



Governor Gavin Newsom  
 1021 O St., Ste 9000  
 Sacramento, CA 95814

March 25, 2026

Sent via email to: [gavin.newsom@gov.ca.gov](mailto:gavin.newsom@gov.ca.gov)

Dear Governor Newsom,

We write on behalf of a coalition of fifty Tribes, environmental justice, commercial fishing, recreational, environmental, and conservation organizations to urge your Administration to firmly oppose efforts by the Trump Administration to advance the proposed raise of Shasta Dam. Central Valley agricultural interests recently wrote to President Trump asking for additional funding for the project, and to speed up project approvals. In addition, the Trump Administration just allocated an additional \$40 million toward planning activities. As you know, the raise of Shasta Dam would be illegal under California's Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, which expressly protects the McCloud River from further inundation, and it would represent an extraordinary federal overreach into matters of state authority and water governance. **In fact, the State Water Resources Control Board and the Department of Fish and Wildlife have already declared that the project is illegal, and the California Attorney General has already taken this position in successful litigation.**

The proposed raise would also deepen the already profound and irreversible harm done to the Winnemem Wintu Tribe. Construction of Shasta Dam destroyed roughly 90% of the Tribe's ancestral homeland. Raising the dam would destroy many of the few remaining cultural and sacred sites still used today. Federal agencies have acknowledged these impacts, and the Tribe has rightly described the project as cultural genocide. Moving forward in the face of such opposition would violate basic principles of Tribal sovereignty and self-determination. Your Administration issued a [historic apology](#) to California's Native Americans for historical wrongdoings, and the State has committed to improved Tribal consultation and incorporation of Tribal perspectives into policy- and decision-making. Standing up to the Trump Administration is a natural expression of these commitments.

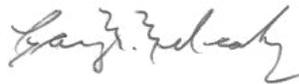
The negative economic and environmental impacts of the Shasta Dam raise are also significant. The project would also inundate 5,600 acres of forest; restrict high flows which would further degrade salmon and steelhead habitat; and threaten numerous state and federally listed species, including Shasta salamander, Shasta snow wreath, Pacific fisher, northern spotted owl, hawks, bats, and more.

**We thank you for your past support, and urge you to continue standing firm against this unlawful and destructive proposal** and to make clear that California will not acquiesce to federal efforts that undermine our laws, our Tribes, and our rivers. We request a meeting with you to discuss the proposed Shasta Dam raise and other areas where we hope the State will stand up to the Trump Administration regarding federal attacks on California rivers, the Bay-Delta ecosystem, salmon, and tribal resources.

Respectfully,



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Senior Policy Staff  
**Friends of the River**



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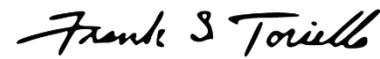
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Laura Cunningham  
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