



May 18, 2021

Secretary Deb Haaland
 Department of the Interior
 1849 C Street, N.W.
 Washington DC 20240

Re: **Support for the Requests of the Winnemem Wintu Tribe**

Dear Secretary Haaland,

We are writing on behalf of the above environmental, environmental justice, fishing and other interests to support the requests of the Winnemem Wintu Tribe regarding Shasta Dam. Those

requests were discussed in a March 15, 2021 letter to you from Caleen Sisk, the Tribe's spiritual leader and chief.

In that letter, the Tribe requests that Interior take the following actions:

- Permanently stop the federal proposal to raise Shasta Dam, a proposal that threatens to inundate additional tribal sacred sites.
- Withdraw the flawed 2019 Bay-Delta biological opinions and replace them with biological opinions that include science-based protections for listed species.
- Fully implement the 1941 Central Valley Project Indian Lands Acquisition Act, which requires federal agencies to compensate the Tribe for the impacts of the original construction of Shasta Dam.

Sacramento River salmon runs would be further harmed by the proposed raise of Shasta Dam. Those fish – particularly the listed winter run Chinook salmon – are sacred to the Winnemem Wintu Tribe. Sacramento River fall run salmon are also the backbone of the California salmon fishing industry – and are an important indicator of the health of the Bay-Delta ecosystem and the rivers that feed it.

As a result, ending the Shasta Dam raise project and developing scientifically credible biological opinions are important for reasons including tribal rights, environmental health and the restoration and preservation of California's recreational and commercial salmon fishing industries.

In addition, the federal government has a legal and moral obligation to compensate the tribe for the impacts of the construction of the current dam. Those impacts include the loss of their traditional homeland and the burial sites of their ancestors. We encourage Interior to ensure that all of the compensation required by the CVP Indian Lands Acquisition Act is fully implemented.

We urge you to meet with the Tribe to discuss these requests. We would also be happy to arrange a meeting with our groups to discuss our support for the Tribe's requests, as well as our related concerns.

Thank you for considering these recommendations.

Sincerely,



John McManus
Golden State Salmon Association



Kate Poole
Natural Resources Defense Council



Nina Robertson
EarthJustice



Brandon Dawson
Sierra Club California



Rachel Zwillinger
Defenders of Wildlife



Tama Brisbane
With Our Words, Inc



Barbara Barrigan Parilla
Restore the Delta



Irene Calimlim
Fathers & Families of San Joaquin



Dr. Nancy Huante
Nopal: Community Cultura Activism Educacion



Jasmine Leek
Third City Coalition



Chris Shutes
California Sportfishing Protection Alliance



Brian Johnson
Trout Unlimited



Walter "Redgie" Collins
California Trout



Eric Wesselman
Friends of the River



Theresa Lorejo-Simsiman
American Whitewater



Amy Merrill, Ph.D
American Rivers



Jennifer Clary
Clean Water Action



Kelly Catlett
California Hydropower Reform Coalition



Jonathan Nelson
Community Water Center



Mike Conroy
Pacific Coast Federation of Fishermen's Assns



Dillon Delvo
Little Manila Rising



Councilmember Kimberly Warmsley
Stockton City Council, District 6



Nicholas Hatten
LGMT + Social Justice Initiative