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Contact:

Whitney Logue, Stewardship Coordinator
South Yuba River Citizens League
(530) 265-5961 ext. 212

Whitney@syrcl.org

www.yubariver.org

SYRCL Announces Opening Day at the River

6th River Ambassador season underway to keep the Yuba clean and safe

KNOW & GO

WHAT: SYRCL's Annual "Opening Day at the River" Celebration

WHEN: Saturday, May 27, 10am-2pm

WHERE: Bridgeport Crossing, South Yuba River State Park

Nevada City, CA – The South Yuba River Citizens League (SYRCL) invites community members to kick-off the river season with its annual "Opening Day at the River" celebration. Memorial Day weekend is typically when people start flocking to the river in droves. River lovers will be greeted by SYRCL's enthusiastic and dedicated volunteer River Ambassadors who encourage visitors to keep the river clean and safe. This year, River Ambassadors will be promoting a message of extreme caution to protect visitors. This year's high flows and cold water are a serious safety concern. SYRCL's River Ambassadors will be present reminding people to be safe and not to swim.

This event on Saturday, May 27, from 10am-2pm at Bridgeport Crossing will include kid-friendly activities, responsible recreation information, and an appearance from Flo—SYRCL's beloved fish mascot.

"The River Ambassador program is about welcoming visitors to the river and reminding them to do their part to keep the river clean and safe by packing out what they pack in for starters," said Caleb Dardick, SYRCL's Executive Director.

With State Parks experiencing severe budget cuts in recent years, and with an estimated 700,000+ people visiting the South Yuba River State Park annually, the River Ambassador program was developed to prevent the river from being "loved to death." River Ambassadors team up with California State Parks to educate the public about the impacts of trash, dog waste, broken glass, and wildfire on the South Yuba River from Memorial Day through Labor Day at three crossings: Purdon, Highway 49, and Bridgeport.

In the past five seasons, the River Ambassador team has had face-to-face contact with more than 28,000 visitors to the South Yuba River State Park, collected 29,594 pieces of trash, and removed 4,068 piles of dog waste. The River Ambassador program concludes with SYRCL's Yuba River Cleanup on Saturday, September 16, 2017. Since 1998, the Yuba River Cleanup has picked up 204,533 pounds of trash and recycling from the river. The River Ambassador program was created as an extension of the Cleanup—with the goal of promoting yearlong stewardship so less litter would be left behind in the first place.



For more information, please contact Whitney Logue, Stewardship Coordinator at whitney@syrcl.org or 530-265-5961, ext. 212. **Learn More at River Ambassadors:** <http://yubariver.org/our-work/river-ambassador-program/>.