

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

March 26, 2015

Ms. Felicia Marcus  
State Water Resources Control Board  
P.O. Box 100  
Sacramento, CA 95812-0100

Dear Ms. Marcus and fellow Board members:

We write to express our support for the adjustments contained in the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation's Temporary Urgency Change Petition (TUCP) for New Melones operations in the 2015 water year. Over the last month our offices, the USBR, the National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration Fisheries Office, local water districts, and local irrigation districts have been working on the allocation of water resources on the Stanislaus River watershed. The "deal" aims to protect municipal, agriculture, recreation, power water supply, steelhead population, and preserve at least a modicum of water storage behind New Melones Dam for the remainder of the water year.

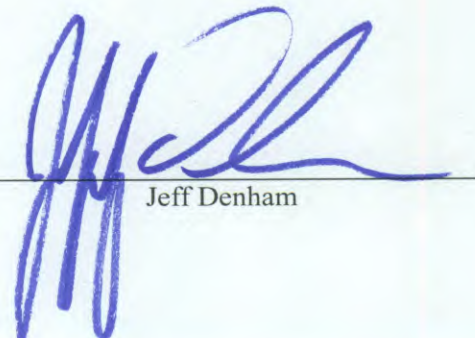
We ask that you adopt the petition as submitted as an important component of the package the parties have agreed to for 2015 water year operations, since any change in conditions on the TUCP altering the delicate balance could put municipal supplies, agricultural supplies, power and recreation at risk

The "deal" is described to us as: 1) full implementation of the 2009 Long-Term Operational Criteria and Plan, Biological Opinion Table 2e flow schedule until September 30<sup>th</sup>; 2) irrigation districts will receive 450,000 acre feet as prescribed by prior agreements; 3) irrigation districts will work on extraordinary conservation measures to seek additional water in New Melones storage this summer; and, 4) Tulloch reservoir levels will be maintained to provide Calaveras County Water District's municipal supplies, and recreation for Tulloch Lake users. The "deal" projects New Melones having water storage of 115,000 acre feet on September 30<sup>th</sup>.

We repeat our position that in this perilous drought, any water release should be to meet critical human needs. While we are adamantly opposed to such releases from New Melones for the theoretical benefit of fish populations this year, this "deal" strikes a delicate balance between the competing needs for water on the Stanislaus River under exceptionally difficult conditions in this 4th sequential drought year. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

  
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Tom McClintock

  
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Jeff Denham