



Rx Fly Fishing!

The monthly newsletter of the Delta Fly Fishers!

Volume XLVII

Number VII

August 2023

Jerry Neuburger, Editor

Stockton, California

Calendar

August 9, DFF no host President's meeting, Mettler Winery

August 16, BOD meeting, Oak Grove Nature Center

August 23, Open fly tying, Oak Grove Nature Center

August 26, Casting Practice, Hutchins Street Square, Lodi

September 13, Membership meeting, John R. Williams School

September 20, BOD meeting, Oak Grove Nature Center

September 27, Open fly tying, Oak Grove Nature Center

September 29, Casting Practice, Hutchins Street Square, Lodi

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The President's meeting is at Mettler Vineyards, August 9th.

The club starts its fall activities with the president's meeting, even though we don't have a president. The venue will be the beautiful Mettler Vineyards tasting room patio. It's a social affair with no guest speaker.

The address of Larry Mettler's place is 7889 East Harney Lane. The tasting room is not open so you'll have to bring your own bottle and glasses if you care to imbibe. (And why not!) The event starts at 7:00 on the coming Wednesday, August 9th, and lasts about an hour and a half. Since the atmosphere and ambiance are so pleasant, your spouse and friends are invited as well. And of course, the general public is welcome.

It's also a great opportunity to pay your dues since the club's

dues cycle is starting again. If you want to pay them, see Jerry Neuburger, the club treasurer. He'll attempt to have a list of members and the previous category they paid dues with.

Of course, the meeting would not be complete without a club raffle. And the same rules apply, 15 tickets for \$10. The prizes will be plentiful and valuable.

While Mike Dempewolf gets a pass on most of the treats, he'll still bring some soft drinks for those not enjoying fermented grape juice. Nancy Baker has promised some nibbling treats to keep attendees smiling.

This meeting is one of the most popular of the year so come early and come supplied. SEE YOU THERE.

Dues are due for the 2024 year. A 5 weight travel rod, reel, line and travel tube will be given away to the winner of the drawing of those paying before October 1st. Email invoices will be sent out soon. For those that wish to pay by check, you may mail your check to: Jerry Neuburger, DFF Treasurer, 5 N. California Street, Lodi, CA 95240

It's time for me to step down

By Jerry Neuburger

It's no secret that I've been deeply involved in club affairs for a number of years. Recently I served three years as president and then took on the responsibilities of club Treasurer. In doing so I automated the books with a free digital accounting program with cloud storage and also started the use of credit and debit cards to pay for many of the club services.

I also, by accident, ended up as club editor and publisher of Rx Fly Fishing! Since I had been assisting Herman Spalinger, the then current editor, when he suddenly passed away.

And then, with no excuse, I volunteered as raffle chair since the club had gone a few years without the position and I believed that it was imperative that the position be filled.

However, time has move on and I'm no longer able to perform those duties due to my age, (I turned 80 this May) and health concerns. Most of you have seen me limp around and provided much needed help, even when not asked.

So, as of January 1, 2024, I plan to give up all of those duties but would be happy to assist where asked and needed, especially

So, the club needs some younger persons to step up to take on the roles of:

Club Treasurer
Editor and producer of Rx Fly Fishing!
Club Raffle Chair

Of course, each of these positions should be taken on separately rather than by one person. Here's an estimate of the hours per month of each responsibility and any other requirements.

Club Treasurer, 15 hours a month average, computer experience, attend the club board meetings.

Editor and publisher of Rx Fly Fishing! 15 hours a month except for July. Computer experience, experience with an editing program helpful.

Club Raffle Chair, about an 8x8 foot area to store the raffle items, purchase additional items, attend the club meetings and bring the raffle goods, sell raffle tickets. 10 hours a month.

I'll be happy to mentor any of those volunteering to take on the above responsibilities with a hand on basis. However, if no one takes them on, the activities may no longer be a part of the club's agenda.

This is a great club, approaching it's fifty year anniversary, I don't regret a minute of the time I've spent as an officer and/or volunteer but it is time to move on. The reins need to be passed to a new carriage driver.

Sometimes it's complicated—but but it's always an adventure!

By Amy Terra

Fly fishing can be really simple. There are times that the fish seem drawn to my fly and the number of fish I catch seems ridiculous. Then there are times that the only thing I hook is myself. As an angler, it is easy to fish the same familiar spaces over and over. These waterways become known in every condition and season, ensuring the success of bringing fish to the net just about every time. However, as angling experience increases, testing out new waters can help gauge your skill development and under-

standing of the practices and principles of fly fishing.

Dena and I love to fish the familiar waters of Yosemite. We ventured up to prefish for the upcoming women's outing and found all of our regular spots inaccessible and un-fishable. This meant we were going to pivot from the familiar fishing that usually brings us high numbers of wild trout caught on the dry, to fishing unknown waters in unfamiliar places. In other words, we were on a fishing adventure!

We came across the first unfamiliar

(Continued on page 3)

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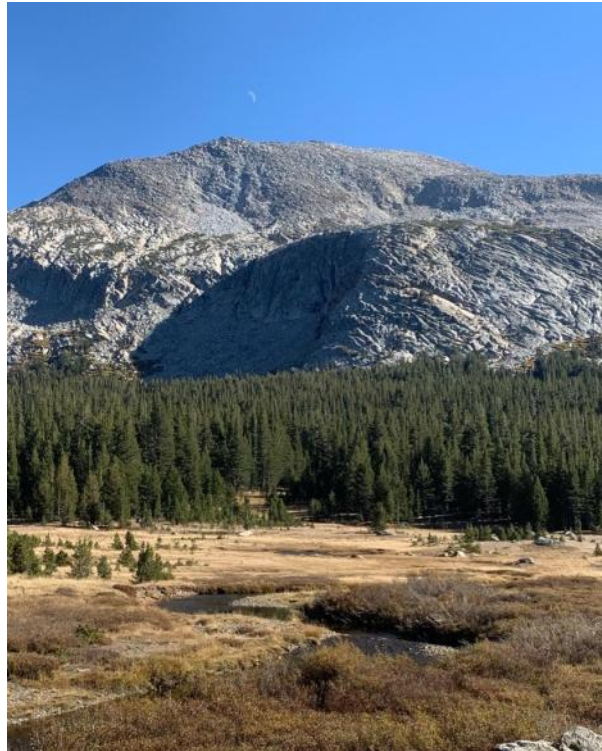


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(Continued from page 2)

fishable water. We tried different tactics and got it dialed in and brought some fish to the net using flies we had tied. There is nothing like catching a fish on a new waterway with a fly you tied. It provides a feeling of proven skill in the many layers of fly fishing. The fly was tied with these hands. The same hands rigged the rod then cast the line. They made the mends and adjustments that followed, leading to the set and net bringing the fish from their safety below the surface. IW always find myself holding my breath a little during the process. Then when the fish is in the net, I breathe deeply to put a period on the experience.

After we explored this water, we moved on with drops of confidence forming from our success to the next waterway. This water was



Grand new adventures with equally grand views!

bigger and faster. We adjusted and angled our way through the river.

Here we found fish again- even hooked them but didn't get any in the net. It was strange to build confidence and be humbled at the same moment. It was a great reminder that fly fishing can be complicated. It is complicated in a way that you never quite master it. You just add layers of experiences that you take from waterway to waterway. These layers build over time bringing new and varied experiences refining not only your skill, but also your confidence in trying new waters. This day provided quite a few lessons for us but the most important lesson was that a good complicated adventure with great company is always a good thing. Hoping you get out and have a great adventure this summer and fall!

Wulffies Wonderful Bass Outing

The Wulffies had a great time fishing for smallmouth bass with Captains Al Smatsky and Bryce Tedford. The day started early with coffee and pastries as the first group of anglers hit the water. Most morning action was subsurface with the anglers bringing fish into the boats. The first group's half day ended and the second group hit the water, finding the warming water temperatures conducive to topwater action. Dena whipped out her Tenkara and caught some fish on this fun rod- We discovered if you want to put a bend in a rod, you should catch bass on a Tenkara! The day ended

with yummy Mexican food at the marina restaurant. There is a reason this is one of our most popular women's outings- because fish are caught and fun is had! This will definitely be on our calendar for 2024!

Special thanks to Al and Bryce and fishmeister Dena Mason. You guys are the heart of fly fishing!

Interested in a smallmouth adventure of your own? Give Captain Bryce a call and set up an outing at (206) 696-2437.



Shelby with one of many catches for the day

Your dues are due before the end of September. Either respond to the email invoice or mail a check to: Jerry Neuberger, DFF Treasurer, 5 N. California Street, Lodi, CA 95240. A 5 weight travel rod kit drawing will be held for those paying their dues by September 30th.



The one that got away...

By Amy Terra

Fishing is heating up as flows lower enough to safely fish my favorite places. I was lucky enough to carve out some time to fish before work started back up. I had a wonderful day on the water. The sun warmed me from above as the water cooled my feet and legs as I stepped into the river. The river was filled with wildlife. There were so many birds. LBB's as my friend calls them (Little black or brown birds). A family of geese floated down the river maneuvering like little drift boats in the current. Two hummingbirds flitted about a tree branch over my head. Butterflies with a variety of patterns and colors mysteriously and gently flew about me as the smells of sage, mint and coriander filled the air. Berries were just ripening with a tart sweetness in my mouth and they left stains on my fingers while their thorns tore at my clothes and skin. Little frogs had jumped about my feet on the walk to the water. They moved amongst the foliage and flowers in purples and whites. I heard a rustle in the bushes and looked up to see a large buck moving up the hillside. As I stood in the river gurgling past me I felt complete contentment. Taking it all in through every sense, the moment was overwhelmingly perfect.

Then I started fishing.

Fishing was good- really good. I quickly stopped keeping track of fish as the numbers moved into double digits. The fish were larger than normal for this waterway and they were healthy and beautiful. I noted each fish's coloring, spots and features. They were all quite lovely. They were lively too- feeding and fighting as I maneuvered them to the net just to turn around and let them go with a

thank you and a comment on their beauty. But, to be quite honest, not one fish stood out in my memory though. I only really remember one particular fish. Funny thing is, it is the one fish that I never got into my net that day. It was the one that got away. He was large (as all the ones that get away are). I was tightlining and felt the grab before my eyes registered the sighter moving. I set the hook and the fish took off. As I brought the fish towards me, he jumped and leapt and jumped again out of the water. He was mad. He put on quite the show in his anger. Finally, after numerous



One of the perfectly fine fish that was brought to the net on this day.

aerial maneuvers, he deftly spit the hook and returned to the depths of the pool that I had attempted to pluck him out of with my trickery. Of all the beauty of the day and all the fish I released from my net, none sticks in my memory like this one. Sitting here writing about him brings a grin to my face and takes me back to that day. He is the perfect memory of the perfect day- the one that got away.

Contribute to the club's welfare

I was asked to put this box in the newsletter so that those club members that live at unreasonable travel times to the club's monthly meetings might have a way to contribute to the club's welfare. At their request, I've set up a group of alternative contribution amounts. Those who participate will receive a tax deductible receipt via email.

\$5 \$10 \$25 \$50

Or send a check to:
DFF C/O Jerry Neuburger, DFF Treasurer
5 North California Street
Lodi, CA 95240

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Convert an urban student into a little conservationist. Consider donating to the club's tax deductible fund,

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C/O Jerry Neuburger, DFF Treasurer
5 North California Street
Lodi, CA 95240

Make checks payable to DFF, Salmon in the Classroom. Please include your email address. You will receive a receipt online, when the check is received.

Cal State Charity # 131478

Casting her grandmother's rod



Dena leading the beginning casting group at our free Friday night casting session

Casting activities have been busy lately! Our Friday night casting has been a hit with up to a dozen participants each of the last two sessions. We have welcomed fly friends from our sister club- Amador Fly Fishers to Hutchins Street Square on the fourth Friday of last month as well as several DFF members. We have consistently drawn the occasional passersby into the sessions too. Just tonight as we began to clean up at the end of our July session, a couple walking by stopped to watch the last few casts. When we offered them the opportunity to try fly casting, one of them shared that her grandmother had just gifted her a fly rod that her grandmother had fished with throughout her life. She shared that she had been trying to figure out how she was going to learn to use her grandmother's rod and then she happened to walk by our open casting. She picked up the basics quickly and we hope to

see her at the next casting and club events. Nothing would be better than to see her make a beautiful cast and catch a fish- continuing her family fly fishing tradition!

Our public casting events have consistently drawn new casters and anglers to try their hand at casting activities. Dena leads the beginner group while Tim Costello and I work with the novice to advanced casters. Tonight we worked through bronze level tasks with our more experienced casters. Everyone learned a lot and especially enjoyed sitting in the shade and socializing to get a break from the heat. Because of the warm weather, we will be shifting open casting on the 4th Friday from **6 pm to 8 pm**. This allows for the shade to cover the grass for a more comfortable experience for everyone. Friday night casting will con-

tinue until the time changes and close the evening light to cast by. Until then, everyone is welcome. Rods and eye protection available to borrow. All you need to do is sign an annual waiver and join in the fun!

There are additional opportunities to work on your casting each and every month. San Francisco Casting Ponds are still the site for free monthly lessons. In August the lessons are shifted to August 5th because of a large concert in the park on the second Saturday. Lessons return to the second Saturday in September. Lessons are free and free parking is available too. All levels of casting instruction are available. Lessons from 9 to noon. This is an amazing opportunity to learn from premier casting instructors. If you can make the drive, I highly recommend it!



Free casting lessons at Golden Gate Park

Upcoming women's outings

By Amy Terra

Yosemite is a beautiful place filled with nature, amazing vistas and beautiful fish. Our Wulffies are off on an adventure to fly fish Yosemite with Eco Adventure Cooperative this August 4-6.

Seven anglers will meet in Groveland for a yummy breakfast at Blue Sage Cafe and head over to the Eco Adventure office to meet our guide. Yes- you read that correctly- Seven anglers! This is the largest turnout we have ever had for our women's Yosemite adventure and we are so excited to team up with the Eco Adventures

Cooperative during this year of crazy snow, road closures and high runoff. Dena and I snuck up to Yosemite a week ago and all of our normal adventure locals were cutoff by road closures or running too high to fish. We were pondering if we should cancel the outing as we left Groveland and popped by our favorite fly shop on the way back to the valley. A conversation at the fly

shop counter about the year's crazy conditions led to arranging a guided trip for our upcoming women's outing. So we are especially anticipating this trip. We are looking forward to a great Friday

fishmeisters but the outing plans will remain the same. We are going to adventure up Highway 80 for some fun small stream dry fly fishing. The best part of this stream is that it is easy wading, hungry wild

fish, dry fly fishing with great swimming holes to cool off in. We will probably finish fishing around noon as the swimmers and picnickers arrive about that time. Fishing will be followed by a charcuterie adventure meal and maybe a quick run into the Truckee fly Shop to say hello. Look for the date as your fishmeisters figure out their calendar in the next few weeks.



guided adventure, wonderful food at our favorite restaurant, The Copperpot Cafe and two more days of fishing with wonderful friends. We will take lots of pictures of our adventures and update everyone in the next newsletter.

September's women's outing will have to have a date change because of a fishing conflict for the

Mettler

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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.

Sign Up for the Lower Sac Guided Trip: October 21

By Bob Fujimura

Discouraged by the hot weather and the lack of suitable local trout fishing? Join our annual club outing to one of the most reliable tailwater trout fisheries in Northern California. The Sacramento River from downtown Redding to Red Bluff is one of the major fly-fishing waters for California's fishers -and we have scheduled this outing during the peak of its fishing season. A hosted group float trip with experienced guide will be led by Scott Sugimoto on Saturday October 21.

Cost is \$300 per person (based on double boat occupancy; includes shuttle service, lunch, and guide tip). An online link has been set up for online payment at:

<https://next.waveapps.com/check-outs/2580ab64f81f45cd857d982e74584d07> or a check may be sent to

DFF Treasurer, C/O Jerry Neuburger, 5 North California Street, Lodi, CA 95240. Please email Jerry Neuburger at gneuburg@gmail.com if you are mailing him your check. A signed 2023-2024 DFF liability waiver is required for registering



for this outing.

Prior to this event, host Bob Fujimura will provide detailed outing information, fishing report updates, suggest local lodging, and will offer pre- and post-event dining out options for interested participants.

Signups will close by October 1 or earlier if all spots are filled. For more information, contact Scott Sugimoto at

scott@ontheriffle.com or Bob Fujimura at deltaflyfishers@gmail.com for more information on this event.

If you are new to fly fishing trophy trout tailwaters or a veteran fly fisher, the Lower Sacramento River has been a consistent crowd pleaser. Don't miss out on a fun opportunity to fish with your fellow club members.

Monthly Open Tying Sessions

By Bob Fujimura

Last Saturday's Open Tying Session was held at a new time and location compared to our usual 4th Wednesday evenings at the Nature Center in the Oak Grove Regional Park in Stockton. We met at the Lodi Public Library from 12 noon to 4 pm on Saturday July 29th .

We had a good turnout with 14 members and guests from other local clubs, with most of those attending having lunch at Ruby's Bakery prior to this event. We were honored to have several advanced or expert tiers who were generous with sharing their skills with newer tiers. A lot of tying and friendly conversation among the attendees.

Everyone had the opportunity to receive a free door prize of their choice toward the end of the session. Saturday afternoon

seemed to work out better for working or older members or guests who live outside of our area and an option for future events if a similar free meeting location could be found. However, the Library would be very interested if our club could offer a series of fly fishing education events focused to young people or the public. \Thanks to Jerry Neuburger and Amy Terra who provided most of the raffle prizes and Jean Fujimura who led the raffle drawing and clean up.





Join Us for a Celebration of Fly Fishing and Protecting our Rivers - Yuba Fest 2023!

On Saturday, September 30th we will hold the fly fishing event of the year in Northern California! We're calling it the **Gathering of the Clan** - bringing like-minded people together for Yuba Fest. If you fly fish, love rivers, recreate on the water, or have an interest in conservation - **This event is for you!**



Saturday will offer a full day of fly fishing learning, casting with certified casters, fly tying with experts, and the opportunity to learn what is happening in Conservation from numerous organizations. A great lunch will be available for purchase during the day, along with drinks (more details on food service coming soon), and you'll enjoy live music in the afternoon. In addition, there will be a raffle, silent auction for fly boxes and other great items & a live auction for selected high value items. Be sure to stick around for the Social Event from 4:00 PM to 6:30 PM.



There is a lot to do in and around the Grass Valley/Nevada City/Yuba City area and it is a great place to spend a delightful full weekend. For more information about Yuba Fest (and things to do in the area), go to the NCCFFI Website

at <https://www.nccffi.org> to get all the information you will need and register to join us for this great celebration at Sycamore Ranch County Park on the Lower Yuba River.

More details to follow soon. We look forward to seeing you there!

Nor Calif. Council, Fly Fishers Int'l (NCCFFI)

Gold Country Fly Fishers

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Welcome to Sycamore Ranch Park – Yuba Fest 2023



Also, consider joining in the fun, camping on Friday & Saturday at Sycamore Ranch Campground, with a planned social event in the campground on Saturday night from 7 PM on for storytelling & just visiting! Be sure to make your reservations at the Sycamore Valley Campground in advance!

Climate change... the future just became a complex reality

The blessings of fishing include not only Edgar Guest's "wash the soul" with pure air, but they also include discipline in the equality of men, meekness and inspiration before the works of nature, charity and patience toward tackle makers and the fish, a mockery of profits and conceits, a quieting of hate and hushing to ambition, a rejoicing and gladness that you do not have to decide a blanked thing until next week.

Herbert Hoover, "In praise of Izaak Walton," c.1930

Those of us who have become involved with California's fisheries, the Delta and its future are not strangers to uphill battles. Over 12 years ago I had a conversation with Restore The Delta's Executive Director Barbara Barrigan Parilla. Then governor Jerry Brown, was once again trying to initiate another anti-environmental-pro Twin Tunnels project that would further decimate the Delta's Fisheries. After the discussion, Barbara expressed her growing concern of a rapidly emerging issue that would not just affect California but the planet. The concern that was becoming increasingly visible was climate change. Over the years In doing research on subjects for our monthly newsletter I had seen a rapidly increasing number of articles on the threatening consequences climate change would have on our fisheries and environment. Reading the available data makes it obvious we needed to do something "stat" to turn the process around. However, many people, including politically driven policymakers, feel we had a longer timeline to address needed changes. Reality is now

showing us we don't.

Last July we were in the third year of drought that many thought would continue into a fourth year. A majority of our lakes and reservoirs were at historic lows. Our rivers and streams were at all time lows and some had gone dry. The Delta was facing collapse. Rising water temperatures further jeopardized our fisheries survival. Low flows of fresh water made it difficult for salmon and steelhead to migrate to and from the ocean. The critical habitat floodplains for young fish became non-existent. The lack of water meant that agricultural pollutants, such as fertilizers and pesticides, were becoming more concentrated and further decimated our fisheries.

As California was anticipating another year of drought the first atmospheric river arrived. It was soon followed by over 12 more atmospheric rivers. The state was inundated with record rain and snowfall. Many of our lakes and reservoirs that were at 30 to 40% of their normal volume filled to capacity. Many rivers were closed do to extremely high flows causing recreational safety hazards. The atmospheric rivers also gave us a record breaking snow pack. There was mounting concern we might be facing an ARKstorm. ARKstorms occur once every 500 to 1,000 years in California. The last happened in 1861-1862. Fortunately, it hasn't happened again. But now the entire planet faces the highest temperatures ever recorded on earth. We now have come to accept extremes as the "new normal".

It's difficult to get our minds around all of

the recent, horrendous weather events in California. In less than one calendar year we have seen:

- . The end of a three year catastrophic drought,
- . Near gale force winds that uprooted a huge number of trees, damaging homes, and infrastructure.
- . More than twelve atmospheric rivers.
- . Recording breaking amounts of rain.
- . Record breaking amounts of snow leaving us with many state all time records. Over 60 feet of snow blanketed the southern Sierras in some areas.
- . Flooding, to the point where water-diverted from the "ghost" Tule Lake, has reappeared since its loss post World War II.



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(Continued from page 10)

. And now we are experiencing the highest temperatures ever recorded on earth

Despite politically generated arguments of denial and excuses, we have crossed a line. Crossing the line is forcing us to, by necessity, face complexities we have never had to confront. Pollution generated by climate change is forcing the United States and China, the two largest polluters on earth, to find solutions to problems they created. We now face problems that were non-existent ten years ago. Nature and science are telling us that the changed climate has redefined how we will live for decades. California was at one time considered a leader among states for creative solutions. We no longer are. Our state leaders now are more concerned with political expediency and the desires of the special interests than the well-being of our people. When we look at the Delta Fly Fishers' concerns for our fisheries and the Delta the road to solutions just got much longer and steeper.

A Reprieve and Maybe More: Has the DCP Been Sent to the Hospital for Urgent Care?

California, like many states, faces ongoing tension and frustration generated by questionable political agendas versus the state's realities. In our last newsletter the Conservation article took harsh issue with Gov. Newsom's abrogation of our states laws and policies protecting the Delta, our water, and environment. Gov. Newsom sanctimoniously declares himself to be pro-environmental. The reality of his actions as governor, unfortunately, show otherwise. Our environmental laws intentionally place high hurdles the state is required to overcome before California can enact state policy. Since Gov. Jerry Brown's first term in the early 60's to the present, all state water diversion conveyances have failed to pass not only our voters but our environmental protections as well. In our last newsletter we detailed how Gov. Newsom eradicated all environmental protections to accelerate his Delta Conveyance Project (DCP). He claimed his action was justified to speed needed projects. His real intent was transparent and generated massive opposition.

His current attempt to pull a "back door end-a-round" to expedite his DCP was to pressure the state legislature to pass California's budget on time. However, Newsom attached a major "surprise pack-

age" of trailers to the budget that included California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) funds for his two pet projects, the DCP and the Sites Reservoir Project. His budget additions would speed up both projects while totally ignoring California's environmental protections and severely ignore public input. The inclusion of the surprise addition of the trailers has triggered an overwhelming resentment from over 70 divergent organizations and the legislature.

Supervisors from the five counties that are within the Delta opposed the trailers in a letter entitled, RE: Opposition to the Governors Infrastructure Budget Trailer Bills Clearing Way for the Controversial Delta Tunnel. They noted that the Delta Counties Coalition (DCC), representing five counties and "millions of Californians who live in our communities, strongly opposes the Administration's inclusion for the Delta Conveyance Project {DCP or Delta Tunnel} in the Infrastructure Bill". They have been upset since the prospect's inception that the Legislation and Administration have "consistently and deliberately avoided provisions that facilitate highly controversial and extraordinarily isolated conveyance projects in the Delta in the final version of legislation. This, we feel, was done with purpose. The trailers with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) would expedite the DCP." They note that the project will create winners and losers. The winners will seek to export more water from the Delta. The losers are the "disadvantaged and culturally significant" communities that will be gravely and permanently damaged, if not completely destroyed. The DCC requested two changes. One, the DCP construction be stopped. Construction will require a minimum time of at least 14 years. The project will not comply with California's commitment to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and will not protect people from the worst extremes of climate change. Second, the laws relaxing the protection of species with the path of the tunnel project must be removed from the trailer package. Otherwise, protected

species such as the Great Sandhill Crane, which winters in the Delta, will be included as part of the "take" legitimized by sections of the trailer package. Gov. Newsom assured communities that the DCP would follow all applicable laws. Ironically, these are the same laws he is trying to eliminate.

To say that Gov. Newsom's proposed budget trailers faced criticism would be an understatement. In a recent editorial, the Sacramento Bee criticized Newsom saying he "proposed the mother of all trailer bills last month when he unveiled a complex plan to accelerate a range of infrastructure projects with a slew of bills to be tacked on to the budget. There are plenty of unresolved budget matters between now and June 15 without adding bills that should be debated over the summer."

Restore the Delta's Barbara Barrigan Parrilla spoke her opposition to the trailer package before a joint hearing of the Natural Resources and State Assembly Judiciary committees. Her statements highlighted how the suggested CEQA changes would green light the DCP despite a woefully inadequate Environmental Review (EIR). The harm would particularly impact environmental justice communities in the Bay-Delta.

Gov. Newsom's recent attempts to fast track his DCP has not gone well. His abrogation of our environmental protections, continuing non-enforcement of state laws and state environmental policies, has infuriated many diverse organizations. He constantly uses fast tracking as his political modus operandi. Once again Newsom tried to force the DCP down our throats by attaching his trailers to the budget that needed rapid approval to meet the state deadline. His actions only created increas-

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(Continued from page 11)

ing opposition in the state from a multitude of organizations. Fortunately, our state senators, assemblymen and assemblywoman on both sides of the aisle refused to pass his budget as written unless the trailers were deleted. They were removed, handing Gov. Newsom and his DCP and the Sites Project a major political setback.

On July 23 the Sacramento Bee published an article in their Capitol Alert Column that summarizes the enormity of our legislature's action. The article was titled,

"Delta Tunnel On Life Support? What the Budget Blow Means to Newsom's Pet Water Project." Jeffery Mount, senior fellow of the Public Policy Institute of California policy center, summed up the current situation by saying, "This can is getting kicked further down the road. It has already involved hundreds of millions of dollars in studies, engineering design] and everything else.. It has involved multiple downsizing. There is nothing in at this point that will appease the opposition, with the exception of just not doing it". By revising the landmark California Environ-

mental Quality Act he sought to streamline permitting and limit how long courts would hear legal challenges to environmental review. Newsom said the changes would make funds available for a list of projects in the next decade.

The Bee's phrase, "Delta Tunnel on Life Support" certainly has a nice ring to it!

Ron Forbes