**Shasta Dam Raise Fact Sheet**

**From the Sacred Land Film Project**

**September 13, 2013**

**The public comment period ends September 30, 2013.**

-The most “economical” option found by the Bureau of Reclamation, raising the dam by 18.5 feet, would cost California taxpayers nearly 1.1 billion dollars

-Statewide water storage capacity would increase by only 1.5% and the creation of 76,000 acre-feet of firm yield would generate less than 0.2% of agricultural and urban water use in California

-Because dams don’t create water (they merely capture rain and snowmelt, the firm yield that can be reliably produced on an annual basis depends on the annual rainfall. The hypothetical firm yield of water produced from the 6.5-foot raise ranges from 20,000 to 72,000 acre-feet. The hypothetical firm yield of the 18.5-foot raise is 71,000-146,000 acre-feet. In comparison, if farmers producing low-value alfalfa were to conserve a mere five percent of the water they consume, it would save nearly one million-acre feet of water.

-Another stated objective of raising the dam would be to “increase survival of anadromous fish populations in the upper Sacramento River.” Meanwhile, the Shasta Dam prevents Chinook salmon from entering the cold-water streams where the fish naturally breed.

-An analysis conducted by Golden Gate Salmon Association and the Natural Resources Defense Council found that the target salmon population put forth by state and federal government is only at 20%. Why not instead invest in salmon restoration, an alternative that will provide a long-term solution that doesn’t feed the problem it purports to solve.

- The Winnemem Wintu tribe, the same one that lost much of its sacred land when Shasta Dam was put up during the events of WWII, would see an additional 39 of their sacred sites flooded, including Puberty Rock. A major aspect of the tribe’s ability to practice their culture and religion would be lost.

-Not only would many of the Winnemem sites be flooded, but also a variety of businesses and families displaced

-Raising the Shasta Dam has long been identified as linked to a proposal by California Governor Jerry Brown to build two large tunnels in order to divert large amount of water to corporate agricultural farms, not to the California taxpayers who are paying for such projects

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**For a sample letter in a Word document, please visit our website**. **There is a downloadable Word document at the bottom of the post entitled: BoR Letter.**

**http://www.sacredland.org/please-comment-on-shasta-dam-raise-deis/**