

CAPITOL OFFICE
1021 O STREET
SUITE 7230
SACRAMENTO, CA 95814
TEL (916) 651-4001

DISTRICT OFFICES
11230 GOLD EXPRESS DRIVE
SUITE 304
GOLD RIVER, CA 95670
TEL (916) 464-4201

1320 YUBA STREET
SUITE 102
REDDING, CA 96002
TEL (530) 224-7001

California State Senate

SENATOR
BRIAN DAHLE
FIRST SENATE DISTRICT



VICE CHAIR
ENERGY, UTILITIES
AND COMMUNICATIONS
MEMBER
BANKING &
FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS
BUDGET & FISCAL REVIEW
SUBCOMMITTEE #2 ON
RESOURCES, ENVIRONMENTAL
PROTECTION, & ENERGY
EDUCATION
ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
TRANSPORTATION

April 19, 2023

Governor Gavin Newsom
1021 O Street, Suite 9000
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Klamath Basin drought declaration

Dear Governor Newsom,

As you know well, California has experienced an exceptionally wet winter, which led you to lift the drought declaration in most of the state on March 24. At that time, you chose to leave the drought declaration in place for the Klamath Basin and its tributaries including the Scott and Shasta Rivers. It is time to lift that declaration along with the emergency drought regulations that continue to put a heavy burden on family farms and ranches in Siskiyou County.

In late March, the USDA Drought Monitor still listed part of northeastern California as being in "Severe Drought." However, healthy winter rain and snow continued. The most recent report, on April 11, shows only a small section of "Moderate Drought" in the northernmost part of the state, and drought removal is likely.

The Klamath National Forest last week announced the result of its snow surveys in the Scott River watershed, and reported that snow levels were the "highest in years," with 163 percent of the average Snow Water Equivalent.

Unfortunately, emergency State Water Board regulations still threaten irrigators on the Scott and Shasta Rivers with curtailments, and put pressure on them to sign agreements for local cooperative solutions that "voluntarily" reduce water use. Farmers need time to plan for their growing season, and unpredictable regulations are adding a needless burden to their work.

There is no longer a drought in the Klamath Basin. There certainly isn't an emergency that justifies continuing the Water Board's strict measures and the costs they've imposed on agriculture in the region. We urge you to lift the drought designation without further delay.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Brian Dahle in black ink.

BRIAN DAHLE
Senator, 1st District

Handwritten signature of Megan Dahle in blue ink.

MEGAN DAHLE
Assemblywoman, 1st District