

Dear Senator Boxer:

Please amend the California Emergency Drought Relief Act to exclude raising Shasta Dam by 18.5 feet.

The dam raise would flood most of the remaining homelands of the Winnemem Wintu, people who retain strong connections to ceremonial grounds, sacred sites and ancestral villages along the McCloud River. This tribe has suffered enough from the existing dam. Their traditional way of life depends on the river and the Winnemem culture is a critical thread in the fabric of our society. Let's not destroy this tribe for an unnecessary and expensive construction project.

Raising the dam would cost the public hundreds of millions of dollars to yield—in high-water years only—a small amount of very expensive water for a handful of beneficiaries. The Shasta reservoir rarely fills now, at the dam's current height. There are surer, cheaper, faster alternatives, including conservation and efficiency, underground storage and recycling, to provide the needed water. This project will hurt the endangered salmon it is supposed to help. We should not use 20th century technology to address 21st century challenges.

Nor should we further enrich the Westlands Water District with taxpayer subsidized water they can sell for a profit.

Finally, McCloud River is protected under California's Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. Further flooding of the free-flowing McCloud would violate the Act and set a dangerous precedent for all our rivers.

Yours truly,