

TO THE COMMISSIONERS SERVING ON THE OROVILLE DAM CITIZENS' COMMISSION
May 18th 2021

Enclosed you will find a copy of a Report by Dr. Rune Storesund, Executive Director of the Center for Catastrophic Risk Management (CCRM) at UC Berkeley. Dr Storesund succeeded Professor Robert Bea in this position. Professor Bea provided important information about the Dam, the DWR and the Feather River system in 2017.

Dr. Storesund has been actively involved in matters concerning the Dam since 2017. He was a member of the Ad Hoc Committee appointed by Assembly Member James Gallagher and Senator Jim Nielsen to monitor and comment on the DWR Comprehensive Needs Assessment (CNA). The CNA was set up in 2018 by the DWR to rank the importance of what needs to be done to improve the operation and safety of the Dam.

This Report gives independent feedback on the CNA and the extent to which it is likely to contribute to the safety of the downstream communities. In the Report, Dr. Storesund reaches certain conclusions about the safety and risks associated with the Dam and makes recommendations, for which the DWR has shown some support, designed to safeguard, and protect the interests of, the downstream communities.

The Report has been peer reviewed. Members of the Independent Forensic Team, who prepared the IFT report commissioned by the DWR in 2017 to investigate the causes of the spillway failure, have read it and commented favorably. The IFT made certain recommendations for DWR actions some important one of which Dr. Storesund shows have not been adopted.

As a Commissioner you have heard a lot from the DWR and their consultants about their plans for the operation of the Dam in future. Since the Dam was built, there have been uncontrolled floods on average every twelve and a half years. In the last two, 1998 and 2017, Oroville and downstream communities were evacuated which indicates that the authorities believed that there was a real risk of disaster: a real disaster could result in parts of Sacramento being inundated.

The Dam is getting older and climate change is causing more extreme weather events. Unless there is a fundamental change in the way the Dam is operated, there are inevitably going to be incidents as serious as those in the past and nature or luck may not be so favorable in future as they have been in future.

Dr. Storesund's report provides information that will allow you to decide for yourself whether the action taken and planned by the DWR addresses past issues and is consistent with the necessary fundamental change.

Since the 2017 spillway break and the evacuation, the Feather River Recovery Alliance has been assisting in the development of information, consistent with the Petition to hold the DWR Accountable shown overleaf that was signed by 6,469 local residents and submitted to FERC.

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If you would like a copy of the Appendices to the Report, have any comments or questions please contact FRRRA (530 353 7013) or visit www.notjustaspillway.com