



Local Sacramento volunteer ‘River Keepers’ and State Water Board Student Assistants Aaron Havert (on far right) and Melanie McPheeters (second from right) pose with the 2006 (American River Parkway Preservation Society) Parkway Advocate Award. This award was presented for community volunteer efforts in a successful sustained cleanup of both trash and crime along the lower American River Parkway.

Due largely to this very recent and sustained Environmental Justice community effort, management of the lower river parkway has been permanently changed. Stepped up law enforcement, and more careful public parkway management have proved crucial in this regard.

Existing public resources were positively and carefully redirected, requiring no new public funds to ensure a sustainable and positive environmental, social justice, and economically viable outcome.

Efforts of many government agencies needed to be integrated closely with bipartisan community volunteer efforts for this successful project to proceed. Literally tons less trash is now being dumped along and in the lower river and river parkway. In addition, the area now has increased public safety. These changes promote increasingly pleasant visits and more numerous parkway visits for river cleaners, tourists and recreators alike to this large public parkway very near downtown Sacramento, and our State Capitol building.

Combined environmental and social justice goals, as well as broad based positive economic improvements, have been jointly achieved in this long needed project.