



Rx Fly Fishing!

The monthly newsletter of the Delta Fly Fishers!

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Jerry Neuburger, Editor

Stockton, California

In this Issue

Page 2—[March General Membership meeting covers water safety](#)

Page 2—[March `18th Outing to Consumes River Preserve](#)

Page 3—[March 22-27, Pyramid Lake Outing II](#)

Page 4—[The final details on Casting Day](#)

Page 5—[The club's calendar for the rest of the year](#)

Page 6—[March Conservation by Ron Forbes](#)

Calendar

- Mar 18th Consumes River Preserve Outing, 8am to 1 pm
Fishmeister Bill Beckett, club lunch.
- Mar 21st Board of Directors
6:30 pm to 7:30 pm Oak Grove Regional Park
- Mar 22rd-27th Pyramid Lake Outing All Day Fishmeister, Jerry Neuburger 209-327-5993
- Mar 28th Fly of the Month
6 pm to 7:30 pm Oak Grove Park Nature Center
- Apr 11th Monthly Membership Meeting 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM, John R Williams Elementary School
- Apr 13th Flyday Open Tying, 5:00 PM - 7:30 PM, House of Coffees, 239 N Ham Ln, Lodi
- Apr 18th Board of Directors, 6:30 PM - 7:30 PM Oak Grove Regional Park
- Apr 21st KELSEY BASS Ranch, 7am 3pm, Fishmeister: Al Smatsky

From the President's desk... (or pram or van or camper)

Lots of water... no fishermen... no fish?

As most of you probably know, my wife and I recently returned from three weeks in Italy. We visited Rome, Florence and Venice. The Tibur River flows through Rome and the Arno through Florence. Both of these are major rivers, big and wide, deep and fast. Both were a little off color, the Arno in Florence more than the Tibur in Rome but both looked "fishable" if someone had the inclination. I saw multiple miles of river on several days, I did see a kayaker or two, and some small outboard powered boats but no one fishing.

Why?

Water too fast, water too cold, fishing season closed, nothing biting? I suspect that the reason was none of those things. While the water was flowing, it had that color that usually hints at way too much pollution in the form of nitrates and other fish killing chemicals.

Now I have to admit that I was in one of the oldest settled parts of the world, with still existing structures dating back 2,900 years. In fact, two of the apartments we stayed in were built in the 14 hundreds.

For much of history, these rivers were used as the means to flush waste from the cities along their banks. The Romans didn't drink from the Tibur, at least not where it passed through Rome. Instead, they shipped water in via aqueducts. However, even in those times, ancient murals and frescos show people fishing with what would amount to cane poles. The rivers of the past must have been able to sustain a fishery.

However, that, like the buildings of old Rome, is ancient history. From what I saw, I'd guess that the Tibur and Arno of today

are "dead."

Today we have the ability to return and recycle water used for much of our needs before sending it to the ocean. Filtration plants, osmosis filters, settling treatments and other forms of pollution containment can do much to keep our waterways capable of supporting a healthy fish population.

In looking where we live, with the rivers all around us and the bay, I wonder whether our grandchildren will still see these magnificent waterways as holding life or as dead things, passing through their communities as the residents of Rome and Florence do?

Pollution is not the only problem. We are at a crossroads. The demands for a finite amount of water keep growing and the political pressure to divert flows to provide the resource to those with money and influence never stops. By giving in, our government and our politicians forsake the public good for the benefit of a few.

Crops in a desert never meant to be farmed irrigation of cheap land even though doing so causes the land harm, no adequate drainage resulting in toxic sumps, the ability to sell one's allocated taxpayer subsidized water to water starved municipalities for huge profits, cash crops for export, and the lobbying and cash donations to campaign chests necessary to keep the process going all make me wonder whether our children and grandchildren will be the beneficiaries of our wisdom or our greed.

If these things matter, we can sit back and let others protect these resources or we can do something. I'm hoping that you'll make the latter choice.



Check out the club's new and vibrant website. Amy Terra has the whole thing popping! [CLICK HERE!](#)

“Don’t forget that PFD,” part of March’s Membership water safety meeting, March 14th

March program will be on “Water Safety”. With the change in the weather just around the corner, we’ll all be thinking about getting our float tubes, pontoon boats, kayaks, etc. cleaned and ready to go; but let’s not forget one important item to have along, a personal flotation device or PFD.

Member Larry Schmidt will give us a run down on the different “PFD” on the market and which one is right for you.

Larry will also talk about the things you should always do before you get in the water with your float tube and pontoon for the first time. Bill Beckett will be on hand to discuss kayak, canoe and pram safety.

If time allows, a short photo album of the



DFF Casting Day activities and Casting Olympics will be included in the show.

And of course the show will feature Bill Beckett’s snacks and the monthly raffle.

The meeting will be held at the John R. Williams School, Meadow Avenue, Stockton on March 14. Doors open at 6:30, meeting starts at 7. Public welcome.

A brand new venue for a club outing, Consumes River Preserve, March 18th

Bring your float tube, pontoon boat, pram, kayak or canoe to the Consumes River Preserve and join member Bill Beckett for a morning’s fishing for panfish, large-mouth bass and maybe even a small stirper or two.

Bill recommends five weight rods with intermediate to type III lines (maximum water depth, 6 feet), small 8-12 size nymphs, woolly buggers and even small clousers to work the shallow water for some exciting panfish action.

Participants should park in the upper parking lot and also use this area to off-load their watercraft and gear. Please be aware that the Preserve and parking area is open from sunrise to sunset ONLY,

please make sure that you plan your trip accordingly and schedule enough time for your return. A [map and paddling guide](#) is available for printing.

Because of spring flows and weather the outing is subject to cancellation. Participants are encouraged to RSVP Bill via e-mail so they can be contacted if cancellation is necessary. A banner will be posted on the [club’s website](#) as well. Check if a question arises to whether the event is a go.

The preserve can be reached by crossing the Mokelumne at Thornton and driving north on /Franklin Blvd. The entrance to the preserve is on the right, a short distance from the river.

DDF Officers



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Gary Tecklenburg	
Thomas Mason	
Dena Mason	
Tim Costello	
Mike Nicholson	

Committees

Beginner’s Fly Tying	
Tim Costello	
Bob McMillan Trout Bout (March)	
John and Karen Keagy	
Catfish Derby (June)	
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Monthly Raffles	
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Outings	
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Bob Sousa	209-368-2683
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John Keagy	
Publicity	
Steve VonBerg	209-327-6161
Rod Building	
Bob Fujimura	209-339-0683
Trout Bout (November)	
Charlie Reames	
Webmaster	
Amy Terra	
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The second outing to Pyramid set for March 22-27, Jerry Neuburger, fishmiester

The March outing to Pyramid number of days has been expanded to six and people are welcome to come and go during that period as they can. If people plan to attend on Saturday, the 24th, they can participate in a shared pot luck with the San Jose Fly Casters at a room at Crosby's Lodge.

Jerry Neuburger, fishmiester, will have his trailer, an old Nomad 16 foot travel trailer, set up along the lake, with plans right now to be located at the North Nets, close to Crosby's. Look for an older small travel trailer, white with a multicolored strip half way up and a pile of stickers on the rear, along with a silver Ford van with a rack on the roof parked close by. Coffee on in the morning and a glass of vino in the evenings.

Here is the article from last month's newsletter. The information is the same for the March outing but the fishmiester, older, crankier and not quite as pretty, has changed.

Standing on a ladder and fishing? It sounds strange but if it's Pyramid Lake, it's the thing to do. Pyramid Lake, tucked away in the hills 35 miles north of Reno on the Paiute Indian Reservation is a "different kind of fishery." The alkaline lake holds some of the largest and most ancient fish in North America, and these fish do get BIG. Fish over 29 pounds are caught on fly fishing gear every year and with the re-introduction of the original strain of Lahontan Cutthroat trout, expectations for a fish exceeding 40 pounds is not a fantasy.

The most common way of fishing the

lake is by taking out a six foot ladder, setting it up in waist high water on the sand bottom, climbing the ladder and either fishing streamers in the form of woolly buggers and beetles on a quick sinking line or hanging #8 bead head chironomids a few inches off the bottom on an indicator

To fish the lake you'll need the following; seven

or eight weight rod, Type IV to VI line for streamers, floating line for chironomids, #10 fluorocarbon leader, a selection of #6-8 woolly buggers and balanced leaches (black is a popular color) a selection of #6-10 chironomids in red, wine, black, brown, with white or brass beads, a ladder, waders, boots or flats boots, hat, protective glasses, and layers of clothing to keep you warm in temperatures that could be in the low 40's to low 70's.

You'll also need a tribal fishing license, not a Nevada F&G license. The licenses can be [purchased on-line](#) for a day, multiple days or the season.

Some anglers are using pontoon boats or small prams as an alternative to a ladder, rowing out to the fishing line, and dropping an anchor, fore and aft.



A sample shot of the behemoths that Pyramid lake holds for the angler lucky and skilled enough to hook up.

Camping is allowed at most beaches along the lake front and there is a full service RV Park at [Crosby's Lodge](#), Sutcliffe. The lodge also features room, a great restaurant, fun bar with a happy hour, and a store with basic foodstuffs and, most important, a well stocked fly box.

Because of the chance of weather closing Hwy. 80, it is recommended that you sign up for this outing with Jerry so he can let you know of last minute cancellations. Jerry's e-mail, gneuburg@gmail.com, home phone 209-369-5752, cell 209-327-5993. Jerry will cover these details at the March meeting.

The 2nd Annual DFF Casting Day is Sunday, March 11th

Instruction on: Spey and switch casting specialty casting beginning casting
fiberglass rods matching rod, reel and line twisted leaders served loop fly
line ends non-slip loop knots

Fried chicken lunch Casting Olympics Full five weight outfit, five weight rod, reel and line prizes

Bring your waders. IN THE WATER INSTRUCTION Bring your own equipment for practice and evaluation
Sunday March 18, Lodi Lake Swim Area. Registration 8:30, classes at 9:00 \$20 Registration, Parking \$5

The final details on Casting Day, Sunday, March 18th. It keeps on getting better and better!

We heard a lot of, "Let's do it again!" at last year's first Casting Day so we've set up another day of fly flinging practice and competitive events, this time, "on the water!"

We've moved the event to Lodi Lake where we will be able to take advantage of the water and wading to enhance the casting experience and help with the instruction, especially where water loading is part of the casting technique

The date set for the event is Sunday, March 11th, with casting instruction from nine to noon, lunch from noon till one and then the Casting Olympics from one to whenever.

This year we're asking participants to bring their own equipment both double and single handed rods and we'll have stations set up for different learning and equipment evaluating activities.

We've invited John Peterson and Sturmer White from Granite Bay Fly Fishers to help with instruction. John will cover spey and switch rod casting. Sturmer will cover specialty casting and the new comando lines.

Al Smatsky will also cover specialty casting and will have some fiberglass rods on hand for participants to try They are so exciting with a fish on the other end.

Jim Rich will be on hand to work with those just beginning in the sport.. Jim has been instructing club members for years

on an informal basis.

Bill Beckett's station will have examples of a balanced casting outfit, and outfits that are underlined and over lined and a chance to cast each. Bring your own equipment for evaluation and comparison.

Jerry Neuburger's station will be set up to

complete five weight outfit for the winner, and choice of rod or reel and line for second, the remaining item for third.

The event does have some costs involved since the lunch and prizes as well as possible instructor fees have to be considered so we're asking for a registration fee of \$20 per member for the day, including all instruction, lunch, and the Casting Olympics competition.

The schedule for the day is as follows:

8:30—9:00 Registration (\$20) coffee and donuts.

9:00—12:00 Casting clinics on:

- * Basic Casting using member's rods
- * Two handed rods—Spey and switch
- * Specialty Casting,

* Fiberglass rods

Workshops on:

- * Twisted Leaders -Served loops fly line ends-The no-nail nail knot and the Open loop knot
- * Balanced outfits

12:00-1:00 Lunch

1:00 –2:30 Casting Olympics

2:30 Awards Ceremony

Participants will sign up for each 45 minutes seminar. Limit of four per seminar so some personal instruction can take place.

By the way, the weather is predicted to be bright and sunny with some clouds, a high of 67 degrees and light winds to 6mph. A beautiful spring day.

Make sure you bring:

- Your own one and two handed rods for both practice and evaluation
- Waders, it's an IN THE WATER clinic
- A chair for sitting around at lunch
- An appetite
- \$20 registration and \$5 for parking in the lot.

teach twisted leader building, serving loops in fly lines using fly tying tools and knot tying, the no-nail nail knot and a non slip loop knot..

A club furnished lunch will take place around noon and will include fried chicken, potato and tossed salad, cookies and soft drinks.

After lunch, we'll hold our second Casting Olympics, a four event competition with enough chance involved as well as skill to make everyone eligible to win a prize. While we may have some events the same or similar to last year's, there's no guarantee that you'll recognize an event from the past.

Of course, the competition would not be complete without prizes and we'll have a

The prez wants to know...

- Do you need some personalized instruction from a mentor?
- Is there something the club is NOT doing that you believe it should?
- Are you hesitant to go to the club's fly tying events or outings because you don't know anyone or believe you don't have the equipment or skills?
- Drop Jerry a line, his e-mail address is gneuburg@gmail.com, phone 209-369-5752.

The REVISED 2018 calendar, Print and hang up somewhere special!

- Mar 18th Consumes River Preserve Outing, 8am to 1 pm Fishmeister Bill Beckett, club lunch.
- Mar 21st Board of Directors 6:30 pm to 7:30 pm Oak Grove Regional Park
- Mar 22rd-27th Pyramid Lake Outing All Day Fishmeister, Jerry Neuburger 209-327-5993
- Mar 28th Fly of the Month 6 pm to 7:30 pm Oak Grove Park Nature Center
- Apr 11th Monthly Membership Meeting 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM, John R Williams Elementary School
- Apr 13th Flyday Open Tying, 5:00 PM - 7:30 PM, House of Coffees, 239 N Ham Ln, Lodi
- Apr 18th Board of Directors, 6:30 PM - 7:30 PM Oak Grove Regional Park
- Apr 21st KELSEY BASS Ranch, 7am 3pm, Fishmeister: Al Smatsky
- Apr 25th Fly of the Month, 6:00 PM 7:30 PM Oak Grove Park Nature Center
- Apr 28th Beardsley Afterbay Outing, 7 am to 12 pm, Fishmeister: Mike Nicholson, Beardsley Dam, California
- Apr 29th Village West Marina Outing, 7am to 3 pm Fishmeister Bill Beckett, Village West Marina, 6649 Embarcadero Dr, Stockton
- May 5th One Fly Contest, 7:30 AM - 2:00 PM, Bob Fujimura Fishmeister, White Pines Lake, California 95223
- May 9th Monthly Membership Meeting 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM John R Williams Elementary School
- May 11th Flyday Open Tying, 5:00 PM - 7:30 PM House of Coffees,
- May 16th Board of Directors 6:30 PM - 7:30 PM Oak Grove Regional Park,
- May 20th-23rd Southfork Lake, Nevada Outing Fishmeisters: Bob and Jean Fujimura
- May 23rd Fly of the Month 6:00 PM - 7:30 PM Oak Grove Nature Center
- May 26th American Shad Outing 6:00 AM - 1:00 PM, American River, Fishmeisters, Jerry Neuburger, Al Smatsky, Club lunch provided
- Jun 2nd Catfish Derby 6:00 AM - 1:00 PM, Oak Grove Regional Park
- Jun 8th Flyday Open Tying 5:00 PM - 7:30 PM, House of Coffees
- Jun 10th North Delta Outing, 7:00 AM - 10:00 AM Fishmeister Bill Beckett; Georgiana Slough Fishing Access, Isleton, CA 95641, USA
- Jun 13th Annual Member BBQ 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM, Oak Grove Regional Park
- Jun 20th Board of Directors 6:30 PM - 7:30 PM Oak Grove Regional Park
- Jul 13th Flyday Open Tying 5:00 PM - 7:30 PM, House of Coffees
- Jul 15th North Delta Outing 7:00 AM - 3:00 PM, Fishmeister: Bill Beckett; Steamboat Landing, 12414 CA-160, Courtland, CA 95615, USA
- Aug 8th President's Meeting, 7:00 PM - 8:30 PM, Oak Grove Regional Park
- Aug 10th Flyday Open Tying 5:00 - 7:00 PM, House of Coffees
- Aug 12th Central Delta Outing 7:00 AM - 3:00 PM Fishmeister: Bill Beckett; Russo's Marina, 3995 Willow Rd, Bethel Island, CA 94511, USA
- Aug 15th Board of Directors 6:30 PM - 7:30 PM Oak Grove Regional Park
- Sep 6th-9th Markleville Area Outing, Fishmeister: Jerry Neuburger;
- Sep 12th Membership Meeting 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM
- Sep 14th Flyday Open Tying 5:00 PM - 7:30 PM, House of Coffees
- Sep 16th Miner Slough Outing, 7:00 AM - 1:00 PM, Fishmeister: Bill Beckett; Arrowhead Harbor Marina, 4396 Holland Rd, Clarksburg, CA 95612
- Sep 17th-23rd Bridgeport Outing, Robinson Creek Campground, Don Gilett, Fishmeister
- Sep 26th Board of Directors, 6:30 PM - 7:30 PM, Oak Grove Regional Park
- Oct 7th Paradise Point Outing 7:00 AM - 2:00 PM, Jerry Neuburger Fishmeister, Paradise Point on the Delta, 8095 N Rio Blanco Rd, Stockton, CA 95219, USA
- Oct 12th-13th Lower Sacramento Outing, Charlie Reams, Fishmeister, Redding, CA, USA
- Oct 12th Flyday Open Tying, 5:00 PM - 7:30 PM, House of Coffees
- Oct 17th Board of Directors, 6:30-7:30. Oak Grove Paek
- Oct 21st Coffee Creek Outing,, Trinity Alps, Fishmeister Bill Beckett
- Oct 26th-28th Heenan Lake/ Carson Pass Outing, Jerry Neuburger Fishmeister
- Nov 3rd Paradise Point Stripers Jerry Neuburger, Fishmeister
- Nov 9th Flyday Open Tying, 5:00 PM - 7:30 PM, House of Coffees,
- Nov 10th Trout Bout, Oak Grove Park
- Nov 21st Board of Directors, 6:30 PM - 7:30 PM, Oak Grove Regional Park
- Dec 8th Fly tying Saturday 9:00 AM - 12:30 PM, Oak Grove Regional Park Boat House
- Dec 12th General Membership Meeting, John R. Williams School
- Dec 14th Flyday Open Tying, 5:00 PM - 7:30 PM, House of Coffees,
- Dec 19th Board of Directors, 6:30 PM - 7:30 PM, Oak Grove Regional Park
- Jan 1st Mokelumne Opening Day Outing 6:30 AM - 2:00 PM, Van Assen Park, Clements, CA.

WOW, NOW THAT'S A FULL CALENDAR

We Just Won a Major Victory

Ours is the grandest sport. It is an intriguing battle of wits between angler and a trout; and in addition to appreciating the tradition and grace of the game, we play it in the magnificent out-of-doors.

... Earnest G. Schwiebert, Jr.

Recent articles from Restore the Delta (RTD), Dan Bacher, and Maven's blog reported great news of a major legal victory for the Delta. RTD said we would even be justified in taking a victory lap!

The US Bureau of Reclamation (USBR) and the San Luis Delta Mendota Water Authority ((SLDMWA) have been operating a 10 year illegal water grab they termed a "Water Transfer Program." They illegally transferred water away from rice framers in the Sacramento Valley and diverted it to South San Joaquin Valley agribusiness via the Central Valley Project (CVP). The plaintiffs in this action were AqaAlliance, the California Sportfishing Protection Alliance (CSPA), and the North Delta, South Delta, and the Central Delta Water Agencies. On February 15, Federal District Court Judge Lawrence J. O'Neill in Fresno ruled in favor of AqaAlliance and their co-plaintiffs.

AqaAlliance Executive Director Barbara Vlamis is "elated that the court found in favor of many of our legal arguments that seek to protect communities, environment, and the groundwater dependent farmers in the Sacramento as well as Delta farmers and fish. This ruling exposes the danger posed by the 10-Year Water Transfer Program's water-grab that would benefit agricultural interests with junior water rights growing permanent crops in the desert."

Vlamis put USBS and SLDLWA action in perspective in noting that they approved a program that would send 600,000 acre-feet of water from the Sacramento Valley south each year. That is equal to what a city of 100,000 people would use in 200 Years! She also noted that with state water transfers the total water transferred would be in excess of 800,000 acre-feet of water. "If history is any guide, half the of the transfer water could come from groundwater substitution."

Judge Lawrence ruled the Water Transfer Program from USBR and SLDLWA failed in their Analysis and Disclosure statements. He found, "This type of failure

was deemed dangerous because the lack of analysis and findings about the extent impacts make it impossible to determine if the mitigation measures are sufficient." He also found the evidence provided by the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) to be badly flawed and invalid. Their biological opinion does not comply with the federal Endangered Species Act (ESA) since their conclusions rely on seriously flawed conservation issues. The public needs to be aware that both state and federal agency employees are currently being ordered to falsify scientific data by their superiors. This action is wide spread throughout our state and federal agencies. Fortunately, the court system holds them to a higher standard than their politically-conscious superiors do. It's reprehensible that both our state and federal governments no longer work under the concept of the Doctrine of Public Trust.

Former South Valley Water District Staff May Be Going To Jail And The Implications of Their Actions

In our state's water issues, nothing happens in a vacuum. After a year-long series of investigations, California's Attorney General Xavier Becerra announced the arrest of 5 former Panache Water District (PWD) staff members. The 5 were arrested on felony charges for misuse of public funds, illegal disposal of hazardous waste materials, and wide spread corruption. Last week the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) arrested and booked the 5 into the Fresno County Jail. Those jailed were: 1) Dennis Falaschi, former General Manager, 2) Julie Cascia, former office manager, Atomic Falaschi (no... I didn't make that up) he was Manager of the San Joaquin River Improvement Project and Dennis Falaschi's son. Two PWD employee's, Jack Hurley and Dubby West were also arrested. The felony complaint lists 10 counts. Eight counts for theft of public funds and two counts for criminal disposal of toxic waste substances. Two of those being charged have used over \$100,000 of district credit cards for concerts, kitchen remodeling, slot machines, personal car repairs, and illegal employee loans.

California's Dept. of Toxic Substance Control (DTSC) started their investigation into the PWD a year ago. They found that Hurley and West illegally buried 86 drums

of toxic waste on PWD property under Dennis Falaschi's direction. The waste included caustic soda, chlorine, iron chloride, and mixtures of used oil and a number of toxic solvents. Neither Hurley nor West had the required hazardous waste permits. The DTSC also maintains an Office of Criminal Investigations (OCI). After the OCI investigations, the State Auditor's office was notified, and they, in turn, forwarded the results of the investigations to the Attorney General's office for prosecution.

The Attorney General noted that Falaschi, "Ran the district as his own personal operation and bank account, spending excessive amounts of District money using credit cards issued by PWD. Under the direction of Dennis Falaschi, Julie Cascia used PWD credit cards as business expenses. DTSC's Barbara Lee commented, "These arrests send a strong message that violations of the states' hazardous waste laws are to be taken seriously and will be pursued and will be prosecuted to the maximum extent possible in order to protect public health, the environment and public resources."

As I said earlier, nothing happens in California's water issues in a vacuum. Last year I posted several conservation articles about Westlands Water District (WWD) never having repaid the \$375 million loan the district has owed the federal government. WWD is delinquent in payments for over 50 years. For forgiving it's multi-million dollar debt, Westlands would relieve the USBR of its responsibility in cleaning up over 100,000 acres of toxic selenium-polluted runoff on land that Westlands has farmed in the past. Once again, the contract for this proposed deal has no time line for completion or penalties for non-performance. The settlement was negotiated through Obama's Dept. of the Interior and is endorsed by Trump's current administration. In this session, California Republicans Kevin McCarthy, Devin Nunes, David Valadao and Democrat Jim Cox have tried to push the bill through the House of Representatives but have failed to get the legislation passed. McCarthy even tried to attach the bill as rider on a major military bill! These 4 House members have been "purchased" by

(Continued on page 7)

(Continued from page 6)

the WWD and will continue in the next session to try to get the legislation passed along with more water diversion from the Delta.

So how does the proposed Westlands-USBRR settlement have anything to do with 5 former staff members of the PWD facing jail time? The WWD has presented the PWD as one of their go-to districts as a major part of the toxic waste clean-up. Now however, the Dept. of Interior's Inspector General has started waving major red flags about PWD saying there are "significant questionable costs in a Panoche demonstration water treatment plant intended to show that the toxic irrigation runoff can be treated." Despite WWD formerly touting the PWD as the "poster child" in the clean-up of over 100,000 acres of toxic land, they are claiming that PWD's criminal acts and inability to effectively remove the toxins will have no effect on the proposed settlement.

Hal Candee is an attorney for environmental groups fighting the proposed toxic drainage legislation. He finds the WWD

proposal not to be credible. He commented, "The justification for the Westlands mega-deal has been that local districts manage toxic drainage more effectively and with some federal help...they can solve the problem." Former leaders of the 'model district' for this local approach are charged with crimes directly related to management of toxic waste and the management of public funds."

California's chief fiscal officer is Controller Betty Yee. Her investigation of the PWD's accounting and administrative practices found several failures with over 75% of their internal controls non-functioning. Yee said, "The district's egregious lack of spending oversight is shocking. It is especially troubling in a region where efficient water governance is so vital to the agricultural community. I am looking into what measures are available to ensure small entities like Panache Water District are kept accountable."

One hundred and seventy years ago gold was discovered in California. By the end of 1849 an estimated 100,000 non-native people inundated the state. As the gold

supply diminished, a new source of unsuspected wealth began to emerge. Water. With California's complex and variable climate, water issues were inevitable. In the last century we have had

five major droughts. Despite the attempts at establishing a just and equitable system of water rights we have a system that reflects the interests of political and economic power players. When I became involved with our fisheries and their environment 15 years ago, this fact was the most obvious. And it will not change. The lies and illegal acts of the Valadao, Nunes, McCarthy, Cox types will go on and on. Water districts, like WWD, PWD, and the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California and other south valley districts, will continue their illegal strategies regardless of what or who they destroy. That's the nature of the beast. We can expect no consistent help from either political party. The court system is our only friend.

Ron Forbes, Conservation Chair

On the Riffle Guide Service

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Additional column inches of ad space may be purchased at \$200 for the year, \$100 for six months, \$50 for a quarter year, \$20 per month.

Included:

A digital subscription to the club's monthly newsletter.

Permission to post specials and other advertising on the [club's Face book page](#), 2 per month.

For additional information please phone or e-mail [Jerry Neuburger](#), Editor 209-369-5752



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