



Fall CSPA Newsletter, November 2023

From the Desk of Chris Shutes

It's been a very busy year at CSPA. Our hydropower program remains a national leader. We are in the midst of four water rights proceedings, with more on the way. Our water quality enforcement program is strong. We are increasing activities to protect groundwater quality and to protect rivers from excessive diversions for groundwater recharge.



From Mount Shasta to Fresno, and from San Francisco to Lake Tahoe, CSPA is active and effective in regulatory processes to protect fisheries, aquatic habitat, and water quality.

CSPA turned 40 in 2023. Very sadly, we lost our longtime leader Bill Jennings just before reaching our milestone birthday. Many people have asked about a memorial for Bill. We are asking you to **save the date of April 7, 2024 for a Bill Jennings memorial**. As part of our transition, we have closed our Stockton office, but our hearts are still there. So are 60 boxes of Bill Jennings's paper documents that we delivered in September to the University of the Pacific, which is creating a Bill Jennings archive that will be available to the public.

Thanks to generous support from a funder, **CSPA is now recruiting an Administrative Assistant and Advocate Trainee** to help organize and maintain CSPA and its many programs. Additionally, Angelina Cook has joined CSPA as our Restoration Associate. She is working on the removal of dams on Battle Creek and on flows and related issues on the Scott and Shasta rivers. She is also learning the ropes of water rights protests and processes.

During our transition, we have been unable to post to the website on some of our important efforts. It has been all we could manage to do all the work! This newsletter highlights some of our recent actions. We hope to have more capacity to blog on topics of the day, and to report on more of our work in the next year, with the following actions coming up:

- Hearings on the Bay-Delta Plan to determine flows into San Francisco Bay and in the Central Valley rivers that flow into it;
- Water rights hearings for the massive proposed Sites Reservoir;
- Water rights protests of the proposed tunnel to divert water under the Delta
- Comments on new Endangered Species Act protections for the Delta and much of the Central Valley;
- Our extensive work over the past three years on legislation to enact the largest reform of the Federal Power Act since 1920;
- Our efforts to accelerate dam removal on the Eel River and Battle Creek, and to end regulatory purgatory on Butte Creek and protect its salmon;
- Our water quality enforcement actions large and small, including major efforts to protect Lake Tahoe.

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More than ever, CSPA needs your support!
Please join CSPA or renew your membership today!
Please consider an end-of-year donation in addition to your membership!
CSPA can now handle donations of stocks!

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**Save the Date:
Memorial for Bill Jennings
April 7, 2023**



We hope you will save the date to join CSPA on April, 7, 2024 as we celebrate the life and achievements of Bill Jennings, our longtime leader who passed away on December 27, 2022. Bill was chairman of CSPA's board of directors since 1988 and its executive director since 2005. We plan this gathering to celebrate Bill's enduring and unique legacy of protecting California fisheries, habitat, and water quality. Details of the event will be announced soon

CSPA is hiring an Administrative Assistant and Advocate Trainee!

[Please see job description and application instructions here.](#)

Make a difference for our waterways! Join the great CSPA team!

Meet Angelina Cook

Angelina Cook is located in McCloud, CA at the southern base of Mount Shasta, where she's been working to replenish source water ecosystems for 20 years.

Upon arrival, Nestle was building the world's largest water-bottling factory in the tiny town of McCloud, at the old lumber mill site. To discourage wasteful and egregious uses of water, Angelina teamed up with a group to challenge the heist, and has been building capacity for ecosystem restoration in the Upper Sacramento and Mid-Klamath watersheds, ever since.

In 2022, Angelina began contracting with CSPA on a part-time basis. In 2023, she joined the team as a Restoration Associate, and has been focused primarily on salmon habitat enhancement in rivers that emerge and flow through the farthest northern reaches of the state. Her current areas of focus include ongoing efforts to remove PG&E's deadbeat dams in Battle Creek, and advocating for instream flow requirements in the Shasta and Scott Rivers.



After 20 years of obstructing dam removal in the Klamath River, Siskiyou County has finally acquiesced to the reality that four dams will no longer block anadromous fish from spawning and rearing in their native habitat by 2024. If dam removal is the first major step toward river restoration, establishing and enforcing laws to prevent the

annual dewatering of stronghold tributaries is the second. Thanks to a recent petition filed by the Environmental Law Foundation (ELF), the Karuk Tribe, and Pacific Coast Federation of Fishermen Alliance (PCFFA), Angelina is commenting in the State Water Resource Control Board's process of enacting minimum instream flow requirements in the Shasta and Scott Rivers, in order to improve chances that Klamath dam removal will result in salmon recovery.

8 Miles of Lead-Lined Cable in Lake Tahoe Go on Trial

We thought we had a deal. In fact, we did have a deal. AT&T was going to remove 8 miles of lead-lined cable from Lake Tahoe's lakebed in fall 2023. We [wrote about our settlement](#) in 2021.

Early in the summer of 2023, AT&T pulled the plug on our settlement. So CSPA is taking on AT&T in court. AT&T is likely to argue that 63 tons of lead in Lake Tahoe does no harm and that it's better not to not disturb the cables.

**Do you love Lake Tahoe for its historically pristine waters?
Don't think it's right for AT&T to let sleeping cables on Tahoe's lakebed lie?**

**Contribute to the Rose Foundation's special litigation fund
to support CSPA's litigation against Ma Bell.**

Go to: <https://rosefdn.org/donate-project>. From the dropdown menu, select: "Get the Lead out of our Lake Fund." Make your donation.

This fund goes exclusively to support litigation costs for CSPA's court case against AT&T. If CSPA is successful in court, the money will be returned and roll into a dedicated fund to protect water quality in California.

And since CSPA as an organization gets nothing from this fund, remember to also [Join CSPA](#) today. The more members CSPA has, the better CSPA can bring actions to stop pollution!



CSPA Sues the State Water Board over Agricultural Pollution Backsliding

Bill Jennings spent decades working to reduce pollution from agriculture in California. He made an enormous difference. But there is much more to do.

In 2012, Bill Jennings said: "I believe in regulation, and that's why I have no sympathy with state agencies that can't bring themselves to enforce the law. If we don't have that, society disintegrates."

On October 27, 2023, CSPA joined a lawsuit against the State Water Board. This happened after [the State Water Board issued an Order that completely eliminated enforceable standards that limit pollution of groundwater by fertilizer.](#)

The immediate case dealt with pollution on the Central Coast. In the Salinas Valley, there are towns where the groundwater is so polluted that people can't safely clean themselves with, let alone drink, the water in their homes that comes from the ground. That's just not acceptable.

Why is CSPA doing this?

Most fundamental is human misery that this Order will cause and prolong. Further, the State Water Board has decided that each of its orders about groundwater pollution is "precedential:" it applies across the state. So this order takes away all enforceable standards for pollution of groundwater by fertilizer in the Central Valley too.

Some of that pollution is going to enter rivers. And the Delta. And San Francisco Bay. And the ocean.

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