



HOOPA VALLEY TRIBAL COUNCIL

Hoopa Valley Tribe

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Chairman Joe Davis

March 21, 2022

Jared Huffman

Chairman

Subcommittee on Water, Oceans, and Wildlife

Dear Honorable Chairman,

On behalf of the Hoopa Valley Tribe, I want to thank you for hosting the “Klamath River Basin Conditions and Opportunities” virtual hearing and including us. Attached you will find our answers to your questions. Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns.

Best regards,

Joe Davis, Chairman

Hoopa Valley Tribe

1. Can you describe the infrastructure investment needs along the Trinity River, and how improvements to conditions on the Trinity River could benefit Klamath River fish and the Basin as a whole?

There are a number of infrastructure related projects which need to be addressed, examples of which are listed below along with their benefits. Some of these are projects prescribed by the Trinity River Mainstem Fishery Restoration Record of Decision (2000) (2000 ROD). The Central Valley Project Improvement Act (CVPIA) requires those projects to be paid for by Central Valley Project Water and Power contractors as operation and maintenance expenditures. CVPIA section 3406(b)(23)(B). To date, the Bureau of Reclamation has failed to recover those costs from CVP contractors. In order to achieve the intended geomorphic and ecological benefits of the maximum (Extremely Wet Year) fishery flows releases from Lewiston Dam to the mainstem Trinity River, the 2000 ROD prescribed upgrades to Bucktail Bridge in Lewiston. In addition, a single house in Junction City needs to be demolished or moved upslope because it lies in the floodway. These two actions would accommodate Extremely Wet Water Year releases prescribed by the ROD to preserve the restored channel.

There is a concrete weir/wall across most of the channel a half mile below Lewiston Dam. This structure is a remnant of the TRD's original plan for fish conservation prior to the Secretary's determination in 1957 that a hatchery was needed instead. This structure now interferes with habitat restoration by preventing the river from routing gravel and maintaining the constructed side channels which were built upstream in 2009. Removing this feature will increase rearing and spawning habitat in a reach of the Trinity River that frequently has the highest density of spawning activity on the River.

The biggest and most complex infrastructure need on the Trinity is an upgrade to the outlet mechanisms in Trinity Dam. Installation of facilities on the dam to release water from different levels of the reservoir for temperature control, and a conveyance facility to deliver temperature-controlled water into the Carr tunnels would benefit Trinity and Sacramento River fisheries by preserving Trinity Reservoir's cold water pool in times of drought, facilitating increased growth potential for juvenile fish in the spring, providing regulated spawning temperatures at the hatchery, and enabling coordinated management of the Klamath and Trinity rivers to maximize fishery preservation and propagation, which is a mandate of the 1955 TRD Act. The proposed facilities would also decrease disease risk for adult salmonids in the fall in the lower Klamath River.

A number of communities along the Trinity River rely on tributaries for their water needs. Those withdrawals have disproportionate adverse impacts on fish populations that spawn in those tributaries. Weaverville has plans to discontinue use of Weaver Creek and install facilities to treat and mainstem Trinity water instead.

On the Hoopa Valley Reservation, Hoopa relies on water from four tributaries. Hoopa is entitled to the benefit of Trinity River Division water to be released and made available annually water provided in section 2 of the 1955 TRD. Facilities to use mainstem Trinity water would avoid

impacts to fish populations in those four tributaries, especially in dry years.

2. We've talked a lot about the possibility for significant funding provided in the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law to support long-term solutions in the Klamath Basin. How can additional federal funding address the needs you've identified along the Trinity?

All of the issues identified in the previous answer could be remedied with Bipartisan Infrastructure Law funding. The projects are in different stages of development. All of the projects need funding for some or all of design, permitting and construction activities. The broadest benefit to the fisheries is repair and improvement of the outlet works on Trinity Dam. The ability to control discharge and temperature independently will enable flexible, complex, and detailed water management to fulfill the purposes of the Central Valley Project and meet federal trust responsibilities to the Hoopa Valley Tribe whose fishery resources the United States holds in trust. Finally, Congress and the American People would benefit greatly if the federal agencies (DOI, DOC, and DOA) would assess and implement a Klamath-Trinity Basin wide management structure as advised by the NRC. Further, with the large influx of Federal funds, Federal agencies with Congressional support, could prioritize and use the federal funds most efficiently.