

## SAN JOAQUIN RESTORATION SUCCESS

**U**nder the direction of The Bay Institute's (TBI) Watershed Education Program staff and despite freezing morning temperatures, more than two dozen Fresno Central High School students plunged water jets into the sandy banks of the San Joaquin River in late January as part of a groundbreaking cottonwood restoration project.

The work was done at Camp Pashayan just north of Fresno on a 31-acre site managed by the San Joaquin River Parkway and Conservation Trust. The restoration involved planting 175, eight-foot-long cottonwood poles and more than 70 valley oak acorns.

The cottonwood poles were inserted into the sandy soil using a strong stream of water from the water jet and inserted 4 to 6 feet in the ground under the watchful eyes of TBI staff, TBI Board member John Suen, Fresno Central High School teacher Steve Starcher, local television and print media and representatives of partner organizations.

Along with the Parkway Trust, TBI collaborated with Friant Water User's Authority (FWUA), the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC), the California Water Institute at California State University, Fresno, and Prunuske Chatham, Inc., on the restoration.

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THE BAY INSTITUTE'S

SPRING 2002



# bayletter

HEADWATERS 2 OCEAN

## ENDANGERED SALMON, SMELT TO LOSE SAFETY NETS?

**N**o matter which way you turn, the outlook for endangered fish species in the San Francisco Bay-Delta suddenly looks a lot grimmer for 2002 as a host of recent government decisions threaten to roll back hard-won environmental gains.

To begin with, the State Water Project (SWP) and federal Central Valley Project (CVP), whose massive South Delta pumps destroy large numbers of fish while sending water south each year, are on the track to win renewed guarantees that Endangered Species Act (ESA) protections will have no impact on their water supplies. This even though CALFED's new Environmental Water Account (EWA) does not now have enough water and money to do its ultimate job of protecting fish.

The EWA banks purchased water as well as "surplus" water in order to offset impacts to water users when export pumping is reduced when fish are at risk.

Because huge fish losses far in excess of the permitted "incidental take" have occurred in most years (including 2001, even with the EWA in place) TBI and other conservation groups filed a 60-day notice of intent in January to sue the water projects

and the involved fishery agencies over the continuing ESA violations.

Meanwhile, as if the EWA situation isn't bad enough, a federal court ruling in Fresno in February called the Interior Department's method of accounting for the Central Valley Project Improvement Act's 800,000 acre-feet of dedicated environmental water flawed, effectively slashing hundreds of thousands of acre-feet from the water budget slated for fish protection.

Although it was unclear at press time whether the U.S. Department of Interior will press an appeal TBI and other conservation groups involved in the suit certainly will. However, even though the appeals court has had a good track record of overturning this particular judge's rulings, in the meantime the amount of environmental water for use during this current water year will be scaled back to comply with the new decision.

The decision doesn't just affect the CVPIA. The ESA permit assurances against water supply impacts to the CVP and SWP are based on implementation not only of the EWA, but also of existing regulatory

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**Staff Update**

**P**hase 2 of the San Pablo Bay Watershed Restoration Program is underway. Bay Restoration Program Director Marc Holmes is meeting with potential sponsors of restoration projects to help select several to receive technical and design assistance.

**Welcome Julia**

Julia Grodhaus Price is TBI's new Financial Manager. She replaces Courtney Allshouse who left TBI in January to rejoin her family on the East Coast. Julia has more than 14 years in non-profit accounting experience, including the Hispanic Scholarship Fund in San Francisco and Planned Parenthood of Marin, Sonoma and Mendocino. Julia, her husband, Jack, and their two children, Jessica, 16, and Sammy, 10, live in Novato.

**Hello Max**

Max Stevenson, Ph.D. is TBI's new Staff Scientist. Max has an Applied Ecology undergraduate degree from UC Irvine and a Ph.D in Plant Biology from UC Davis. Max has extensive managerial and technical experience in sustainable agriculture projects and natural ecosystem research.

**Thank you to Felix and Huali**

TBI says goodbye to Board members Felix Smith and Huali G. Chai. Felix has long enriched TBI's Board with his expertise in public trust and agricultural drainage issues and was a key figure in exposing the ecological disaster at Kesterson National Wildlife Refuge. Felix has served on the Board since 1990.

Huali, a former member of the President's Western Water Policy Review Advisory Commission and a

former Board Chair of Asian, Inc., has been an active TBI Board member since 1998. She serves on the Arbitration Panel of the Santa Clara County Superior Court and leaves the Board to more fully pursue her law practice in San Jose.

**San Joaquin "Tales" To Premier** Filmmaker Christopher Beaver's upcoming film "*Tales of the San Joaquin*" a half-hour oral history of that historic river, has tentatively been scheduled to be screened next March in Fresno under the auspices of TBI and the San Joaquin River Parkway and Conservation Trust. Subsequent screenings are planned for the Bay Area. The film is scheduled for broadcast later on Public Television.



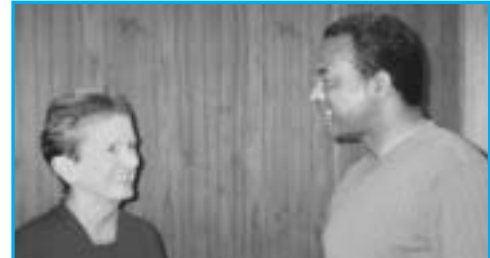
**NEW TBI BOARD MEMBERS**

**T**he Bay Institute Board of Directors and TBI staff welcome community coalition expert and non-profit veteran Carol Lind and San Francisco firefighter Ozell Austin as new TBI Board members.

Carol Lind, a former Marin County Civil Grand Jury Foreperson, has a wealth of experience in community building and in non-profit management as a board member, consultant, staffer and volunteer for various non-profits. She is an alumna of the University of Colorado, Boulder.

Ozell Austin, a San Francisco Fire Department Battalion Chief and private pilot, brings a background of emergency command experience and aviation know-how to TBI. A U.S. Air Force veteran, he is a member of the Bay Area Black Pilots Association and the Professional Black Firefighters Association. Ozell is also an alumnus of San Francisco State University.

Welcome Aboard!



New TBI board members Carol Lind (left) and Ozell Austin (right) greet one another at their first official board meeting.

Photo: George Snyder

**Board of Directors** Robert J. Erickson, Chair; Ozell Austin; Arthur Brunwasser; Harrison C. Dunning; Carol Lind; Sidney S. Pucek; John C. Racanelli; C. John Suen; Nancy Swadesh.

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## RESTORATION

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“This restoration project is a wonderful example of working with our partners to bring effective watershed education to other parts of the state,” said TBI Executive Director Grant Davis.

Wire exclusion cages were also built to protect newly planted trees adjacent to the river from beaver predation and placed at various distances from the river. Some plantings were left exposed to determine the incidence of beaver damage. Students also installed piezometers, devices that measure groundwater levels, as part of a long-term study involving TBI NRDC, FWUA and other agencies.


The students already visit Camp Pashayan twice weekly to conduct watershed studies. Educator Starcher has taught his students to collect valley oak acorns, propagate native plants and do restoration at other sites.

“The education isn’t just abstract,” said Starcher. “It’s concrete. It’s real life.”

The Parkway Trust is enthusiastic about the project. “We are very excited to have high school students involved in the restoration of the San Joaquin River,” said Kerry Eastman, Parkway Trust program manager. “The students are acquiring the skills necessary to be good stewards of our land, water and animals. We would like to see more students and community members involved in restoration projects on the San Joaquin.”

The planting is a first step of a more ambitious river restoration initiative. Last fall, TBI, NRDC, FWUA and others agreed to extend staying

a lawsuit over releases from upstream Friant Dam until the end of 2002.

In return, FWUA agreed to collaborative planning for river restoration, securing restoration water supplies, and adopting a framework settlement agreement by year’s end. Both sides also agreed to acquire the first bloc of permanently dedicated river water during the coming water year. The environmental coalition and eastside San Joaquin water users have also united to oppose proposed Congressional guarantees to West Side Valley growers for increased Delta water deliveries at the expense of environmental protections or other contractors. 


## ENDANGERED SALMON

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requirements, including full use of the CVPIA’s 800,000 acre-feet. The new ruling further undermines the legal underpinnings of these guarantees of no new impacts to export water supplies, thereby placing the entire CALFED decision in doubt.

The federal government isn’t the only problem.

In January, the State Water Resources Control Board refused to take any action to implement California’s Clean Water Act salmon doubling requirement already on the books. This even though ample evidence exists that salmon populations are depleted, that new controls on flows, diversions and exports would improve habitat conditions, and that the Board has the authority to act.

Meanwhile, TBI and the other groups requesting the review and who made the case for new protections are considering further administrative and legal actions to achieve the doubling requirement. 

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## CONSIDER DONATING TO TBI

The Bay Institute (TBI) is a non-profit 501(c)3 organization, which welcomes contributions from individuals, foundations, agencies and corporations. Donations support our scientific, policy, and educational work in the protection and restoration of the Bay, Delta, and their tributaries. Donations are tax deductible and donors receive TBI’s Bayletter. Donations at \$50 or above are recognized in TBI’s annual report.

### Help TBI through the United Way

If your workplace participates in the United Way, you may designate a workplace donation to TBI

through United Way’s donor option. Please list The Bay Institute and United Way code 3906.

### Gifts of Securities or Mutual Fund Shares

A gift of a security or mutual fund shares enables donors to deduct the full fair market value for shares held for one year or longer. To contribute a security or mutual fund share to TBI please contact Angela Moskow (415-506-0150x22 or moskow@bay.org).

### Leave a Legacy

Please consider gifting TBI in your will. Consult with your financial planner, attorney, or accountant to determine tax advantages your beneficiaries may enjoy as a result of a charitable bequest.



## STRAW PULLS ENVIRONMENTAL ED AWARD

Students and Teachers Restoring A Watershed (STRAW), a project of The Bay Institute and the Center for Ecoliteracy, recently received a 2001 Governor's Environmental and Economic Leadership Award.

STRAW got the award at an official ceremony in Sacramento in the Children's Environmental Education category.

"The caliber and impact of your work is impressive," said Mary D. Nichols, state secretary for resources. "You have demonstrated that environmental protection and conservation can be reconciled with economic growth. Your commitment to this goal is vitally important, and we encourage you to keep up the exceptional work."



Photo Della Hitz

*Students from Novato's Sinaloa Middle School restore a tributary of Novato Creek on the Jim and Sue McIsaac Ranch.*

This year more than 1,200 students conducted over 20 restorations on public and private lands. 