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**From:** Dale Rabeneau [<mailto:d.rabeneau@yahoo.com>]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 01, 2015 2:42 PM  
**To:** WateBoardsPublicAffairs, OPA@Waterboards  
**Subject:** Water flows from the Sierra Lakes: IMPORTANT

Please approve the Petition by the South San Joaquin and Oakdale Irrigation Districts for a change in planned releases from New Melones between now and September.

We urge you to approve this for the following reasons:

- It is in the best interests of Sierra Foothill Communities but also for agriculture and the economy if you approve it.
- I believe you should stop the unnecessary water flows down river in this time of drought because it's just common sense. Human needs need to be the number one priority.
- If you do not then Lake Tulloch would be drained and New Melones brought down to an insignificant level leaving no water in reserve.
- The draining of Lake Tulloch will:
  - Destroy and seriously damage the eco system and habitat that has been carefully protected for nearly 60 years.
  - You will place in jeopardy the water provided by the Calaveras Water District to Calaveras County residents and will effectively dry up the wells for residents on the Tuolumne County side of the lake.
  - You will destroy our economy here and property values thereby impacting tax revenues for counties that are already significantly hurt by the down turn in the economy in the Valley and Foothills for the past five to six years. You could possibly see the evacuation of entire communities if/when we run out of water.
- We completely understand we are in a drought and understand when nature simply curtails our water supply. However, this is all about sending water downstream with the focus on fish. At this point we believe people need to come first.

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