



Long Live the Kings!

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**AUGUST 15, 2023**

**LETTER TO EDITOR: Practicing Safety While Enjoying the Kings River.**

Dear Editor:

The Kings River Conservancy would like to recognize the conscientious work Fresno County Sheriff's Department, Kings River Conservation District, State Water Board, County of Fresno Parks Department, and Army Corps of Engineers have done in an extraordinary water year.

At the same time, the KRC, dedicated to access, conservation, education, and safety on the Kings, would like to warn the public that this high water has brought drastic changes to the river and its watercourses.

Traditional channels have shifted, exposing new obstacles. Downed trees are completely blocking access in some places. Dangerous new "strainers," heavy branches can entangle boaters and drag them under.

This is currently not a river for tubing without a paddle. Even experienced kayakers should take measured precaution. As KRC board member John Gray says, "The river has changed, so listen to what the sheriff says, leave the booze and children behind, wear a good life jacket, and have a strong paddle."

As access points re-open after a long period of anticipation, go slowly. "Go enjoy the river," Gray adds, "but use extreme caution."

"Is it too strong to call it a new river?" Gray asks. Not if you respect the river and value your life.

Sincerely,  
Deborah Lapp  
Board Member, Kings River Conservancy