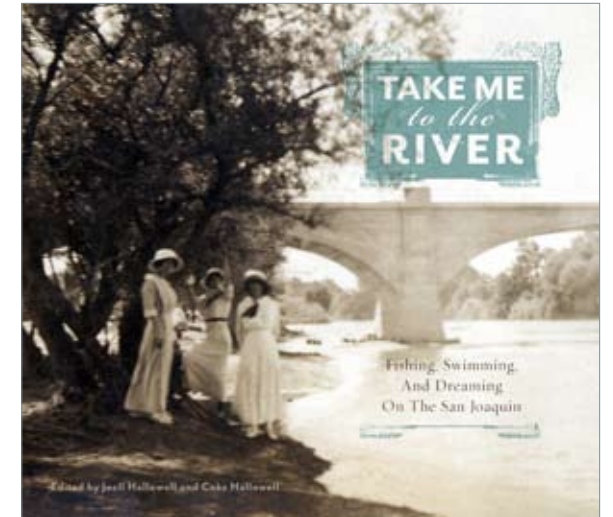




## Stories of life along the San Joaquin River

Read an excerpt on page 60.



For ten years, Coke Hallowell and her daughter Joell asked people with deep connections to the San Joaquin, “What was your life like along the river?” With candor and enthusiasm, people responded. Fishermen, miners, immigrants, Native Americans, hunters, farmers, and environmentalists all clamored to be heard. The result is *Take Me to the River*—a collection of thirty-three deeply personal accounts of life along the San Joaquin.

These are stories that capture rare snapshots of river history: childhoods spent swimming in the river’s ice-cold waters, rafting downstream in a rickety boat with friends, spearing fifty-pound chinook salmon year after year, eating fresh figs picked right from a huge tree on the riverbank, dredging for gold during the Depression, building a coalition to restore the river’s health, sharing the very last meal before Friant Dam was built and the salmon runs stopped, and many, many fish stories.

*Take Me to the River* recounts the many trials—damming, overpopulation, climate change—and triumphs that a river undergoes in our times. Each story calls us to discover our own relationships with the natural world and, as a whole, *Take Me to the River* propels us toward a brighter future—one that holds the promise of restoring the health and vigor of the San Joaquin.

**TAKE ME TO THE RIVER**  
FISHING, SWIMMING, AND DREAMING ON  
THE SAN JOAQUIN  
Edited by Joell Hallowell and Coke Hallowell

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Q & A with the Joell and Coke Hallowell  
Video interviews with contributors  
Excerpt from *Take Me to the River*

Joell Hallowell is a filmmaker, writer, and photographer living in San Francisco. Her collaborative films have been screened at various venues and experimental festivals, including the Harvard and New York Film Archives, the London International Film Festival, the Madcat Women’s International Film Festival, and the Chicago Underground Film Festival. She is presently working on *Here Come the Brides*, a book of oral histories and photographs that capture the stories of couples who were married in California during the few months in 2008 when gay marriage was legal.

Coke Hallowell grew up in the San Joaquin Valley and has been involved in conservation issues for twenty-five years. In 1986 she was part of the San Joaquin River Committee, a grassroots group who rallied to protect the San Joaquin. She was the president of the San Joaquin River Parkway and Conservation Trust for twenty years and is currently chair of the board. She was also a founding member of the Sierra Foothill Conservancy and the California Council of Land Trusts and she currently serves on the Planning and Conservation League Foundation’s board of directors.