



USACE Sacramento District, Attn: New Ballard's Bar and Oroville WCM Updates
1325 J Street, Room 1640,
Sacramento, 95114, CA

March 4th 2026

To Whom It May Concern,

Re: USACE NBB-Oroville Water Control Manual Revisions (WCM)

This letter is sent in support of Matt Mentink's paper arguing that the FIRO Alternative Plan 4 should be adopted as the basis for the Oroville Dam WCM revisions. Consideration should be given to establishing the low level for prereleases to be the bottom of the spillway gates (813 ft) rather than 832ft as specified, seemingly arbitrarily, in Alternative Plan 4.

With preleases down to 813 ft during forecasts of extreme storms, the Dam can handle the inflows flows from a 500-year storm without releasing over 150,000 cfs. The threat of downstream inundation or evacuations from foreseeable storms would be eliminated. The FIRO studies suggest that operating the reservoir in this way can increase the volume of water stored.

The 1970 WCM has not provided the promised flood protection. The DWR has emphasized that public safety should be the top priority for the WCM revisions. More severe storms are expected in future than in the past.

The State Water Contractors (SWC), an important stakeholder in the WCM revisions along with the DWR and the downstream communities, should have no reason to object to using FIRO Alternative 4. If the USACE, the DWR or the SWC have concerns about FIRO Alternative 4, they should explain these publicly and not exclude this Alternative which is the best scientific approach without a full objective discussion.

Respectively

Robert Bateman, Secretary of the Feather River Recovery Alliance
and Commissioner Oroville Citizens Advisory Commission (OCAC)

Directors:

Dick Thompson, Chairman

Erik Johansen, Treasurer

The Feather River recovery Alliance is a public service charitable organization formed by Oroville Businesses after the Spillway Incident and the evacuations in 2017. It was instrumental in submitting a petition 'Hold the DWR Responsible' to FERC signed by 6,500 local residents. It continues to support the adoption of measures aimed at mitigating the risk from the Dam and eliminating the recurrence of the uncontrolled releases and disastrous floods such as those in 1986, 1997 and 2017. We seek regulations, maintenance and renovation based on today's science not historic rights. We believe that, if the Dam is going to be an overall benefit to the local communities, trust in the DWR must be established.
www.notjustaspillway.com

Supported by:

Kevin Zeitler, Chairman of Oroville Recreation Advisory Commission

Bill Connelly, Butte County Supervisor and OCAC Commissioner

Tod Kimmelshue, Butte County Supervisor and OCAC Commissioner

Michael Bessette Executive Director, Sutter Butte Flood Control Agency