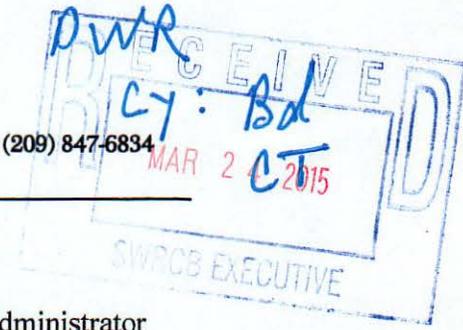




## Office of the Mayor

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**Administration**  
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Station No. 2:  
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**POLICE DEPARTMENT**  
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Mr. David Murillo  
Regional Director  
U.S. Bureau of Reclamation  
Mid-Pacific Region  
2800 Cottage Way, Room MP-100  
Sacramento, CA 95825

Ron Milligan, Manager, Operations  
Bureau of Reclamation  
3310 El Camino Avenue, Suite 300  
Sacramento, CA 95821

Ms. Maria Rea  
Assistant Regional Administrator  
California Central Valley Area Office  
National Marine Fisheries Service  
650 Capitol Mall, Suite 5-100  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Felicia Marcus, Chair  
State Water Resources Control Board  
1001 "I" Street  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Regional Director Murillo, Assistant Regional Administrator Rea, Manager of Operations Milligan and SWRCB Chair Marcus:

We write to express our serious concerns with the 2015 Drought Contingency Plan and subsequent updates for New Melones Reservoir operations and flow requirements for the remaining 2015 water year.

In April/May, 2014, the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation drained approximately 60,000 acre feet of water from New Melones reservoir on the Stanislaus river – enough to meet the annual needs of a city of half a million people – in order to comply with environmental laws and regulations.

Since last year, drought conditions have grown more severe, and many forecasts predict that the drought will continue.

Proposed river releases that are significantly higher than required under the 2009 Operations and Criteria Plan Biological Opinion for dry and critical water years will likely cause New Melones to reach dead pool by August. Even if operations of New Melones strictly followed the 2009 OCAP-BO, New Melones will reach dead pool by September or October, still causing a dry river for returning fall-run salmon.

If the reservoir reaches dead pool, communities that rely on Lake Tulloch (downstream of New Melones) for their water supply will be unable to access their water, irrigators downstream of Tulloch Dam will go without water during the hottest months of the year, and no flow will be available for fall-run salmon upon its return migration.

We are very aware of the significant challenges this year that require balancing the needs of the irrigators, power generation, recreation and the environment. However, we encourage you to pursue a course of action that leaves water available during some of the hottest months in the Central Valley and that provides options for returning fall-run salmon. We urge you to avert a preventable disaster.

We request that your agencies enter immediate emergency consultation to devise a new plan that provides for reservoir and river releases to (1) allow for conservation of water in New Melones and Tulloch Reservoirs for as long as possible and (2) to provide certainty that the Stanislaus river will have flow throughout the remainder of the 2015 calendar year.

The City of Oakdale stands ready to assist you as needed and appreciates your immediate attention to this request.

Sincerely,



Pat Paul  
Mayor  
City of Oakdale

Cc: Mr. Charlton H. Bonham, Director, California Department of Fish and Game  
Congressman Jeff Denham