

**From:** [Forms](#)  
**To:** [Wr401program](#)  
**Subject:** I Support Klamath Dam Removal  
**Date:** Friday, February 8, 2019 10:20:18 AM

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Dear State Water Resources Control Board,

I strongly support the full removal of the lower four Klamath River dams. The Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) affirms that dam removal is the best alternative and would comply with water quality requirements.

The Klamath is the third most productive fishery for salmon and steelhead on the West Coast. Dam removal is the only project alternative that achieves the project purpose of restoring a free-flowing river, and will re-open over 400 miles of spawning and rearing habitat for struggling salmon and steelhead. Dam removal improves water quality and complies with Clean Water Act water quality objectives.

The dams are a leading cause of salmon declines in the Klamath Basin. The reservoirs created by these dams host massive blooms of toxic algae every year, which impairs water quality and poses health risks for people and pets. The Water Board's DEIR supports what dam removal advocates have said all along - dam removal helps alleviate these conditions.

Dam removal improves water quality. This includes getting rid of the blue green algae blooms and fish disease problems below the dams. While the dam removal process will create temporary sediment impacts, the long-term benefits of dam removal include stronger salmon runs and better water quality.

Dam removal will not affect irrigated agriculture: none of the dams slated for removal provide agricultural diversions.

My personal experience with the Klamath River and its tributaries goes back a couple decades, as I am an avid steelhead angler. Protecting this species, currently threatened under the ESA, is important not only for anglers, but for the ecosystem.

It's time to undam the Klamath!

Sincerely,  
Andy Benkert

Andy Benkert

Ben Lomond