



**US Army Corps
of Engineers®**

Pine Flat Lake and Union Sportsmen's Alliance



13 October 2020

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) at Pine Flat Lake had an exceptional experience partnering with Union Sportsmen's Alliance (USA). Through this partnership, USA completed construction of a large pavilion at the Kings River Wildlife Area in Sanger, CA. This wildlife-management area is operated by USACE and offers nature trails, interpretive and educational signage, natural resource stewardship projects, and vast array of outdoor opportunities. The pavilion will provide shelter for local school and club field trips, casual day users, picnickers, anglers, bird watchers, hikers, and other outdoor enthusiasts. The pavilion creates an excellent opportunity for visitors to participate in outdoor educational programs hosted by USACE and its partners.

Pine Flat Lake staff coordinated with Union Sportsmen's Alliance and union members in local 701, 1109, 9083, and 155 to construct the pavilion. A total of 20 union members and representatives participated in this project and contributed approximately 200 volunteer hours. This resulted in a savings of approximately \$30,000. In addition to this, the union members benefitted by accruing volunteer hours required for USA contribution incentives. The success and outcome of this project demonstrates the value of partnerships with USACE.



Kings River Conservancy's Education Pavilion Completed!

The Kings River Conservancy's Education Pavilion was installed at the Kings River Wildlife Management Area from Monday, September 28 - Friday, October 2, 2020. The pavilion will allow Kings River Conservancy to hold outdoor environmentally based educational activities for groups of about 100 students and adults.



The Kings River Wildlife Management Area is part of a joint effort between the Kings River Conservancy and the US Army Corps of Engineers spanning over the last few years. Park benches, picnic tables, interpretive trail signs, and bathrooms are also located at the Wildlife Management Area. All items, including the pavilion, were donated to the US Army Corps of Engineers by the Kings River Conservancy and Edward K. Martin Family Endowment Fund at the Central Valley Community Foundation to be used at the Wildlife Management Area which sits directly below Pine Flat Dam.

The shelter will be used by the Kings River Conservancy for outdoor educational experiences with local school systems and private groups. The shaded venue will also allow events to take place on hot, sunny days, when there is a need for a covered outdoor shelter.



The pavilion was installed by various contractors from the Carpenters Local 701 Union who volunteered their time to install the pavilion at no cost. These contractor groups, including steel workers, drywallers, finish carpenters and more, worked together to complete the building over the course of several days.

"We are so thankful for the US Army Corps of Engineers for their amazing partnership and the Carpenters Local 701, especially David Rivas (project foreman), Dan Nuncio (project foreman), Tony Canales, Art Vallez, Tony Castillo III and Jayson Martinez, for demonstrating their dedication to provide skilled, quality labor service to the community," said Mary Morris, Kings River Conservancy's Education Director. "Thousands of children will directly benefit from this partnership and we can't wait to continue exploring the wonders of our river with them from this wonderful pavilion."



The Kings River Conservancy is a non-profit organization dedicated to encouraging public safety and sound public conservation practices along the Kings River corridor from Pine Flat Dam to Highway 99. Their mission is to protect, enhance and educate people about the Kings River. They participate in functions such as invasive species removal, a trout incubator house to release trout into the river, adding warden patrols and maintaining safe public trails and access points along the river.

