

2023 IMPACT REPORT

Drinkable. Fishable. Swimmable.
We fight for clean water.

*“A river
doesn’t just carry water,
it carries life.”*
– Amit Kalantri



INTRODUCTION

As we reflect on the past year in our journey to protect and preserve the Russian River watershed, Russian Riverkeeper is immensely grateful for the unwavering support from our dedicated donors and collaborative partners.

Since the beginning in 1993, we have remained steadfast in our commitment to safeguarding the ecological integrity of the Russian River. Thanks to the generosity of our donors and the strength of our partnerships, 2023 has seen remarkable achievements for Russian Riverkeeper.

In this report, we highlight the impactful strides made toward our mission, outlining the positive changes and contributions that have shaped a thriving future for the Russian River and its surrounding ecosystem.

Trash Program Statistics

- Pounds of trash volunteers removed in 2023 = **13,710 pounds**
- Number of community clean-ups = **52**
- Volunteer involvement and hours = **822 volunteers and 2,016 hours completed**
- RRK Staff and Clean Camp program = **206,110 pounds of trash and 315 tires**

Restoration Efforts

- Acres of Arundo removed = **43**
- Gallons of water saved = **258,000,000 gallons per year**
- Total hours dedicated to the Arundo removal initiative:
 - RRK staff = **4,330 hours**
 - Contractors = **4,435 hours**
 - Total = **8,765 hours**
- RR Floodplain Restoration Project (Hanson) Use Permit application submitted and launch of environmental review process

Water Advocacy

- Number of agency hearings and meetings attended = **60+**
- Number of comment letters submitted = **20**
- Action Alerts = **3**



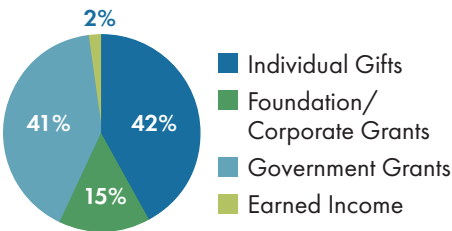
Whale Tail Program/Ocean Pollution Prevention

- Number of students participating in collaborative marine debris projects = 122
- Together, we explored the origins of waste from land, including our schools, homes, and businesses. Recognizing the potential for these materials to end up in the sea and contribute to a larger environmental issue, our focus shifted towards preventing the entry of trash and pollution into our gutters. Collaboratively, we organized campus-wide cleanups involving all students, analyzing the collected waste, and brainstorming effective strategies for its prevention.

Organizational Overview

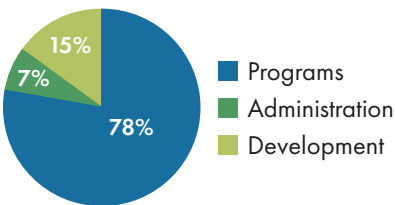
Sources and Uses of Funds

Total Revenue \$1,533,543



Uses of Funds

Expenses \$1,414,668



Use of Program Funds



* Education, Community Outreach and Volunteer programs

Organization

- Completed 3-year strategic plan and shifted to continuous planning process

Fundraising

- Number of new donors = 168
- Increase in monthly giving = 94%
- Year to year increase = Over \$120,000 in growth from individual donors in 2022 vs. 2023

Staffing/Operations

- Completed IT overhaul to improve security and efficiency
- 7 staff participated in professional development opportunities



Photos: Barbara Bourne, large front cover and bottom of back cover; Russian Riverkeeper, all other photos



Staff

- Don McEnhill, Executive Director
- Jana Lawyer, Development Director
- Jaime Neary, Staff Attorney
- Birkin Newell, Education and Restoration Director
- Susan Ryan, Finance and Human Resources Coordinator
- Ariel Majorana, Outreach and Planning Liaison
- Ashlyn Robinson, Communications Manager
- Carol Shumate, Clean Team Director
- Christin Tanner, Clean Camp Manager
- Danny Fair, Clean Team Coordinator
- Anastasia Hammond, Restoration Technician
- Ivan Jasko, Clean Team Associate and Restoration Technician

Board Members

- Ed Burdett, President
- Brian Burwell
- Leslie Friedman-Johnson
- Mark Jensen
- Marc Kahn
- Michael Verlander
- Jill Young
- Kathy Taylor
- Lenka Davis



Paul Dolan opened our eyes to the immense potential of viticulture as a healing force for our planet and its rivers. His warmth, wisdom, and unwavering passion for a better future will forever resonate with us.



Russian Riverkeeper

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