



E. WERNER RESCHKE
STATE REPRESENTATIVE
HOUSE DISTRICT 56

April 10, 2020

TO: Bureau of Reclamation
6600 Washburn Way,
Klamath Falls, OR 97603

ATTN: Tara Jane Campbell Miranda,
BOR-SHA-KBO-KlamathBasin@usbr.gov

CC: Jeffrey Nettleton, Klamath Area Director, Bureau of Reclamation
Greg Walden, US Representative, US House of Representatives

RE: Implementation of Klamath Project Operating Procedures 2020-2023

Dear Tara Jane Campbell Miranda,

The noble and founding purpose of the Klamath Project was to allow people to become better stewards of the natural resources available in the Klamath Basin — both in use of land and water. Before the Klamath Project, a large portion of river water was natural overflow to the Lower Klamath Lake area and was in essence a wasted resource of shallow, stagnant water. The Klamath Project significantly improved the use of land and water for agriculture production.

The Klamath Project has been the lifeline for generations of Oregonians & Californians. It is estimated that \$600 million/year is generated by agriculture producers in the Klamath Basin. This economic activity supports independent farmers and ranchers and extends to the rest of the Klamath Basin economy. Furthermore, the economic activity from agricultural producers provides a solid foundation for local schools, public safety and governments.

The Klamath Project is known nationally for its extreme efficiency and utilization of water use. Recognizing that much of the land was previously characterized by open water and aquatic vegetation, Project lands almost certainly consume less water than they did prior to development of the Project. Furthermore, the Klamath Project's intricate canal system provides rich habitat for dozens of species — from deer to ducks and everything in between.

It is troublesome to see that plans are being considered to change the founding of the Klamath Project from a reasonable purpose of food production to an unsound purpose it was never intended to do. I believe we can do better. We must do better. The strategy of using the Klamath Project to solve all the problems with fish species, while at the same time ignoring many other factors that are involved in the life cycle of fish — and other connected bodies of water involved in providing clean, cool water — is wrong and dangerous. It is faulty and myopic thinking.

Exploiting one factor in a complex situation, while ignoring other critical factors, does not rightly provide a comprehensive solution to fix the problem.

Therefore, it is my strong opinion that the Bureau of Reclamation should re-evaluate and reconsider its approach for their Interim Operations Plan.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'E. Werner Reschke', with a stylized flourish at the end.

E. WERNER RESCHKE
State Representative
Southern Klamath & Lake Counties