



Mendocino County Farm Bureau

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Affiliated with the California Farm Bureau Federation and the American Farm Bureau Federation

October 28, 2021

Congressman Jared Huffman
1527 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Via Email: jenny.callaway@mail.house.gov

RE: The Future of the Potter Valley Project and Related Water Supply

Dear Congressman Huffman,

Recently, you have stated that the future of the Potter Valley Project (Project) is now going to be determined by a decommissioning process instead of through the current licensing efforts that are underway (see attached Facebook post from October 1, 2021). There are several significant concerns with your statements that the undersigned would ask you to address.

As a federal congressman that represents a significant number of the communities along the Russian River, your constituents who depend on the water supply from the Potter Valley Project would like to request that you:

- Explain why federal or state support has not been pursued by our elected officials to assist with the current licensing process and why decommissioning, as a cheaper and easier option as you indicated, will provide a preferred outcome.
- Discuss how you intend to work with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission if a license surrender and decommissioning process begins to ensure that there will be continued water diversion capabilities through the Project to support the needs of the communities above and below Lake Mendocino.
- Outline what you envision as a decommissioning process for the Project including timelines and how you plan to represent the needs of your Russian River constituents.
- Engage with Congressman Garamendi and Congressman Thompson as their constituents will also be impacted by the potential removal of Project infrastructure.
- Host a series of public meetings in the Russian River portion of your district, between now and April 2022, to review these points and provide updates as available. The conversation should not be limited to the current invitation only two basin solution group.

With the low water year, there is a heightened awareness of the critical water supply that is provided by the Project. The thought that this water infrastructure is being considered for removal, is not reassuring. As an elected official that promised a two-basin solution, your constituents below ask that you take this promise seriously.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "George Hollister". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned to the left of the typed name and title.

George Hollister
President

Please see attached signature pages

CC: Congressman Mike Thompson
Congressman John Garamendi
Senator Mike McGuire
Assemblymember Jim Wood
Mendocino County Board of Supervisors



Jared Huffman



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Rumors of the demise of our "Two Basin Solution" on the Eel and Russian Rivers are greatly exaggerated. We are on track to remove a huge salmon-blocking dam on the Eel River while ensuring that water needs in the Russian River basin will be met. It will now happen through the decommissioning process, and should actually be cheaper and easier than the original plan to take over PG&E's hydropower license. The coalition of stakeholders in both basins that has worked together in good faith for the past three years remains unified, and the case for doing this has always been strong. Stay tuned.



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