



TRINITY COUNTY

Office of the County Administrator

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November 8th, 2023

Deb Haaland, Secretary
 Department of the Interior
 1849 C Street, N.W.
 Washington DC 20240

Dear Secretary Haaland,

Trinity County is a defendant and respondent in California Supreme Court Case No. S282198 (*WESTLANDS WATER DISTRICT v. ALL PERSONS INTERESTED*). The case concerns the matter of validating the contract between the United States and Westlands Water District providing for project water service, San Luis Unit and Delta Division and facilities repayment.

Per the attached ruling, the contract is materially incomplete, has not been validated and is not binding on Interior. Therefore, Trinity County formally asks for a rescission of the subject contract by the Bureau of Reclamation/Department of Interior.

The Trinity River was dammed specifically to provide water to Westlands Water District and the larger San Luis Unit of the CVP. Damming the Trinity River has decimated its salmon and steelhead resources and continues to harm our local economy. Westlands' water contracts should not be made permanent or renewed without a full Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), compliance with the Endangered Species Act, the CVPIA and other laws. There should be full consideration of an alternative that would significantly reduce contract delivery amounts. The EIS should also disclose the financial obligations that Westlands and other CVP contractors must repay restoration costs for the Trinity River, which are required as operation and maintenance costs per the Central Valley Project Improvement Act.

We look forward to your response to this letter.

Sincerely,

Trent Tuthill
 Trinity County Administrative Officer

cc: Chairman Joe Davis, Hoopa Valley Tribe
 Mike Orcutt, Hoopa Fisheries Department