

California Water Fix Point of Diversion Hearings

On the Friends of the River staff since 1987, Ron has had responsibilities for organizing Friends of the River's flood-management and water-project advocacy efforts in the American River watershed, California dam licensing and relicensing programs, Central Valley drainage issues, urban water-conservation programs, dam proposals, and wild & scenic river programs.



In the Sacramento region, he has worked with the Sacramento Flood Control Agency (SAFCA) to fashion floodwater-management approaches in the Sacramento Region that could garner strong community and environmental support. As part of that effort, he served as a liaison to the National Research Council's Committee on Flood Control Alternatives in the American River Basin, the Department of Water Resources' (DWR) Independent Review Panel on Central Valley Flooding chaired by General Gerald Galloway, the Citizen's Advisory Committee to the Governor's 1997 Flood Emergency Action Team, and continues to serve as a member of SAFCA's Lower American River Task Force.

Ron is also a founding member of the Sacramento Area Water Forum, a group of community leaders working to fashion water-development approaches that protect the area's riverine environments (including the American River Parkway) while helping to accommodate agreed-upon community water-supply-infrastructure. In 2002, he accepted the Governor's Environmental and Economic Leadership Award on behalf of the Water Forum from Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger. He was among the Water Forum group accepting the same award in 2015.

Ron has worked on a number of Central Valley and California water-management issues, serving on the DWR California Floodplain Management Task Force, on working groups of the Corps/Reclamation Board Sacramento & San Joaquin Basins Comprehensive Study, California's Central Valley Flood Plan, California Water Commission Water Storage Investment Program Stakeholder Advisory Committee, and the interagency Yuba Feather Workgroup focusing on flood-management issues in this basin. He has also worked with major water-quality-challenged rivers as well — serving on the joint DWR/Department of the Interior Citizens Advisory Committee for the San Joaquin Valley Drainage Program and receiving a recognition of making a "significant contribution to the [H.W.] Bush Administration" for that service.

Ron has been involved in Forest Service and Department of the Interior wild & scenic river potential and recommendations since the early 1980s, and has led or participated in a number of Congressional or legislative campaigns to add rivers to the Federal or state wild & scenic river systems. He has worked on the creation of a number of wild & scenic river management plans, including serving on the Citizens Advisory Committees for the Lower American River Parkway

Plan update and Lower American River Corridor Master Plan, as well as providing assistance for the BLM, Forest Service, and NPS Merced River wild & scenic river plans.

He has participated in a number of FERC licensing proceedings for non-Federal dams, from small and large hydroelectric dams in the 1980s and 90s to the more recent and ongoing relicensings of major dams or dam complexes such as the Sacramento Municipal Utility District's Upper American River Project and Merced Irrigation District's New Exchequer Dam. He has led the FOR so-far unsuccessful effort to have a proper secondary (auxiliary) spillway at Oroville Dam since 2001 (this is the spillway without a real spillway that nearly failed in 2017, forcing the evacuation of 188,000 people in the Feather River Basin). He serves on the steering committee for the California Hydropower Reform Coalition.

Since 1992, Ron has led the efforts to defeat Army Corps of Engineers and U.S. Bureau of Reclamation proposals to construct the giant Auburn dam on the American River and served as an expert witness in the State Water Control Board's proceedings that resulted in the revocation of Reclamation's state water rights for Auburn dam.

He served on the steering committee of the former California Urban Water Conservation Council, and in 2004 received an Excellence Award for his role in the passage of legislation requiring water metering and volumetric pricing for most California communities. He has served on the Board of Directors of the California Wilderness Coalition and the Tuolumne River Preservation Trust. He has served on the Advisory Council of Sacramento State University's Center for Collaborative Policy and is currently on the advisory councils of the Save the American River Association and the Tuolumne River Trust. He has been a volunteer leader for the Sierra Club since 1977, and serving on the Sierra Club California Water Committee for most of that time.

Ron received his Bachelor of Science degree with highest honors from the School of Agriculture at the University of California at Davis in Plant Science in 1975.