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Contact:

Elizabeth Brunner, Communications and Engagement Director
South Yuba River Citizens League
Tel: (530) 265-5961
E-mail: betsyb@yubariver.org

SYRCL Asks Biden and Harris to Declare a Climate Emergency During their First 100 Days in Office

Nevada City, CA –The South Yuba River Citizens League (SYRCL) released a petition today asking President Elect Biden and Vice President Elect Harris to declare a climate emergency during their first 100 days in office.

Declaring a climate emergency would open up access to the policy tools needed to address today's most pressing issues and motivate the rapid restoration of bedrock environmental law such as the Clean Water Act and Endangered Species Act.

SYRCL is leading this initiative because the climate crisis is a California water crisis and California needs the help of the Environmental Protection Agency and other relevant federal natural resource agencies to prioritize ecosystem restoration, green infrastructure investment, and the equitable management of land and water resources to increase resilience and adaptation to the climate crisis.

“In 2020 alone, five of the top 20 largest California wildfires ever burned well over 4 million acres. Such devastation is catastrophic to a state that produces more food than any other and contributes the most to the U.S. GDP. Unfortunately, California had to bring more than a hundred lawsuits against the Federal Government in the last four years in attempts to mitigate devastation and protect California's natural resources – not least of which is water,” said Melinda Booth, SYRCL's Executive Director.

Watershed restoration is critical to combatting climate change.

According to Watershed Science Director, Aaron Zettler-Mann, “a changing climate means changing patterns of how water moves. Restoring and maintaining healthy watersheds is crucial to maintaining the critical services these ecosystems provide, including water storage and flood

control. A climate crisis means a water-future that's going to be marked by more extreme water events -- bigger floods and worse droughts.”

SYRCL’s 37 years of advocacy, science, restoration and outreach work in the Yuba watershed has made evident the immediate impacts of California’s water crisis and the urgent need for change. The new administration has made a promise to be climate leaders and SYRCL, along with other organizations like The Waterkeeper Alliance, are asking that they follow through on their promise.

Those interested in signing the letter can go to yubaaction.org. The letter will be available to sign through January 24th.

About SYRCL: The South Yuba River Citizens League (SYRCL, pronounced “circle”) is the leading voice for the protection and restoration of the Yuba River watershed. Founded in 1983 through a rural, grassroots campaign to defend the South Yuba River from proposed hydropower dams, SYRCL has developed into a vibrant community organization with over 3,500 members and volunteers based in Nevada City, CA. See: www.yubariver.org