director Jonathan B. Jarvis. “These are places where small investments pay huge dividends, providing demonstrable benefits in communities across the country and in partnership with our national parks.”

“On August 24, 1984, President Ronald Reagan signed a law establishing the Illinois & Michigan Canal National Heritage Corridor as the nation’s first national heritage area. This ground-breaking approach to historic preservation included large, lived-in landscapes with active communities, a multidisciplinary emphasis, and community-based coordination.

“Thirty years ago, the national heritage area designation was conceived by community and National Park Service leaders looking for a new approach to conserve and develop the historic Illinois and Michigan Canal, which extends from Chicago to LaSalle-Peru,

Illinois. From 1848 to 1933 the canal was the primary transportation corridor that linked Chicago to other parts of the country, but by the early 1980s it had been all but forgotten when visionary community leaders sought to unite the 96-mile Illinois and Michigan Canal region.

“They envisioned a large landscape focused not only on the preservation of the area’s historic, cultural and natural sites but that would also include active roadways, businesses, and residential and industrial districts, an unheard of concept at the time. Today, the 830-square mile Illinois and Michigan Canal National Heritage Corridor is comprised of historic canal towns, nature preserves, state parks, museums, and more than 80 miles of recreational trails, which collectively draw more than a million visitors annually.

“From that first national heritage area in 1984, the program has grown to number 49 areas in 32 states, telling the stories of a broad range of American history and culture, from the influence of Illinois on the development and rise of our nation’s 16th president at Abraham Lincoln National Heritage Area; to farm life agribusiness and rural communities at Iowa’s Silos and Smokestacks National Heritage Area; to the industrial heritage of Big Steel and its related industries at Rivers of Steel National Heritage Area in western Pennsylvania.”

Retrieved August 24, 2014 from

<http://goldrushcam.com/sierrasuntimes/index.php/news/u-s-world/447-national-heritage-areas-30-years-telling-america-s-stories-and-making-a-difference>

Appendix II: Newsletters

American River Parkway Preservation Society Newsletter: Issue 40 – Fall 2013

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Our annual organizational report has been posted to our website and here is the introduction.

Introduction

Continuing the momentum begun last year to resolve one of the most important issues our organization focuses on—illegal camping by the homeless in the North Sacramento area of the Parkway—Sacramento County Park Rangers maintained a daily schedule of rousting campsites to the point that the illegal campers developed strategies to avoid or reduce the impact, as the excerpt from this article “An afternoon with the American River Parkway homeless campers: Our writer joins Sacramento's most notorious homeless community” from the *Sacramento News & Review* reports:

Beneath the rumbling overpass where Highway 160 crosses Northgate Boulevard, some two-dozen homeless men and women rest, shaded from the relentless afternoon sun. Sleepy pit bulls, bicycles and crumpled camping equipment lay among them as the people socialize, read and nap on this dusted plot of land.

Stacy Selmants, lounging beneath a small tree, rises to join two women seated next to the bike trail as they talk about why they've chosen this hardened plot to see out the day.

“We're here to avoid the rangers,” Selmants, 56, says as she takes off her battered 49ers cap. “We're afraid to go back to our camps, because they'll kick [us] out.”

Each afternoon, up to 30 homeless men and women congregate alongside the bike path under Highway 160 to escape not just the harsh summer elements, but also Sacramento authorities. This is one of the few spaces in the region they can rest without police or rangers forcing them to move. As a result, it has turned into

a spot for them to socialize and receive donations before the evening, when they can again set up camp along the wooded river...

The average American River Parkway camper's day starts at 5:30 a.m., when he or she packs up and hurries onto the streets before park rangers arrive (usually around 6 a.m.) to hand out citations. The campers then make their twilight exodus to Friendship Park at Sacramento Loaves & Fishes, where they can spend the morning eating and cleaning up, as well as utilizing the center's other services for the homeless.

When Friendship Park closes at 2:45 p.m., its destitute patrons must find a place to rest and wait for the sun to set. Often, they post up under a building's shade in the neighborhood surrounding Loaves & Fishes and Quinn Cottages. Some cool off at the beach or, like Selmants today, set up in the Highway 160 underpass and wait for the rangers to go home around 6 p.m.

Retrieved September 30, 2013 from
<http://www.newsreview.com/sacramento/afternoon-with-the-american/content?oid=10478298>

In the same issue of the *Sacramento News & Review*, an interview with chief ranger Stan Lumsden and County Parks Director Jeff Leatherman notes the efforts being taken:

Last year, you participated in a few warrant sweeps along the trail. How do those come about?

Lumsden: There's really no criteria, if you will. It's a subjective call, really, as to when we do that. Obviously, our rangers are out contacting people on a regular basis, and when they have warrants, they go to jail.

So, is it just like seasonal?

Jeff Leatherman: You're looking for a hard and fast rule on what we do, and there isn't one.

Lumsden: Yeah, there isn't one. I mean, that's the honest answer: There's no formula for when we do this. I don't know what else to tell you.

You're doing daily raids on some of these camps. Is it the size that dictates?

Lumsden: If it exists. We contact people that are breaking the law. If they're camping illegally in the park—whether it's one tent or three tents, one person or 10 people—we have rangers, that's their full-time job, is camp enforcement. They make contact with them and do whatever is appropriate at the time, whether that be to issue a citation ... [or] if it's an unoccupied camp, to post a notice for that camp to move.

Are rangers seeing more of these illegal camps?

Lumsden (to Leatherman): This might be an opportune time to show him [the] Mobile 311 [Citizen Self-Service application].

(Lumsden pulls up a software application on his desktop computer showing a satellite-view map of the parkway. Two areas in particular—along Highway 160 and around Discovery Park—are clustered with icons indicating occupied and unoccupied camps and garbage that were noted in the past 90 days. Rangers in the field use their smartphones to upload photos. Lumsden pulls up one photo showing clothes, wrappers and plastic bags cluttered around a shaded nook of the parkway.)

Lumsden: You can see here what looks like the remnants of a camp. There's just stuff strewn all over the place. That's fairly common.

Retrieved September 30, 2013 from
<http://www.newsreview.com/sacramento/q-and-a-with-sacramentos-chief-park/content?oid=10478410>

And the addition of four new rangers approved by the Board of Supervisors in their new budget this September will help.

With the other critical issues we focus on there has also been some progress:

Concerning our support for maintaining the proper water temperature and flow in the Lower American River for optimal salmon and steelhead spawning, which we have determined can best be arrived at by constructing the Auburn Dam, a regional forum on water was sponsored by the Auburn Dam Council, (see videos of the presentations here, <http://www.youtube.com/channel/UCD1smWcmN5otNwob-AX2LUQ/videos>) which is the first positive movement in the public discussion about the need for the Auburn Dam in some time.

Regarding securing stable funding and management for the Parkway, which we believe can occur by forming a Joint Powers Authority of Parkway adjacent governmental entities which would create a new nonprofit or partner with an existing nonprofit, to manage the Parkway; there has not been much movement, but as it is still the best long range solution for Parkway stability, it is one we will continue to advocate.

The construction of buildings close to the Parkway we identified as a critical issue seems to have been resolved with the completion of the Parkway Plan in 2008, and with a few exceptions, there is currently very little threat of development ruining the sense of nature enjoyed by Parkway users.

We have also advocated for inclusion of responsible Parkway groups who have a legitimate claim on Parkway use, such as local mountain bikers who have offered to build and maintain trails in the Cal Expo area of the Parkway, which was approved in

the recent American River Parkway Plan, but has apparently been stymied so far; but we hope to see a policy of inclusion rather than exclusion inform these efforts and will continue to advocate that when the need arises.

Our final guiding principle concerning the support for responsible suburban development within the Sacramento region—which is clearly the type of community most people, especially families, wish to live in, and as our region is highly dependent upon the resulting economic benefits—is doing well as the current county administration appears supportive of suburban development, which is a very good thing.

All in all, a pretty good year, and to top it off, the local economy does seem to be improving.

Note: *Gold Rush Park Back in News*

This extraordinary park concept along the American River in the Richards Blvd. area has been receiving well-deserved renewed attention after the recent publication of an article about it in the *Sacramento Bee*: “Unfulfilled vision for a great Sacramento park” <http://www.sacbee.com/2013/09/29/5775738/unfulfilled-vision-for-a-great.html> and *Sactown Magazine*: A Sleeping Green Giant, <http://www.sactownmag.com/October-November-2013/A-Sleeping-Green-Giant/>, both by Rob Turner, *Sactown Magazine* co-founder.

Here is an excerpt from *Sactown Magazine*:

A decade ago, Joe Genshlea envisioned an urban park downtown that would rival the biggest and best in America. A lack of political courage and leadership stopped it in its tracks. Here’s why we need to revive it, and why there’s no time to waste....

Little did I know that while I was still in New York in 2003, back in Sacramento, one man was steadfastly promoting a similar vision for my hometown. It’s been 10 years now since Joe Genshlea—a prominent local attorney who spent decades with what was then called Weintraub Genshlea Chediak Sproul, and one of the city’s most ardent champions (he even ran for mayor)—first floated the idea of a civic park that would rival any in the country

His idea was simple, but bold: Build a great urban park along the south banks of the American River between the river and the railyards. His project, dubbed Gold Rush Park, included all of the amenities previously mentioned in the parks of San Francisco and New York. He suggested moving the Sacramento Zoo in Land Park to this larger space, along with adding museums, performance spaces and lots of wide open land next to the crystal-clear waters of the American, an area now largely, and inexcusably, dominated by industrial warehouses and a nascent residential neighborhood called Township 9.

ARPPS recently published an article in *Sacramento Press* connecting Gold Rush Park to the new efforts to build a permanent public market in Sacramento, long needed after the demise of the original Sacramento Public Market at J and 14th.

Permanent Farmer's Market Coming Soon?

by **David H. Lukenbill**, published on **September 30, 2013**

It may very well be.

A recent story in local media reported that some folks are planning a campaign to create a permanent farmers market in Sacramento and they have followed through with their vision by creating a website under the domain name, Sacramento Public Market.

Members of the team have experience with public markets, law, real estate, and politics; all good skill sets to help bring about the fulfillment of the obvious need and logical next step in the Farm to Fork movement.

I am still enamored with the idea of a site along the American River, as I wrote in a Sacramento Press article published last November 25th, but a Sacramento River siting would also work, either bringing the water element and our historic fresh water fisheries into immediate context.

In respect to the preferred location along the American River, I would suggest the folks behind this effort get in touch with the folks behind the visionary Gold Rush Park, which would occupy 900 plus acres along the American River north of Richards Blvd.

The vision for Gold Rush Park, which was formulated several years ago and is beginning to get some current traction through recent articles in local media and its own Facebook page, is financially feasible, beginning to be embraced by local public leadership, and possible to accomplish. The assemblage of supporters is broad, with deep roots in the history, commerce and public service of our region. This visionary marriage of land, water, commerce, history, and people can happen here as it has happened elsewhere.

Portland, with its award winning Eastbank Esplanade and the River Renaissance project, continues to have success creating its river-front as a vibrant front porch for the city; Boston's Emerald Necklace and San Antonio's Riverwalk are legendary; and White River State Park in Indianapolis 27 years ago began replacing an urban industrial area, and now is home to the Indianapolis Zoo, a baseball stadium, IMAX theater, the Indiana State Museum, and the Eiteljorg Museum of American Indians and Western Art, the Congressional Medal of Honor Memorial, the NCAA Hall of Champions and The Lawn, an outdoor performance venue overlooking the White River with seating for 5,000.

Adding a permanent farmers market nestled within this park setting could be transformative, especially in conjunction with the downtown redevelopment that will be generated by the new Sacramento Kings arena.

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Mini-Essay: Drought & Water Storage

The only conclusion you can reach from a few paragraphs in a recent story from the *Sacramento Bee* about the drought and water storage is that Los Angeles is smart and Sacramento is dumb:

Although many local communities and farmers are already suffering from dry conditions, this is not the case statewide. The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, which serves the Los Angeles-San Diego metropolis, is not planning any drought restrictions this year. It may even have enough water if the dry conditions continue into 2015.

The district depends almost entirely on water imported from other places, including the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta. The state's last prolonged drought, which lasted from 1987-1992, strained the district's supplies and brought harsh conservation measures to the region.

Since then, Metropolitan has invested \$3 billion in local water storage projects. This includes Diamond Valley Lake, the largest reservoir built in California in nearly 50 years, a billion-dollar tunnel to move larger pulses of water into the reservoir when available, and a range of groundwater storage systems. As a result, it has a cushion to survive droughts even if its imported water supplies dry up.

"We'll have plenty of water in 2015," said Jeffrey Kightlinger, Metropolitan's general manager. "And even if it's still a drought, we'll still have enough water in 2016. But our board will be taking a hard look at how do we ease into it. That's the nice thing about having made all these investments. We have options."

Metropolitan also has invested heavily in conservation. Since 1990, it has reduced systemwide water demand from 2.4 million acre-feet to about 1.8 million today, despite adding 5 million people to the region's population.

(Retrieved January 12, 2014 from <http://www.sacbee.com/2014/01/12/6063205/california-drought-will-test-jerry.html>)

While it is obvious that Los Angeles' planning is based on their scarcity of water, and our lack of planning is based on an abundance of water, each assumption has exceptions and Sacramento is now living under such, with Folsom Lake becoming almost empty and the American River low enough to walk across, as many of us remember was the situation almost every summer before Folsom Dam was built.

As we have continually advocated, and as the original engineering done for the California State Water Project several decades ago called for, a higher Shasta Dam and building Auburn Dam would virtually end California's drought and flood water problems.

We cannot count on abundance, as the current drought is making crystal clear.

For the long-term future we need the Auburn Dam, addressed in the January 15, 2011 article from Congressman Tom McClintock in the *Sacramento Bee*, entitled: "Auburn dam back in play as McClintock takes over House panel", (The article is no longer on the Bee's website).

The long-debated proposal for a dam on the American River seemed to formally die two years ago, when the state water board revoked rights for the project estimated to cost upward of \$10 billion.

McClintock, though, insists the dam could live again given the proper cost-benefit analysis.

"Ultimately, it will be constructed," McClintock said. "The only question is if it's built in time to prevent the (Sacramento flooding) calamity."

Additionally, for the absolute best storage, the raising of Shasta Dam from the current 600 feet high to the 800 feet high it was originally engineered to be, which would triple storage from the existing 4,552,000 acre feet to 13,890,000 acre feet, as noted by *Wikipedia*:

Reclamation has suggested three options for the dam raise, ranging from less than 20 feet (6.1 m) to more than 200 feet (61 m). The "low option", which simply comprises adding a vertical concrete dike to the top of the dam, would provide maximum additional storage while minimizing requirements for reconstruction of buildings and facilities around Shasta Lake. The "intermediate option" would require adding more than 100 feet (30 m) to the crest and replacing the elevator towers on the front of the dam, and the Pit River Bridge and small towns around

the lake, if not modified or moved, would be inundated. Finally, the “high option” would raise the dam over 200 feet (61 m), tripling the volume and doubling the surface area of the reservoir. Both the intermediate and high options would require saddle dams constructed at key points along the lake to keep it from overflowing.

Retrieved January 6, 2013 from http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shasta_Dam

We all know that the political will—as shown by public leadership in Los Angeles—to embark upon this type of water storage development for the Sacramento region does not appear to be on the horizon, but that is no reason for all of us not to continue to remind political leadership that there is a solution out there, and for them to continue calling for conservation without working for that solution, which could provide abundant water in wet years and enough water in dry years, is to continue failing a basic principle of public leadership; leadership.

Mini-Essay: Development & the American River Parkway

Having the words development and Parkway in the same sentence can generate some controversy and there are aspects of that controversy we would agree with: new buildings that intrude on the Parkway view space from walkers on the trail; too overt donor advertising on benches, signs and such; as a couple of examples.

However, physical and recreational development that adds to the Parkway and I would include Eppie’s Great Race, the Salmon Festival (unfortunately no longer being held) Township 9, the Gold River residential area, and the redevelopment of Camp Pollack, as prime examples of this; is to be vigorously encouraged.

Recently there has been a law suit filed against the County for its recreational management of the Parkway and we wrote an e-letter about it:

[American River Parkway Preservation Society](#)

[E-Letter #141, January 6, 2014](#)

Parkway Organization Sues County

As reported in this story from the *Sacramento Bee* on Christmas Eve, <http://www.sacbee.com/2013/12/23/6024337/sacramento-county-sued-over-parkway.html> Sacramento County is being sued for Parkway management related issues.

This is not a strategy our organization supports.

ARPPS has had disagreements with the County over the management of the Parkway, but we have never felt compelled to take those disagreements to the courts.

In our dealings over the years with Sacramento County, even given the disagreements, we have found them to be well-intentioned, competent individuals trying to do the best job they can within the financial, political, and bureaucratic environment they work in.

Our long-term call for management to be conducted by a nonprofit organization rather than a governmental department is based on our research that it is a better management tool for signature parks given the accessibility to philanthropic funds, and the resulting management dedication to the Parkway rather than the dilution caused by being part of a regional park system managed by government.

What becomes of this lawsuit is, of course, unknown, but from our perspective, it is an unfortunate development, especially given the action over the past year, under current County executive leadership, to clean up the North Sacramento area of the Parkway; action which has gone a long way towards solving the seemingly intractable problem of illegal camping in the Parkway.

Having new events in the Parkway is a wonderful way to encourage more use by visitors who may not come normally, and under the current executive leadership, the County has shown itself to be a good steward of the Parkway, so decisions they make regarding events can generally be assumed to be good ones and are the type of Parkway recreational development that should be encouraged.

We would like to see more Parkway development, especially in the North Sacramento area of the Parkway, and helping that: illegal camping by the homeless is slowly being reduced and renewal of the iconic Camp Pollack, both steps in the right direction.

What should also be considered is a targeted brush/thicket clearing done to increase sight lines and reduce the deep thickets which many illegal campers burrow into to set up camps.

The Lower Reach of the Parkway is especially fertile and the plant growth is deep and profuse.

Clearing out the excess will increase public safety and increase the area that can be used for picnicking and other passive recreational activities.

We would also like to see, as we noted in our first research report, an increase in the use of horse mounted volunteer patrols and rangers, which leads to the idea of establishing a riding stable in the Parkway in the Lower Reach which would raise money and add more eyes on the Parkway, increasing public safety.

Yes, all of these things take money and that is why the County needs to expand its use of new events to help raise that money.

Mini-Essay: The Arena & the Parkway

The recent news about the efforts to delay/stop the arena by asking the public to vote on it—which we have pretty much done already through our representatives on the city council—is an example of a small-minded strategy so often pursued by the environmentalist movement against dams for water storage and flood protection or suburban developments to accommodate growth.

In this case it is not the environmentalist movement, but the results will be the same; the strategy too often results in harm to the very community the delayers/stoppers claim to be helping and in this case, also impacting the Parkway.

Downtown development will benefit the Parkway as more people living and working in downtown will want access to a safe and well-taken care of the part of the Parkway bordering downtown and North Sacramento.

Someday, we will see the major hotels downtown offering free bikes to guests with a map of how to get to the Parkway bike trail and not worry about their guests being threatened or attacked on the trail by an illegal camper from the homeless community, many of whom are wanted criminals.

This situation has persisted in that area of the Parkway for decades. We found a reference to a murderer—Larry Junior Webster, now on death row—living in an illegal camp there who committed the crime in 1981, as we noted on our blog:

Webster, a transient who lived along the American River and led a band of four men who committed a series of robberies, was convicted in the stabbing death of Charles W. Burke, 36. Webster met Burke at a gas station and lured him to his camp at Discovery Park, where he stabbed him 25 times, then buried him and fled in Burke's 1967 Chrysler. Retrieved January 14, 2014 from <http://riverparkwayblog.wordpress.com/2012/09/13/dangerous-parkway/>

For too many years the downtown/North Sacramento part of the Parkway has been forgotten when describing the Parkway as the crown jewel of the region, but with a vigorous bout of downtown development the spillover to the Parkway will be of benefit to us all, and perhaps even justify the crown jewel designation.

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Essay: Auburn Dam & Environmentalism

Let's take another look at environmentalism as it is the only major foe of the clearly needed extra water storage that would be provided by the building of Auburn Dam; a subject which we have covered before, but, during this drought, a reminder can be helpful.

First off, we have to establish that, in many ways, environmentalism as a movement has done many wonderful things; it has given us cleaner air, cleaner water and cleaner soil over the past several decades.

Once this baseline was established however, the movement went off the rails, which Michael Crichton so accurately described in 2003 during his famous talk at the Commonwealth Club in San Francisco:

I have been asked to talk about what I consider the most important challenge facing mankind, and I have a fundamental answer. The greatest challenge facing mankind is the challenge of distinguishing reality from fantasy, truth from propaganda. Perceiving the truth has always been a challenge to mankind, but in the information age (or as I think of it, the disinformation age) it takes on a special urgency and importance.

We must daily decide whether the threats we face are real, whether the solutions we are offered will do any good, whether the problems we're told exist are in fact real problems, or non-problems. Every one of us has a sense of the world, and we all know that this sense is in part given to us by what other people and society tell us; in part generated by our emotional state, which we project outward; and in part by our genuine perceptions of reality. In short, our struggle to determine what is true is the struggle to decide which of our perceptions are genuine, and

which are false because they are handed down, or sold to us, or generated by our own hopes and fears.

As an example of this challenge, I want to talk today about environmentalism. And in order not to be misunderstood, I want it perfectly clear that I believe it is incumbent on us to conduct our lives in a way that takes into account all the consequences of our actions, including the consequences to other people, and the consequences to the environment. I believe it is important to act in ways that are sympathetic to the environment, and I believe this will always be a need, carrying into the future. I believe the world has genuine problems and I believe it can and should be improved. But I also think that deciding what constitutes responsible action is immensely difficult, and the consequences of our actions are often difficult to know in advance. I think our past record of environmental action is discouraging, to put it mildly, because even our best intended efforts often go awry. But I think we do not recognize our past failures, and face them squarely. And I think I know why.

I studied anthropology in college, and one of the things I learned was that certain human social structures always reappear. They can't be eliminated from society. One of those structures is religion. Today it is said we live in a secular society in which many people---the best people, the most enlightened people---do not believe in any religion. But I think that you cannot eliminate religion from the psyche of mankind. If you suppress it in one form, it merely re-emerges in another form. You cannot believe in God, but you still have to believe in something that gives meaning to your life, and shapes your sense of the world. Such a belief is religious.

Today, one of the most powerful religions in the Western World is environmentalism. Environmentalism seems to be the religion of choice for urban atheists. Why do I say it's a religion? Well, just look at the beliefs. If you look carefully, you see that environmentalism is in fact a perfect 21st century remapping of traditional Judeo-Christian beliefs and myths.

Retrieved April 8, 2014 from
[http://www.pe.tamu.edu/DL_Program/graduate_seminar_series/Documents/Michael Crichton_environmentalism.pdf](http://www.pe.tamu.edu/DL_Program/graduate_seminar_series/Documents/Michael_Crichton_environmentalism.pdf)

So, what kind of religion is environmentalism?

According to the principles it proclaims, it is a primitive religion, worshipping the earth—whom the most devoted among them worship as Gaia—and seeing human progress oriented technology like freeways, suburbs, dams, power plants, mines, etc., as violations of the sanctity of the earth.

Here are the principles as enunciated by one of the major thought-leading organizations of the movement, the San Francisco based organization, Deep Ecology:

The Deep Ecology Platform

1. The well-being and flourishing of human and nonhuman life on Earth have value in themselves (synonyms: inherent worth, intrinsic value, inherent value). These values are independent of the usefulness of the nonhuman world for human purposes.
2. Richness and diversity of life forms contribute to the realization of these values and are also values in themselves.
3. Humans have no right to reduce this richness and diversity except to satisfy vital needs.
4. Present human interference with the nonhuman world is excessive, and the situation is rapidly worsening.
5. The flourishing of human life and cultures is compatible with a substantial decrease of the human population. The flourishing of nonhuman life requires such a decrease.
6. Policies must therefore be changed. The changes in policies affect basic economic, technological, and ideological structures. The resulting state of affairs will be deeply different from the present.
7. The ideological change is mainly that of appreciating life quality (dwelling in situations of inherent worth) rather than adhering to an increasingly higher standard of living. There will be a profound awareness of the difference between big and great.
8. Those who subscribe to the foregoing points have an obligation directly or indirectly to participate in the attempt to implement the necessary changes.

Retrieved April 8, 2014 from <http://www.deepecology.org/platform.htm>

Sessions (1995) wrote:

The Long-Range Deep Ecology movement emerged more or less spontaneously and informally as a philosophical and scientific social/political movement during the so-called Ecological Revolution of the 1960s. Its main concern has been bringing about a major paradigm shift—a shift in perception, values, and lifestyles—as a basis for redirecting the ecologically destructive path of modern industrial growth societies. Since the 1960s, the long-range Deep Ecology movement has been characterized philosophically by a move from anthropocentrism to egocentrism, and by environmental activism. (p. 1x)

G. Sessions (Ed.) *Deep ecology for the 21st century: Readings on the philosophy and practice of the new environmentalism*. Boston: Shambhala.

It appears that this movement has had great success in America, with particular depth in California, as it has been the norm for some time that the welfare of animals and habitat has taken precedence over human beings in much of the legislation and court cases connected to water.

The environmentalist movement—as most movements will— uses misdirection to sell its policies; for instance changing names of issues, global warming to climate change being a recent example, when data revealed there had been no warming over the past 15 or so years.

Misdirection was the tactic used in the answer to the third question in a Q & A article from the *Sacramento Bee* March 23, 2014 about the drought: **Why don't we build the Auburn dam?** at: <http://www.sacbee.com/2014/03/23/6262025/drought-qa-pros-and-cons-of-artificial.html#>

The first two reasons the article gives for not building the dam are easily addressed when Congress gives the go ahead for Auburn to be built, which at some point we hope it will.

However, the other reason given, that it doesn't store enough water, is the misdirection, and one of the newer arguments being used by the environmentalists opposing the dam.

They claim that by adding in the increased storage Auburn would create, 2.3 million acre feet, and then subtracting the already committed amounts of water to end users, there is only 200,000 acre feet of new water left, misdirecting the argument to: that isn't enough new water to justify the expense of building Auburn Dam.

This is like saying, it will take you ten years to acquire \$2.3 million dollars but since you already owe \$2.1 million, you are only realizing \$200,000 new dollars, so it isn't worth it to work ten years for that; completely running over the simple fact that banking money—or water—for when it's needed, is always a good strategy.

Furthermore, when you take into account the drought water allocations, when those who have water committed aren't getting it because there is not enough in the storage system, it becomes obvious that the argument is more of an attempt to further impede the building of Auburn Dam rather than a serious addition to the public discussion.

Another article in the *Sacramento Bee* (April 9, 2014) notes a complaint filed that takes the Bureau of Reclamation to task for not releasing enough cold water to allow salmon optimal spawning conditions.

While support of the salmon is one of our guiding principles, the most important value we attach to water management is to provide water for people, including providing for the food farmers grow for people; so reducing river flows to store more water in Folsom because of the drought, is a good strategy, though the salmon will suffer for it; but this is why we have hatcheries, which can truck salmon past the low river flows during drought to allow more water to be stored in the dams.

The solution here and to create a win-win, more water for salmon *and* people, is to build Auburn Dam.

An excerpt from the *Bee* article referenced above.

The federal government's operation of Folsom and Nimbus dams is harming fall-run Chinook salmon and steelhead in the American River, several environmental and fishing groups allege in a complaint filed this week with the state.

The groups are urging the State Water Resources Control Board to amend the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation's permits to require colder and faster river flows from the two dams. The board has authority over water rights issued to the Bureau of Reclamation, as well as responsibility for protecting public trust resources, including fisheries and water quality. The board first issued operating permits for the dams in 1958.

"We've got to have a guaranteed higher flow, and there have to be modifications to Folsom Dam that will allow them to tap the coldest (water) pool in the reservoir," said Stephen Green, president of Save the American River Association. "When temperatures are high and flows are low, we know that fish are being killed, and it's not just this year. It's been going on for decades."

Retrieved April 9, 2014 from

<http://www.sacbee.com/2014/04/08/6307325/complaint-alleges-american-river.html>

The benefits of environmentalism connected to business are increasing, as this story from McKinsey notes:

Ten years ago, a lot of business executives realized that environmental concerns were real business challenges. But mostly, they were protecting themselves against downside reputational risks. Today, an increasing number of businesses have figured out there's not only the downside to be protected against, but there's tremendous upside profits to be made by serving a market that's increasingly interested in green goods and services. And costs can be dramatically slashed when companies operate in a way that's more efficient.

Ten years from now, what I see is an Internet-connected world where the behaviors of companies—including how products have been produced—are so transparent that those businesses who are truly good citizens will be rewarded in the marketplace. And those companies that haven't paid a lot of attention, and maybe are operating in some ways that are sloppy—or even wrong—well, they won't be able to PR-spin their way out of it. The ability of citizens to see what's actually happening is very powerful.

The revolution in big data and sensing technologies will be very important in using resources more efficiently because it lets companies know what's

happening with their inputs. So not only can a company such as GE monitor the efficiency of its jet engines, but anyone who operates car or truck fleets can monitor—and optimize—fuel efficiency.

Retrieved April 9, 2014 from

http://www.mckinsey.com/insights/energy_resources_materials/fred_krupp_on_the_benefits_of_monitoring_resource_use?cid=ResourceRev-eml-alt-mkq-mck-oth-1404

This is good news coming from the business/environmental nexus—including the use of nuclear energy and natural gas—but, unfortunately, the environmental movement itself is committed to doom and gloom, as this article from the *New York Times* notes:

Nonetheless, virtually every major national environmental organization continues to reject nuclear energy, even after four leading climate scientists wrote them an open letter last fall, imploring them to embrace the technology as a key climate solution. Together with catastrophic rhetoric, the rejection of technologies like nuclear and natural gas by environmental groups is most likely feeding the perception among many that climate change is being exaggerated. After all, if climate change is a planetary emergency, why take nuclear and natural gas off the table?

While the urgency that motivates exaggerated claims is understandable, turning down the rhetoric and embracing solutions like nuclear energy will better serve efforts to slow global warming.

Retrieved April 9, 2014 from <http://www.nytimes.com/2014/04/09/opinion/global-warming-scare-tactics.html?action=click&contentCollection=Opinion®ion=Footer&module=MoreInSection&pgtype=article>

This article from the *New York Times Magazine* captures perfectly the despair, reversion to primitiveness, parental rebellion, fantasy world view and the visceral hatred of human technology, of the environmental movement at its heart.

An excerpt.

Late one night last August, on the chalk downlands of southern England, Paul Kingsnorth stood in a field beside an old-growth forest, two yurts and a composting toilet. Kingsnorth is 41, tall, slim and energetic, with sweeping brown hair and a sparse beard. He wears rimless glasses and a silver stud in his ear, and he talks with great ardor, often apologizing for having said too much or for having said it too strongly.

On this occasion, Kingsnorth was silent. It was the final night of Uncivilization, an outdoor festival run by the Dark Mountain Project, a loose network of ecologically minded artists and writers, and he was standing with several dozen others waiting for the festival's midnight ritual to begin. Kingsnorth, a founder of the group, had already taken part in several sessions that day, including one on contemporary nature writing; a panel about the iniquities of mainstream psychiatric care; and a reading from his most recent book, "The Wake," a novel set in the 11th century and written in a "shadow language" — a mash-up of Old and modern English. He had also helped his two young children assemble a train set while trying to encapsulate his views on climate change and environmental degradation in what Kingsnorth describes as an era of global disruption. The "human machine," as he sometimes puts it, has grown to such a size that breakdown is inevitable. What, then, do we do?

In the clearing, above a pyre, someone had erected a tall wicker sculpture in the shape of a tree, with dense gnarls and hanging hoops. Four men in masks knelt at the sculpture's base, at cardinal compass points. When midnight struck, a fifth man, his head shaved smooth and wearing a kimono, began to walk slowly around them. As he passed the masked figures, each ignited a yellow flare, until finally, his circuit complete, the bald man set the sculpture on fire. For a couple of minutes, it was quiet. Then as the wicker blazed, a soft chant passed through the crowd, the words only gradually becoming clear: "We are gathered. We are gathered. We are gathered. We are gathered."

Retrieved April 17, 2014 from http://www.nytimes.com/2014/04/20/magazine/its-the-end-of-the-world-as-we-know-it-and-he-feels-fine.html?hp&_r=0

The continued push by environmentalists to meet ever more stringent goals of environmental purity has—at this point in time—resulted in Americans being more concerned about environmental protection than economic growth, according to Gallup:

Americans now say it is important to protect the environment, even if it curbs economic growth, says Gallup Editor-in-Chief Frank Newport.

Retrieved April 13, 2014 from <http://www.gallup.com/video/168035/climate-change-americans-prefer-environmental-protection-economic-growth.aspx>

Right now, the religion of environmentalism is generally supported by Americans, which is not real good news for Auburn Dam.

Facing up to this reality requires more public education and more advocacy from those of us who believe it to be the only common-sense approach to protect us against droughts and flooding, and speaking for our organization, it is a cause we deeply believe in to protect the Parkway and the communities adjacent to it.

Society Information

Board of Directors: *President*, Michael Rushford, President, Criminal Justice Legal Foundation;
Vice President, Kristine Lea, Training Developer, Scientific Applications International Incorporated;
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Essay: Parkway Fires

Our organization has long suspected, as do many of the firefighters on the ground, that the major cause of fires in and adjacent to the North Sacramento/Cal Expo area of the American River Parkway, stem from illegal camping by the homeless so prevalent in that area.

A recent Bing of the subject: **fires caused by homeless in Sacramento**, turned up these three responses on the first page:

July 29, 2013

Firefighters know who started American River Parkway grass fire

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (KCRA) —On Monday, Sacramento city firefighters told KCRA 3 they know who likely started the grass fire that burned 100 acres last Thursday along the American River Parkway, near Cal Expo.

And Sacramento County park rangers have discovered what they believe is the point of origin on that blaze, but concede that preventing future fires there is difficult.

Park ranger Tim McElheney took KCRA 3 deep inside the underbrush, showing a trail of evidence leading to the starting point of that fire.

"On the left is your burn area," McElheney said. "On the right is an area where I've had illegal camps in the past."

The area along the American River Parkway looks remote, but it's actually less than two miles from the state Capitol.

Park rangers told KCRA 3 they estimate as many as 150 people live in illegal campgrounds on a daily basis, sometimes with disastrous consequences.

Retrieved July 7, 2014 from <http://www.kcra.com/news/local-news/news-sacramento/firefighters-know-who-started-american-river-parkway-grass-fire/21237088#!babUoR>

May 30, 2014

Downtown fire causes issues for Sacramento drivers

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (KCRA) — Firefighters battled a grass fire in Sacramento on Friday that spread to about 8 acres near the American River Parkway and caused problems for drivers along the Capital City Freeway because of the smoke.

The fire began about 1:30 p.m. near the Sutter's Landing Regional Park, fire officials said.

Sacramento City fire officials said they believe the blaze may have been intentionally set.

Park rangers were interviewing at least one suspect in connection with the fire.

There are several homeless camps around the area where the fire originated.

Retrieved July 7, 2014 from <http://www.kcra.com/news/smoke-shoots-up-from-fire-near-american-river-parkway/26253486#!babChr>

June 16, 2014

Grass Fires Near Downtown Sacramento Deemed Suspicious

Fifty fire fighters from three agencies knocked down a grass fire a few hundred yards north of the Blue Diamond Almond packing plant near downtown Sacramento.

Luckily the flames were blown north toward the American river scorching about 7 acres. A helicopter from the Sacramento Metro Fire District was called in to make water drops.

At the same time a smaller fire broke out on the north side of the river. The helicopter was able to put water on the flames so ground crews could subdue the second fire as well.

Fire officials say the fire would have spread more quickly but the winds did not blow as hard as it did later in the evening. After the fire was extinguished, crews of fire fighters remained to put out flare-ups caused by the wind. They will probably have crews watch the area overnight to make sure the wind doesn't cause more flare-ups.

Many homeless people live by the river just north of the downtown area, but fire officials say they could not say if fires were caused by humans.

Some homeless people who were burned out say they believe it was arson because so many other fires were caused by illegal campers.

Retrieved July 7, 2014 from <http://fox40.com/2014/06/16/grass-fires-near-downtown-sacramento-deemed-suspicious/>

And, of course, news on the recent fires of July 3rd and 4th, 2014 obtained from the *Sacramento Bee* website:

July 3, 2014

Fire crews contain fast-moving parkway blaze along the American River Parkway

The Sacramento Fire Department responded to a five-acre fire along the American River Parkway around 2 a.m. Thursday.

Public information officer firefighter Roberto Padilla said the fire, along mile marker five of the parkway near Cal Expo and Bushy Lake, spread quickly due to relatively high wind speeds and thick vegetation. Though fast-moving, the two-alarm fire threatened no structures.

Padilla said fires like the one this morning are not unusual along the parkway. Transient people living in camps along the river often set cooking fires that sometimes spread unintentionally, he said. No cause has been determined for the fire.

Fire crews will be monitoring the area throughout the day Thursday. Padilla said anyone who witnesses smoke or small blazes along the parkway should call to report it.

Retrieved July 7, 2014 from <http://www.sacbee.com/2014/07/03/6531390/fire-crews-contain-fast-moving.html>

July 4, 2014

Wildfire near Cal Expo doesn't stop fireworks show

SACRAMENTO, Calif. -- A wildfire that broke out near the Cal Expo fairgrounds in Sacramento forced the evacuation of a water park and the cancellation of a minor league soccer game.

But the fire didn't stop the fireworks.

Officials said the brush fire near Cal Expo burned 40 acres and damaged 10 cars before it was contained early Friday evening several hours after it began.

Members of the public and staffers at Cal Expo, including those at the water park, were evacuated because of smoke, and the evening's Sacramento Republic FC soccer game was canceled.

Retrieved July 7, 2014 from <http://www.sacbee.com/2014/07/04/6534384/wildfire-burning-near-cal-expo.html>

Our organization has neither the time nor resources to investigate what any follow-up to these fires over the past year has resulted in, consequently, we cannot *definitively claim* they were all started by illegal camping by the homeless; but considering the great threat to public safety, the great damage to the Parkway, and the amount of public money spent fighting these fires, it would behoove local leadership to do so.

One of the most destructive of the Parkway fires was the 2007 trestle fire for which a suspect was arrested and significant evidence procured, but was allowed to plead to a lesser charge, so a legal finding of the cause of the trestle fire was never rendered. We blogged on this at <http://parkwayblog.blogspot.com/2007/11/trestle-fire.html>

Another fire adjacent to the Parkway which caused \$5 million in damage was the River District warehouse fire, which, even a year after, no cause had been reported, as noted by KCRA.

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (KCRA) —Exactly one year after a devastating fire burned a Sacramento business to the ground, the company is rising from the ashes for a fresh new start.

The Party Concierge, a Sacramento-based fun factory, is celebrating the opening of its new 42,000-square-foot warehouse, after a 5-alarm fire burned down the previous headquarters on Aug. 6, 2012.

Firefighters never determined the cause of that blaze.

Retrieved July 7, 2014 from <http://www.kcra.com/news/sacramentos-party-concierge-has-new-permanent-home/21356704#!bagCgn>

Finally: another question is, has anyone suggested moving the homeless services mall from the North B/River District area—much too close to the prime homeless camping area of the Parkway—to someplace else such as the Army Depot or Mather?

Essay: *Is Illegal Camping an Unsolvable Problem?*

Unfortunately, that seems to be the opinion of the new head park ranger, as quoted in a recent article from the *Sacramento Bee*; and it appears to be a far cry from the county response noted in a Marcus Breton column from September 19, 2012.

Beginning today, Sacramento County authorities will begin taking several significant steps aimed at saving the American River Parkway from environmental harm caused by illegal camping.

Large swaths of Sacramento's gorgeous urban park have been degraded by human waste, fires and enough debris for 2,000 volunteers to collect 14,000 pounds of garbage over the weekend.

Today, teams of park rangers and sheriff's deputies will begin enforcing a dusk-to-dawn closure of the parkway with a goal of preventing people from camping there overnight.

A representative of the county's Department of Human Assistance will be on hand beginning Sunday to provide homeless campers with information on housing options.

A county memo detailing the operation states: "The enforcement will be daily and continue indefinitely. This is not a short-term effort."

The Sacramento Police Department has a role to play and may conduct enforcement sweeps several times a week.

In past years, such actions tended to be viewed as unkind treatment of homeless campers by members of the public and the media.

That should not be the case.

When North Sacramento residents become afraid to ride their bikes along parkway trails and when the native ecosystem of a valuable Sacramento resource becomes threatened it's time to act.

Retrieved June 6, 2014 from
<http://www.sacbee.com/2012/09/19/4832888/marcos-breton-enforce-illegal.html>

An excerpt from the June 6, 2014 article in the *Sacramento Bee*.

John Havicon, Sacramento County's new chief park ranger, was responding to a call about marijuana use in Rio Linda Central Park in 1996 when a suspect shot him in the chest. Thanks to a bulletproof vest, the ranger survived.

It was a dramatic moment in a 30-year career that culminated May 18 in Havicon's appointment as the county's chief park ranger. In his new job, Havicon oversees 17 rangers covering 15,000 acres of land across 32 recreation areas. The rangers hold the rank of deputy county sheriff and are responsible not only for maintaining the parks, but also for enforcing state laws. One of three candidates interviewed for the position, Havicon served as a park ranger supervisor for 10 years and a ranger for 17 before that.

"I love working with the community and being able to get not only our rangers involved in the parks, but the rest of the community," Havicon said. "I think it's an exciting time for us."

One of the park service's most important tasks is protecting the 23-mile-long American River Parkway. Homeless encampments along the heavily used bike and running path have caused controversy for the regional parks department in recent years, with critics saying the county needs to do more to address the problem. Illegal campers lack access to bathrooms and trash disposal facilities, so waste accumulates in the areas where they congregate, creating health hazards and threatening wildlife. Recreational parkway users and nearby property owners have raised concerns about safety.

Havicon said he plans to continue the county's strategy of issuing citations to illegal campers as rangers encounter them during their patrols. He acknowledged that this practice does not deter campers from returning to their sites, or simply moving to another area of the parkway.

"We're not going to solve the problem no matter what we do," Havicon said. "The problem's always going to be there. The best we can do is manage what we have."

He estimated the department issued 2,000 illegal camping citations last year, and thinks 100 to 200 people are camping in the woods adjacent to the parkway on any given night.

Retrieved June 6, 2014 from
<http://www.sacbee.com/2014/06/05/6462010/new-head-ranger-for-sacramento.html>

ARPPS congratulates Chief Ranger Havicon on his new responsibilities, but we believe the illegal camping by the homeless in the North Sacramento/Cal Expo area of the Parkway is a solvable problem, but it requires steadfast administrative support and Park Ranger law enforcement action involving removing camps (connected with strong assistance from homeless service organizations) rather than merely handing out citations.

We support the seemingly stronger position expressed by Supervisor Serna—in the second paragraph of this excerpt—in the same *Sacramento Bee* story from June 6, 2014.

Sacramento County Supervisor Phil Serna, who represents the part of the parkway where people camp illegally, said he will be pleased if Havicon doubles down on the “successful protocol” of teaming with law enforcement to issue citations to people who remain in the park overnight, while offering information about shelters and health resources.

“Legitimate users of the parkway deserve a clean and safe place to recreate, and homeless folks, for their own safety and health, should not feel forced to camp by the edge of the river,” Serna said.

Read more here: <http://www.sacbee.com/2014/06/05/6462010/new-head-ranger-for-sacramento.html#storylink=cpy>

While not wanting to put words into Supervisor Serna’s mouth, focusing on what the folks in the adjacent communities should be able to expect from their part of the Parkway and what best serves the needs of the homeless, seems to indicate a strategy of removing those camps not responding to the citation and service strategy.

Society Information

The American River Parkway Preservation Society is a 501 (c) (3) nonprofit organization. Donations are tax deductible to the fullest extent of the law. As a member, you will receive a monthly e-letter, quarterly newsletter, and periodic planning position papers.

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Our Mission

Preserve, Protect, & Strengthen the American River Parkway, Our Community's Natural Heart.

Our Vision

We want our Parkway, seven generations from now, to be a vibrant, accessible, and serene sanctuary, nourishing and refreshing the spirit of all who enter it.

Our Guiding Principles

- (1) Preserving the Parkway is not an option, it's a necessity.
- (2) What's good for the salmon is good for the river.
- (3) Regarding illegal camping by the homeless in the North Sacramento area of the Parkway, social and environmental justice call upon us to help the poor and distressed person but not at the expense of the adjacent community to visit the Parkway safely.
- (4) If it can be seen from the Parkway, it shouldn't be built along the Parkway.
- (5) Regarding new Parkway usages, inclusion should be the operating principle rather than exclusion.
- (6) The suburban lifestyle—as surrounds the American River Parkway—which is imbued within the aspirational center of the *California Dream* and whose vision is woven into the heart of the *American Dream*, is a deeply loved way of life whose sustainability we all desire.

The Society depends solely on its membership to continue our advocacy to preserve the Parkway in perpetuity, and we deeply appreciate any additional financial support you can provide, or by encouraging others to become members. Thank You!

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