

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

June 25, 2025

The Honorable Dan Driscoll
Secretary of the Army
Department of Defense
The Pentagon
Washington, DC 20310

The Honorable Russell Vought
Director
Office of Management and Budget
725 17th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20503

Dear Secretary Driscoll and Director Vought:

As you may know, Kings River Conservation District (KRCD) and Kings River Water Association (KRWA) are actively engaged with the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) to analyze raising the Pine Flat Dam in Fresno County. At the same time, their efforts are currently being utilized to update the Pine Flat Water Control Manual. As this dam will allow for significant additional flood protection and water storage for a region that experiences intense boom and bust cycles of hydrology, it is imperative that the Pine Flat dam raise project is both authorized and prioritized for accelerated consideration. It is essential that USACE aligns all efforts to ensure timely completion of critical flood protection before the next devastating flood impacts the multitude of communities and critical agricultural land in the San Joaquin Valley. Without this needed dam modification, this agricultural region is at risk of adverse flood events, which could further increase the cost of groceries for American families already struggling with the recovery from high inflation.

We continue to urge USACE to initiate a full feasibility study on a Pine Flat Dam raise to update the feasibility work completed through previous outdated studies, and we ask that existing funding be included in the Fiscal Year 2027 budget to formally begin this analysis. It is our understanding that a number of analyses – like Hydrologic & Hydraulic modelling and Floodplain Data Inventory – are already underway within the ongoing Water Control Manual update, while identical or similar modelling will be required for the Pine Flat feasibility study. To support the long-term vision for flood protection in our Districts, this feasibility study should be designated as a high priority project for USACE.

As such, we ask that you ensure coordination between the various flood control efforts associated with Pine Flat Dam and allocate existing funding from the Full-Year Continuing Resolution or

other sources to undertake such work in a fiscally responsible manner. We also urge you to coordinate with KRCD, KRWA, and other relevant stakeholders, along with the appropriate personnel within USACE, to develop a plan that prioritizes key modelling of flood protection projections.

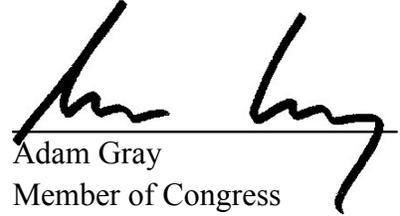
Lastly, we request that your staff provide a briefing that details how efforts related to updating the Pine Flat Water Control Manual align with the longer-term vision of raising Pine Flat Dam. In order to be judicious with our federal funding resources, it is imperative that any work done to update the Water Control Manual is not duplicated upon initiation of a feasibility study.

Further delays in advancing the Pine Flat Dam raise will inevitably lead to flood and drought impacts to communities across Fresno, Kings, and Tulare counties. These delays can be avoided with thoughtful coordination of ongoing work. We look forward to working with you to advance the Pine Flat Dam raise project.

Sincerely,



Vince Fong
Member of Congress



Adam Gray
Member of Congress



David G. Valadao
Member of Congress



Jim Costa
Member of Congress