

NEW CALIFORNIA STATE JOINT RESOLUTION OF THE SENATE AND ASSEMBLY

JR20-05

To Restore, Maintain and Prevent Destruction of Dams – JR20-05

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(prior to 5th Convention)

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Legislative background JR20-05

The founding principles in the Constitution of the United States, the Declaration of Independence and the Bill of Rights, especially regarding the importance of property and water rights have been completely ignored and violated in California State.

California's system of water ways, dams and reservoirs were once the envy of the world. However, the current government of California is usurping and abusing control of the water resources of the state. Current plans of the mono-party government of California include hoarding water, mismanagement of the water infrastructure and destruction of four Klamath Dams. This is tantamount to weaponization of water.

Catastrophic water restrictions have been placed upon farmers and ranchers. Withholding water from farmers reveals an intention to manipulate their productivity, threaten their livelihood and force them to lose/sell their land at a decreased value. Individual farmers, operating as independent capitalists are under attack.

The proposed destruction of the four Klamath Dams would; require hydroelectric power be imported from another state to provide power to residents and business owners in several counties in California, lack of water storage and fire control and threat of floods during dam removal or by removing effective risk management of floods with potential devastation of land, property, people and wildlife downstream of these dams.

The end of July 2016, the Department of Energy (DOE), under President Obama, released a plan to expand hydropower by 50% through electrifying existing dams and installing pumped hydro storage at existing non-powered dams to support the intermittent and unreliable renewables like wind and solar onto the electric grid.

According to DOE's Hydropower Vision, the United States could increase its hydropower electricity generation capacity from about 100 Gigawatts to 150 Gigawatts by 2050 by energizing existing dams (dams that presently have no ability to produce power), upgrading plants already producing power with more capacity, and constructing new pumped hydro storage facilities to support renewables.

Expanding hydroelectric power has been neglected in California.

WHEREAS, the **criminal** mismanagement by the mono-party government of California has led to destruction of the 1000-year-old oyster beds, **the conditions causing** the Paradise Fire, the scheduled removal of the Klamath dams, and the potential loss of Oroville and San Luis Dams; and

WHEREAS, many dams in California are in a state of disrepair as a result of lack of proper and timely maintenance; and

WHEREAS, in early 2019, the costly (\$1.1 billion) newly rebuilt spillway of the Oroville Dam was put to the test. The giant gates released a gentle flow of less than 60,000 cubic feet per second (of 250,000 maximum) down the spillway. The flow lasted a few days but had to be shut off prematurely. The test caused the brand-new concrete plates on the surface to vibrate to such an alarming degree that they threatened to break apart. Since that day to the present time, no water has been released and permitted to flow down the spillway. Water spurting through incontinent gates can be seen when water levels rise. The Oroville Dam has been weakened further, not only due to the 2017 failure but also due to ill-fated repair attempts. Today, leaking water and mud is visible on the spillway in the exact same location as the 2017 rupture. Hillside embankments have become severely waterlogged and are dangerously weakened; and

WHEREAS, the citizens of rural California are learning that neglect and infidelity on the part of the California government is the 'new normal.' The San Luis Power Plant is a pumped-storage hydroelectric plant that is at the southern base of the dam. It provides the farmers with water for irrigation during the dry season. After a 1,100-foot section upstream embankment slid 177 feet in 1981 no repairs have been made; and

WHEREAS, the removal of the four (4) dams on the Klamath River scheduled for June 2020 could have disastrous results for those in the Lower Klamath Basin in northern California. In a 2017 letter to the State Water Resources Control Board, Siskiyou County supervisors said the effects of releasing the 20 to 30 million cubic yards of sediment that is behind the Klamath dams would completely destroy the eco system below these dams; and

WHEREAS, the Klamath dams historically produced 196 megawatts of clean hydroelectric power annually, the report of August 2019 was they produced 43 megawatts of power.

BE IT RESOLVED, NCS shall efficiently manage, preserve and repair dams, increase hydroelectric power, provide water storage, flood risk management, fire control, and recreational use.

BE IT RESOLVED, NCS shall oversee the adequate release of water from reservoirs for the ranching/ farming industry, river management to promote healthy habitats and recreational use.

NOW BE IT RESOLVED, we pray the President of the United States invoke the Insurrection Act of 1807 to deploy military troops within the United States to put down this lawlessness, insurrection and rebellion to end the tyranny being foisted upon the United States citizens living in California State in regards to willful mismanagement of our water resources.

ADOPTED this ____ day of _____ 2020.

AYES: ____ (number of votes)

NOES: ____

ABSTAIN: ____

Robert Righetti, Riverside County
Senate President Pro Tempore

Marlo Jenkins, Fresno County
Assembly Speaker Pro Tempore