

JULY 21, 2022

Shannon A. Estenoz
Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks
Interior Building, Room 7256
1849 C Street NW
Washington, D.C. 20240

Tanya Trujillo
Assistant Secretary for Water and Science
Interior Building, Room 6654
1849 C Street NW
Washington, D.C. 20240

Janet Coit
Acting Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere
NOAA/National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
1401 Constitution Avenue NW, Room 5128
Washington, D.C. 20230

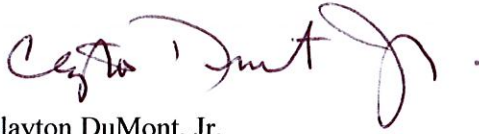
Dear Mses. Estenoz, Trujillo, and Coit:

The Klamath Tribes and the Klamath Water Users Association each and jointly, urge that the Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) should and must complete a new Endangered Species Act consultation, based on a new proposed action, to cover Klamath Project operations following the imminent expiration of the Interim Operations Plan (IOP).

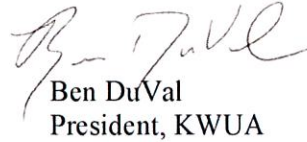
We have communicated with your agencies separately on this subject, and though our objections to the IOP are not identical, we both firmly agree that the IOP is flawed, unworkable, and that its “extension” would be neither in the public interest nor conducive to reducing conflict in the Klamath Basin and allowing us to dedicate our resources to work toward a more sustainable and harmonious future.

We do not presume that a new consultation will be perfect or that we will find nothing objectionable in the outcome. But it does not serve the Klamath Basin, its communities, or its fish and wildlife to continue to pretend to operate under the IOP, which Reclamation has been unable to successfully implement pursuant to its terms in any of the three years for which it has ostensibly been in effect. The Basin would be far better served by the federal family accepting this reality and moving to annual consultations for the foreseeable future.

We stand willing to work with you to a better end.



Clayton DuMont, Jr.
Chairman, Klamath Tribes



Ben DuVal
President, KWUA

cc: Elizabeth Klein
Senior Counselor to the Secretary
Office of the Secretary of the Interior
Interior Building, Room 6627
1849 C Street NW
Washington, D.C. 20240

Paul Souza
Regional Director, Pacific Southwest Region
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Federal Office Building, Room W-2605.
2800 Cottage Way
Sacramento, CA 95825-1898

Ernest Conant
Regional Director, California-Great Basin Region
U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
Federal Office Building, Room E-1604
2800 Cottage Way
Sacramento, CA 95825-1898

Scott Rumsey, Ph.D.
Acting Regional Administrator, West Coast Regional Office
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
1201 Northeast Lloyd
Portland, OR 97232