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## **Hundreds Gather at SYRCL's State of the Yuba**

**Grass Valley, CA** – Two hundred Yuba River lovers gathered for the 6th Annual State of the Yuba, hosted by the South Yuba River Citizens League on Wednesday April 24th at the Peace Lutheran Church. They congregated to celebrate the South Yuba's Wild & Scenic anniversary and hear the highlights of SYRCL's new five-year strategic plan, specifically how the group is working to address climate change and other challenges to water resources and the Yuba Watershed.

SYRCL Executive Director Melinda Booth said, "Now more than ever, we need to take action and do what we can to protect and restore land; meaningfully address climate change; ensure swimmable, fishable and drinkable water; advocate for what is right and just, regardless of how difficult that work may be."

SYRCL presented two awards during the evening. The Truckee Donner Land Trust was honored as SYRCL's Partner of the Year. Nathan Hoxie was recognized as Volunteer of the Year.

SYRCL's open house showcased restoration, monitoring, science, outreach and education programs happening across the watershed. Guests were inspired to take action through exciting opportunities to volunteer this summer. SYRCL offered dozens of projects for all age levels to protect the Yuba River and our watershed.

"It is SYRCL's intent to make sure our little corner of the world does its part. Just because a task is hard, might take a long time, the outcome is uncertain, might not be a favorable position, or you don't know how in the world it will be funded, doesn't mean you shouldn't try." said Booth, "Work. Try. Hope. Make change. Indeed, that is how dams are removed. That is how rivers are saved. That is how living communities thrive."

The year 2019 marks the South Yuba's 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary as a Wild & Scenic river. To celebrate this milestone a panel of river advocates -- Janet Cohen, Roger Hicks, John Regan, and Jeff Shellito -- who were instrumental in this success, discussed the challenges with changing public and political perception. This 16-year fight against the development of six dams on the Yuba River was won when Senate Bill 496 was signed in 1999 by Governor Gray Davis, resulting in the protection of this precious emerald jewel we continue to enjoy today.

Booth closed the State of the Yuba with this message of thanks to our river community, "Thank you for making SYRCL possible. Thank you for your vision for a vibrant and healthy watershed. Thank you for asking the hard questions and pushing this organization to always to the right thing, to be a leader and fight the good fight. Thank you for supporting our work over the past three and a half decades. Our work isn't done—it will evolve as new challenges emerge. So, thank you for your continued commitment to your community and the Yuba River."

**About SYRCL:** The South Yuba River Citizens League (SYRCL, pronounced "circle"), based in Nevada County, CA, 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 more than 3,500 members and volunteers. More information, see:

[www.yubariver.org](http://www.yubariver.org).

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