

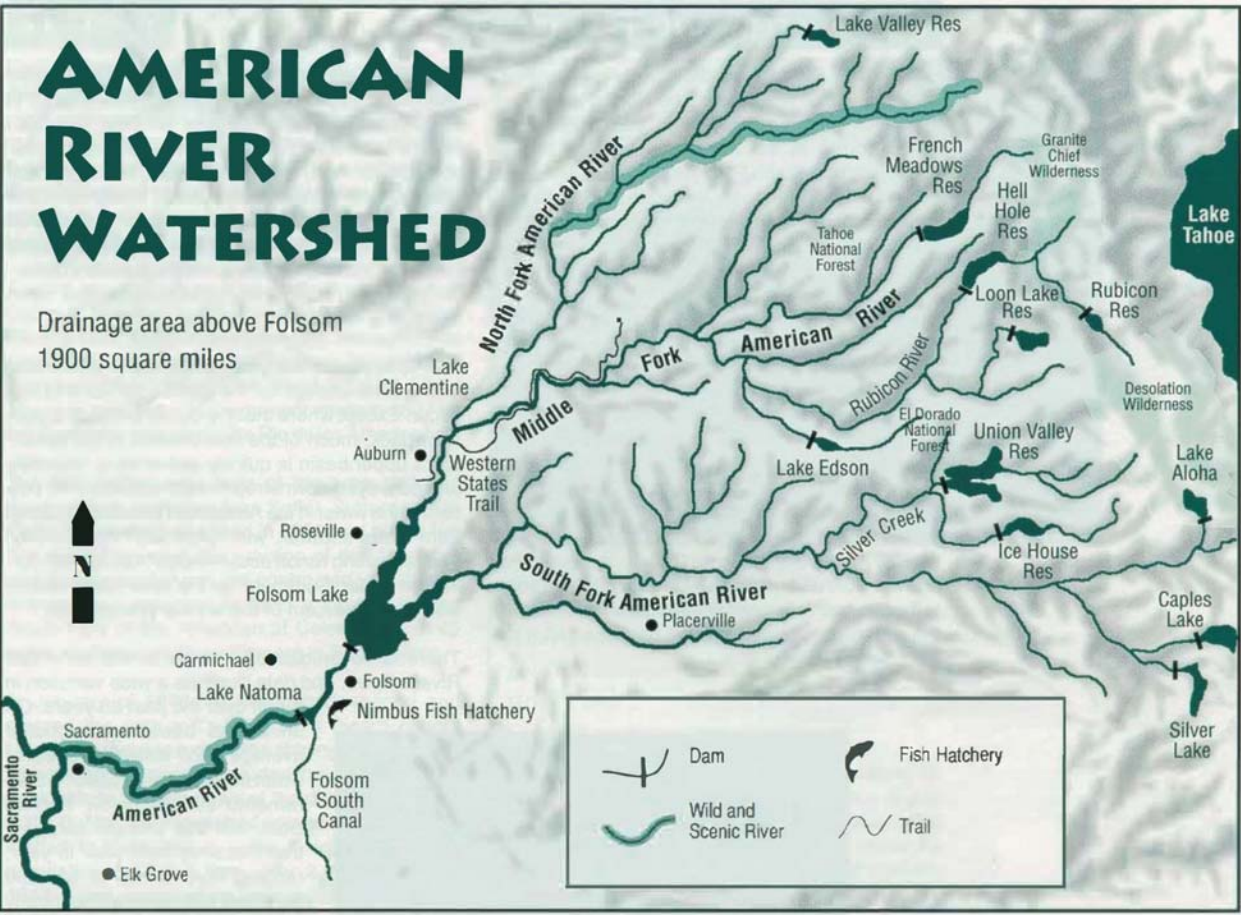
History of The American River

Native Americans have lived around the rivers of California for over 12,000 years. The rich natural resources have provided abundant areas to hunt, fish and gather plants.

The discovery of gold at a site along the South Fork of the American River in the Sierra Nevada Mountains in 1848 brought people from around the world and they converged on the American River. The rapid population growth resulted in profound changes

in California. The American River and surrounding area became the focus of the world; getting rich quick was the goal. The American River was changed forever.

Managing water has become critical because of the huge population growth and the unpredictable water flows. Currently, Folsom Lake provides flood control, hydroelectricity, recreation, water supply distribution, regulated water for fisheries, environment, delta water quality, and agricultural purposes.



Purpose of the ARWEC

To increase the public's knowledge of the American River watershed-both the natural features and human interactions within the watershed. Emphasis is placed on increasing the public's understanding of the water cycle and watersheds, and on how individuals can actively participate in resource conservation and on Folsom Dams' multiple roles in meeting the needs of urban, industrial, agricultural, and natural systems.



— BUREAU OF —
RECLAMATION

American River Water Education Center

Central California Area Office
Interior Region 10: California-Great Basin

Located At:
7794 Folsom Dam Road
Folsom, CA 95630

Website: www.usbr.gov/mp/arwec
Program Information: (916) 537-7053
Call for hours of operation: (916) 537-7300
Email: ibr2foodarwec@usbr.gov



Welcome!

The American River Water Education Center, located at Folsom Dam, offers an exciting way to experience the watershed of the American River and appreciate the importance of water management.

Central California Area Office's water conservation program assists local water users in financial and technical needs in preparing and developing their water management plans in delivering water to our community.

Bureau of Reclamation Mission
To manage, develop, and protect water and related resources in an environmentally and economically sound manner in the interest of the American public.



Interactive ARWEC Exhibits Include The Following Hands-on Activities...

Reserve your program today by calling (916) 537-7053
Email: ibr2foodarwec@usbr.gov
www.usbr.gov/mp/arwec

Begin your visit with an
overview of our ...

Watershed & Relief Map
of the Sacramento Region

Follow the river's flow through
the ...

American River Canyon History

Learn who lives along our ...

Rivers Are Alive ...

Discover the benefits and ...

History of The Folsom Dam
and
Hydroelectric Powerplant

Understand the benefits of ...

Flood Control

Learn about our ...

Groundwater



Create a river and experiment
how water moves at the ...

Sand Table

Divide water needs up between
wildlife habitat, agricultural
farming and community
development with the ...

Water
Challenge

Understand ...

Where Your Water
Comes From

How much water does it take to
put food in our ...

Kitchen

Learn to save water when
taking a Shower ...

Explore water saving tips in
our ...

Water Efficient Landscape
Display See ...

Who Needs Clean Water



Programs

Reserve your free group program at the American River Water Education Center (ARWEC) by making a reservation. Choose from a center program, a learning activity, or catch a glimpse of Folsom Dam from Beals Point during a hike.

Garden

Drought tolerant landscaping using more than 100 demonstration species, some native and others non-native, are featured throughout the garden. The plants are labeled with common and botanical names, noting water usage. The garden includes bird and butterfly attracting plants. Planted in October 2007, the garden is a Certified Wildlife Habitat.

Volunteer!

Our center relies on a committed group of volunteers. Greeters, activity presenters, center & garden guides, special events, along with exhibit & program development are some of the volunteer opportunities available.

Center, Schoolhouse, Amphitheater, Garden & Picnic Grounds

Facility is open to the general public and adjacent to the American River Parkway. The schoolhouse, amphitheater & picnic grounds are available for group meetings, workshops and other water related gatherings. Facility reservations upon request. Accessibility access is available.