



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF RECLAMATION
Central California Area Office
2800 Cottage Way
Sacramento, California 95825-1898

IN REPLY REFER TO:
MP-100
2.2.4.21

NOV 26 2019

Mr. Justin Ly
Chair, Trinity Management Council
P.O. Box 1300, 1313 South Main Street
Weaverville, CA 96093

Subject: Request to reimplement diurnal flow variability in the Trinity River, and explore dam infrastructure technologies that reliably implement restoration flow measures

Dear Mr. Ly:

Thank you for your July 12, 2019, letter highlighting the Trinity Management Council's (TMC) concerns with the impacts that our aging infrastructure have on releases into the Trinity River.

As you know, Trinity Powerplant, Trinity Dam, and Lewiston Dam were completed in 1963; we too share your concern for this aging infrastructure and appreciate the opportunity to work with the TMC to find solutions to the challenges that lie ahead.

Currently, our operations and maintenance activities at Trinity Powerplant are funded by Central Valley Project power customers, while all other operations and maintenance activities at Trinity Dam and Lewiston Dam are funded through our annual appropriations process. The Bureau of Reclamation received a reduction in appropriated funds for fiscal years 2020 and 2021, which is having a direct impact to our operations and maintenance activities. While I know you are aware of the impact this reduction has had on TRRP activities, it has also created a constraint on our routine maintenance programs and larger infrastructure projects. While we are hopeful that additional funding will be made available for the maintenance and upgrades that will be necessary in the future, we welcome the TRRP's support for these necessary projects.

The Regional Directors of Fish and Wildlife Service and Bureau of Reclamation are granted with the authority to adjust the flow schedule recommended by the TMC to ensure it meets other statutory requirements. While using this authority, Reclamation must balance the needs of its water and power customers along with its responsibility to implement the Trinity River Record of Decision.

As you know, the 2018 Carr Fire significantly impacted operations at the Trinity Powerplant. We recognize the cascade of events that followed with the oil spill below Trinity Powerplant and failure of a radial gate at Lewiston Dam impacted our ability to implement the flow schedule that

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the TMC recommended to us; however, adjustments to the schedule were necessary to ensure additional failures of the Trinity River Division infrastructure did not occur. Until Reclamation receives approximately \$5 million in appropriated funding to change the entire operating system of the Lewiston radial gates to be more conducive to the minor flow adjustments that are being requested by the TMC, Reclamation will not be able to implement the diurnal flow variability you are requesting.

I have requested that Reclamation's Chief of Power Operations, Steve Melavic, attend your next TMC meeting in order to answer any questions you may have with my response above. In the meantime, if you have additional questions, please contact Donald Bader, Northern California Area Manager, at (530) 247-8501.

Sincerely,



Ernest A. Conant
Regional Director

cc: Steve Melavic