

Governor Gavin Newsom
1021 O St., Ste 9000
Sacramento, CA 95814

March 25, 2026

Sent via email to: gavin.newsom@gov.ca.gov

Dear Governor Newsom,

We write on behalf of a coalition of fifty Tribes, environmental justice, commercial fishing, recreational, environmental, and conservation organizations to urge your Administration to firmly oppose efforts by the Trump Administration to advance the proposed raise of Shasta Dam. Central Valley agricultural interests recently wrote to President Trump asking for additional funding for the project, and to speed up project approvals. In addition, the Trump Administration just allocated an additional $40 million toward planning activities. As you know, the raise of Shasta Dam would be illegal under California's Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, which expressly protects the McCloud River from further inundation, and it would represent an extraordinary federal overreach into matters of state authority and water governance. **In fact, the State Water Resources Control Board and the Department of Fish and Wildlife have already declared that the project is illegal, and the California Attorney General has already taken this position in successful litigation.**

The proposed raise would also deepen the already profound and irreversible harm done to the Winnemem Wintu Tribe. Construction of Shasta Dam destroyed roughly 90% of the Tribe's ancestral homeland. Raising the dam would destroy many of the few remaining cultural and sacred sites still used today. Federal agencies have acknowledged these impacts, and the Tribe has rightly described the project as cultural genocide. Moving forward in the face of such opposition would violate basic principles of Tribal sovereignty and self-determination. Your Administration issued a historic apology to California's Native Americans for historical wrongdoings, and the State has committed to improved Tribal consultation and incorporation of Tribal perspectives into policy- and decision-making. Standing up to the Trump Administration is a natural expression of these commitments.

The negative economic and environmental impacts of the Shasta Dam raise are also significant. The project would also inundate 5,600 of acres of forest; restrict high flows which would further degrade salmon and steelhead habitat; and threaten numerous state and federally listed species, including Shasta salamander, Shasta snow wreath, Pacific fisher, northern spotted owl, hawks, bats, and more.

We thank you for your past support, and urge you to continue standing firm against this unlawful and destructive proposal and to make clear that California will not acquiesce to federal efforts that undermine our laws, our Tribes, and our rivers. We request a meeting with you to discuss the proposed Shasta Dam raise and other areas where we hope the State will stand up to the Trump Administration regarding federal attacks on California rivers, the Bay-Delta ecosystem, salmon, and tribal resources.

Respectfully,

Ron Stork
Senior Policy Staff
Friends of the River

Gary Mulcahy
Government Liaison
Winnemem Wintu Tribe

Barbara Brydolf
President
Alta Peak Chapter, California Native Plant Society

Scott Harding
Stewardship Associate
American Whitewater

s/ Kim Kolpin
Kim Kolpin
Executive Director
Bolsa Chica Land Trust

Carolee Krieger
Executive Director
California Water Impact Network

/s/ Sendy Hernández Orellana Barrows
Sendy Hernández Orellana Barrows
CoFounder & Volunteer Board President
CactusToCloud Institute

Sherri Norris
Executive Director
California Indian Environmental Alliance

Nathan Rangel
Executive Director
California Outdoors

Chris Shutes
Executive Director
California Sportfishing Protection Alliance

Michael J. Painter
Coordinator
Californians for Western Wilderness

Mark Green
Executive Director
CalWild

Elizabeth Reid-Wainscoat
Urban Wildlands Policy Specialist
Center for Biological Diversity

Jennifer Clary
California Director
Clean Water Action

/s/ Daniel O'Connell
Daniel O'Connell
Executive Director
Central Valley Partnership

/s/ Thomas R. Fox
Thomas R. Fox
Senior Legislative Counsel
Center for Environmental Health

Suzanne Hume
Educational Director & Founder
CleanEarth4Kids.org

Alan Levine
Director of Operations
Coast Action Group

/s/ Jose Francisco Manzo
Jose Francisco Manzo
Conservation Program Lead
Council of Mexican Federations in North America

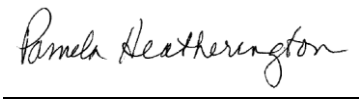
Ashley Overhouse
Water Policy Advisor
Defenders of Wildlife



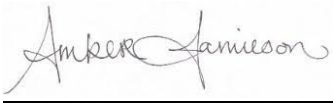
Jane Pargiter
Executive Director
EcoFlight



Dan Silver
Executive Director
Endangered Habitats League



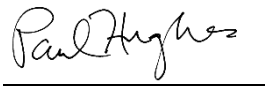
Pamela Heatherington
Board of Directors
Environmental Center of San Diego



Amber Jamieson
Water Advocacy Director
Environmental Protection Information Center



Lowell Ashbaugh
Conservation Chair
Fly Fishers of Davis



Paul Hughes
Executive Director
Forests Forever

/s/ Justin Crellin
Justin Crellin
Executive Director
Friends of the Lost Coast

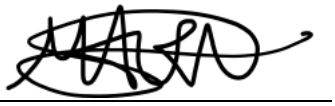
/s/ Vance Staplin
Vance Staplin
Executive Director
Golden State Salmon Association

/s/ Pedro Hernandez
Pedro Hernandez
California State Program Director
GreenLatinos

Dean L. Bernacchi
Dean Bernacchi
President
Keep it Wild – Merced River



Kimberly Baker
Executive Director
Klamath Forest Watch



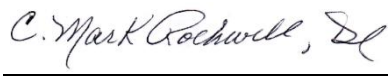
Maura Monagan
Policy & Government Affairs Manager
Los Angeles Waterkeeper

/s/ Nick Joslin
Nick Joslin
Policy and Advocacy Director
Mount Shasta Bioregional Ecology Center

/s/ Belen Bernal
Belen Bernal
Executive Director
Nature for All



Frank Egger
North Coast Rivers Alliance



Dr. C. Mark Rockwell
VP Conservation
Northern California Council, Fly Fishers International

/s/ Bettina Rosmarino

Bettina Rosmarino
Land Acquisition Director
Oswit Land Trust



Matthew Baker
Policy Director
Planning and Conservation League



Kevin Wolf
President
Restoring the Stanislaus



Barbara Barrigan-Parilla
Executive Director
Restore the Delta

/s/ Scott Webb

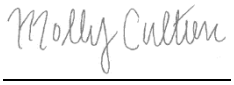
Scott Webb
Director of Advocacy
Resource Renewal Institute

/s/ Sejal Choksi-Chugh

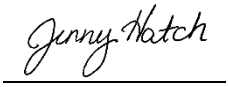
Sejal Choksi-Chugh
Executive Director
San Francisco Baykeeper

/s/ Christopher Quock

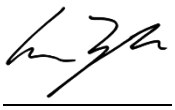
Christopher Quock
Volunteer
Save Del Puerto Canyon



Molly Culton
Chapter Organizing Director
Sierra Club California



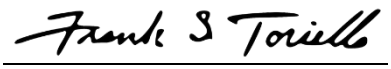
Jenny Hatch
CEO
Sierra Nevada Alliance



Aaron Zettler-Mann
Executive Director
South Yuba River Citizens League



Konrad Fisher
Director
Water Climate Trust



Frank Toriello
President
We Advocate Thorough Environmental Review

Laura Cunningham
California Director
Western Watersheds Project

Peter Drekmeier
Policy Director
Yosemite Rivers Alliance