



## OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

April 1, 2020

Secretary David Bernhardt  
US Department of the Interior  
1849 C Street NW  
Washington, D.C. 20240

Commissioner Brenda Burman  
Bureau of Reclamation  
1849 C Street NW  
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Secretary Bernhardt and Commissioner Burman:

I am writing to request temporary drought assistance for the Klamath Basin in California pursuant to section 104(a) of Title 1 of the Reclamation States Emergency Drought Relief Act of 1991, as amended.

Hydrologic conditions in the Klamath Basin this year are poor. Precipitation is well below normal levels and snowpack in the Upper Klamath Basin is nearly 30 percent below average. There is significant risk to fish and wildlife, as well as to the farming and ranching communities in the California portions of the basin. Considering these conditions, I ask that you determine that temporary drought assistance is merited and that drought relief funds be committed for this purpose.

This is a familiar challenge in the basin. Water demands exceed available supply, and the problem will only worsen as we continue to experience changing hydrology and warmer temperatures due to climate change. Continuing to fund annual, temporary actions is ineffective and will not lead to basin-wide stability. A sustainable and drought resilient Klamath Basin can only be achieved through implementation of actions that provide permanent solutions, and I join Governor Brown in asking that these drought relief funds be managed with permanent solutions in mind.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gavin Newsom", written over a horizontal line.

Gavin Newsom  
Governor of California