



**DEDICATED TO RESTORING  
A GREAT RIVER**

**November 29, 2010**

**Dear Members of Friends of Trinity River:**

**We have just determined that now is a proper time to conclude operation of Friends of Trinity River. We have accomplished essentially all of our original objectives, and board members will continue to be involved in Trinity River Basin restoration efforts and issues.**

**What have you accomplished through your support of Friends of Trinity River?  
To name a few of our – your - achievements:**

**You stopped irrational and worthless channel manipulation projects from 1993 until after the Interior Secretary's December 2000 Record of Decision.**

**You helped reauthorize the original restoration program that expired in 1994. In that reauthorizing legislation, we added commercial and sport fishing interests and the Yurok Tribe to its policy making entity along with some others.**

**You helped obtain an Interior Secretarial Decision that returned almost half the Trinity River's original, pre-dam water flows (47 percent), to create a more healthy river and fishery and that included the entire Trinity and Lower Klamath Rivers.**

**You helped to achieve an increase in the river's Steelhead and Coho populations.**

**You helped to increase angling opportunities with sound fishing regulations throughout the watershed that emphasizes protection of wild fish and allowing harvest of hatchery fish.**

**You achieved, with leadership from Spreck Rosekrans of Environmental Defense Fund, withdrawal of several Central Valley Project power beneficiaries from litigation initiated by Westlands Water District that attempted to prevent a return of water to Trinity River as specified in the Secretary's Record of Decision. To mention just a few of the entities that withdrew were the Sacramento Municipal Utilities District, the City of Palo Alto, and the Port of Oakland.**

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**You have obtained significant funding on multiple occasions for some Program activities that otherwise would not have been implemented, just a couple of which were: new bridges required to accommodate higher river flows and watershed/tributary rehabilitation.**

**You have provided for the initiation, following the 2002 “Fish Kill” on the Lower Klamath, of a major educational effort through interviews with the media, and showing videos of the tragedy to members of the California Fish and Game Commission and to members of the state legislature. Additionally, support was advocated for emergency actions to alter Trinity flows to maximize production of surviving fish.**

**You have allowed the opportunity to respond to state and federal legislative actions related to protection and restoration of Trinity River.**

**You have provided the means for continued support for federal government compliance under its 1955 contract with Humboldt County for delivery to it of 50,000 acre feet of water annually from the Trinity watershed.**

**You have increased the certainty of Trinity River retaining its water by commenting on many, many Environmental Assessments, Environmental Impact Statements and/or Reports or other initiatives dealing with California developed water allocation issues. This includes the pumping of Northern California water through the San Francisco Bay Delta south to poisoned Western San Joaquin Valley agricultural lands.**

**You have provided an education and outreach conduit to elected officials, agencies, stakeholders and the public through Friends of Trinity River’s Newsletters, website, visits to editorial boards, and Facebook.**

**You have advanced the ultimate fate of Trinity restoration by helping to assure that water returned to it by the Secretary’s Decision will not be lost. This has been through advocacy and participation in the major California water wars now raging.**

**You have influenced positively through advocacy and insistence many of the correct and proper elements of the Trinity River Restoration Program. Among your achievements are:**

- **Advancing restoration of watersheds and tributaries- critical to increased wild fisheries, particularly for Steelhead and Coho**

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- **Advancing changes in hatchery practices to achieve Restoration Program objectives for a healthy river and fishery to provide major increases in the river's wild fisheries and to reduce highly negative impacts upon wild fish**
- **Advancing improved contracting procedures**
- **Advancing a science based Program with Independent Peer Review to avoid blatant financial conflicts of interest that exist within the Program**
- **Advancing Program evaluation reports to document progress toward objectives and problems/issues within the Program that need to be addressed**
- **Advancing annual budgets that balance implementation, restoration and science to achieve expeditious restoration of the river**
- **Advancing your interests by participation, advocacy and initiation of important restoration issues at all meetings of the Trinity Adaptive Management Working Group and Trinity Management Council, or predecessor entities, for nearly 20 years**

**While this is not at all a fully inclusive list of what you have achieved through your support of Friends of Trinity River, it is representative.**

**Overall, what you have helped to achieve is to assure that the Trinity River becomes a national model of a restored river below a federally financed dam. You also helped to assure that for all time the Trinity River becomes vibrant and healthy for you, for your children, for your grandchildren and for generations to come - a major achievement.**

**Expressed differently, you have stepped up and capitalized upon a unique opportunity to make a difference in this world. Thank you so very much for your continued financial and moral support through the years.**

**What funds remain in Friends of Trinity River will be given to an organization exclusively for the advancement of Trinity River restoration objectives – the reason you contributed to Friends of Trinity River. Also, I will continue to be involved in Trinity and related activities to some extent.**

**Sincerely,**

  
**Byron W. Leydecker**  
**Chair**