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Volunteers needed to help clean up waterways

Focus is on Stanislaus River and New Melones Reservoir

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Declining water levels are exposing trash and debris along the shores of New Melones Reservoir and the Stanislaus River and the Bureau of Reclamation invites individuals, groups and businesses to pitch in at the Great Sierra River Cleanup on from 9 a.m. to noon on Saturday.

The bureau's central California office is working with the Tuolumne County Land Trust, Tuolumne Resource Conservation District, Master Gardeners and New Melones Lake Marina to hold the 2016 cleanup in Tuolumne and Calaveras counties.

The cleanup will focus on sites around New Melones Reservoir.

To register, contact Ranger Mike McGraw at 536-9094 or mmcgraw@usbr.gov. Onsite registration and check-in begins at 8 a.m. at the New Melones Lake Visitor Center, 6850 Studhorse Flat Road, Sonora.

Cleanup sites will be at the Glory Hole and Tuttle town recreation areas, New Melones Lake Marina and the Parrotts Ferry area.

Maps will be provided for these locations upon check in and volunteers will need to provide their own transportation. Volunteers should dress for the summer heat, bring snacks and water, wear hats, sunscreen and sturdy shoes and bring work gloves and trash grabbers, if possible. Participants requiring special accommodations should contact organizers as far in advance as possible.

The annual event is coordinated by the Sierra Nevada Conservancy and held in conjunction with California Coastal Cleanup Day. For information sierranevada.ca.gov/our-work/rivercleanup.