



April 25, 2023

Camille Calimlim Touton  
Commissioner, Bureau of Reclamation  
1849 C Street NW  
Washington, DC 20240-001

**Subject: Klamath Project Allocation**

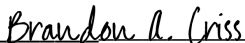
Dear Commissioner Touton:

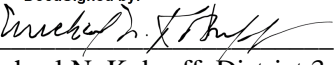
The counties of Klamath, Oregon and Modoc and Siskiyou, California (Tri-Counties) appeal for the Bureau of Reclamation to promptly revise the initial allocation for the Klamath Project in light of continued favorable hydrologic conditions. As we understand, the initial allocation leaves approximately 60,000 acres within the Klamath Project and two national wildlife refuges, uncertain of the likelihood of having water this year. After three consecutive years of no deliveries, Reclamation should be making every effort to make water available for these lands. Reclamation’s decision impacts the farmers and ranchers who feed the region’s economy and the nation’s food supply.


The present snowpack in the Klamath Basin is at 199 percent of median, in terms of snow water equivalent. Since Reclamation’s decision, the California-Nevada River Forecast Center’s (CNRFC) inflow forecast has come in line with the National Resources Conservation Service’s forecast. To quantify that improvement, the CNRFC’s 50-percentile exceedance forecast has increased 147,000 acre-feet since Reclamation’s decision, for a total of 587,000 acre-feet of inflow for April through September inflows. Under these conditions, to maintain that a drought persists and withhold all water for one-third of the area served from Upper Klamath Lake shows a clear disconnect from reality and is unacceptable.

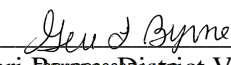
Klamath, Siskiyou, and Modoc counties urge that the Project’s allocation from Upper Klamath Lake and the Klamath River be updated promptly and that the increase be substantial enough to get farmers and ranchers with water to start the growing season.


Sincerely,

DocuSigned by:  
  
Brandon A. Criss, District 1  
Siskiyou County Board of Supervisors

DocuSigned by:  
  
Michael N. Krobbeff, District 3  
Vice Chair  
Siskiyou County Board of Supervisors

DocuSigned by:  
  
Ned Goe, District I  
Modoc County Board of Supervisors

DocuSigned by:  
  
Geri Byrne, District V  
Modoc County Board of Supervisors

DocuSigned by:  
  
Derrick DeGroot, Chair  
Klamath County Commissioner