

JARED HUFFMAN
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COMMITTEE ON
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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0502

August 15, 2014

David Murillo, Regional Director
Mid Pacific Regional Office
Federal Office Building
2800 Cottage Way
Sacramento CA 95825-1898

Will Stelle
Administrator, Northwest Region
National Marine Fisheries Service
7600 Sand Point Way, NE, Bldg 1
Seattle, WA 98115-0070

Dear Mr. Murillo and Mr. Stelle:

I appreciate your agencies' willingness to meet with the Hoopa and Yurok tribes this week to hear their concerns and see firsthand the rapidly deteriorating conditions on the Klamath and Trinity rivers. During California's record drought, these rivers are especially stressed even as water continues to be diverted at great volumes from this system to the Sacramento River system. I have repeatedly expressed my disapproval of excessive diversions from the Trinity River while jeopardizing the vital Chinook and protected Coho fisheries of the Klamath River system. Reclamation's recent decision to withhold additional cold-water releases from the Trinity River that would help prevent a repeat of the 2002 fish kill is disappointing to me and to my constituents.

I am encouraged by Reclamation's interest in reengaging with the fisheries agencies. However, what I did not see expressed from any of the federal agencies involved is the acknowledgement of the critical environmental justice issues and tribal trust responsibilities at hand. Your agencies are required to weigh those as among their most serious obligations as you develop a plan to protect fish in the Klamath and Trinity rivers this year.

When coupled with the other state and federal statutory obligations, I hope considering the tribal and environmental justice aspects of this dilemma will encourage your agencies to work quickly and diligently to provide the cold water needed by Klamath and Trinity River salmon, and the Native American and rural communities that depend on them. Please let me know if I can be of assistance and I look forward to your timely reply.

Sincerely,



JARED HUFFMAN
Member of Congress

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