



TRINITY COUNTY

Office of the County Administrator

Trent Tuthill, County Administrative Officer
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December 7th, 2024

Dear Trinity Management Council partners,

The Trinity Management Council (TMC) voted down the Flow Workgroup's winter flow proposal with a 6-2 vote at the September 2023 TMC meeting. After the meeting, Trinity County began coordinating an effort with Joe Polos, former Trinity River Restoration Program (TRRP) scientist and United States Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) employee, and co-author of the Trinity River Flow Evaluation, to develop a series of methods to implement some aspects of winter flow variability while addressing the concerns of Trinity County.

The primary concern of Trinity County is economic impact to fishing days as a result of high flows during the winter months. Secondary is the maintenance of carryover storage in Trinity Lake. The flow proposal as presented includes a recommendation for implementing the second half of the winter variable flow (Mar 1 – Apr 15) in the Trinity River that will emulate some of the variation observed in full natural flows, but not overcommit proportions of a water year's allocation. The concepts are based on information included in the Trinity River Flow Evaluation (USFWS and HVT 1999), the Trinity River Winter Flow Project Final Report (TRRP 2022) and discussions with TRRP partner staff (USFWS, NMFS, CDFW, Yurok Tribe and Hoopa Valley Tribe).

The recommendation, drafted by Mr. Polos in coordination with Trinity County staff and TMC member is adopted by Trinity County for consideration by the TMC. Trinity County respectfully requests the TMC consider the proposal as drafted and to direct program staff to analyze the implementation of this recommendation using standard flow modeling methods and the Program's Decision Support System. Several other methods aside from that which was recommended were analyzed and are also presented for consideration. The County is open to a special TMC meeting to discuss the proposal prior to the regular March TMC meeting, at TMC members' convenience.

We would like to note that, the spring snowmelt component of the hydrographs presented in the report will need to be modified to meet TRRP objectives, as is done during the typical Flow Workgroup flow scheduling process. As this effort moves forward, whatever hydrographs are developed should be run through the TRRP's Decision Support System to evaluate tradeoffs of moving the water into the winter rearing period.

Trinity County also recognizes the importance of the management of expectations of monitoring results for a single-year action. This proposal is presented as part of the greater winter flow effort, which could be many years of implementation, monitoring, and analysis

Thank you for considering the Trinity County proposal. Trinity County plans to present the proposal during the Flows agenda item, on Day 2 of the TMC meeting (1pm, Dec 12).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Trent Tuthill', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Trent Tuthill
Trinity County Administrative Officer