



Trinity River Restoration Program (TRRP)

P.O. Box 1300, 1313 South Main Street, Weaverville, California 96093
Telephone: 530-623-1800, Fax: 530-623-5944

TECHNICAL MEMORANDUM

TO: TRINITY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

FROM: TRRP INTERDISCIPLINARY TEAM

via ERIC PETERSON, SCIENCE COORDINATOR, IDT COORDINATOR

CC: MIKE DIXON, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

JAMES LEE, IMPLEMENTATION BRANCH CHIEF, ACTING EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

SUBJECT: RECOMMENDATION FROM FLOW WORKGROUP ON WATER YEAR 2026 FLOW
RELEASE SCHEDULES

DATE: SEPTEMBER 11, 2025

ATTACHMENT: FLOW WORKGROUP MEMO: RECOMMENDATION FROM FLOW WORK GROUP
TO IDT FOR FLOWS FROM THE PERIOD OF OCTOBER 16, 2025 TO OCTOBER 15, 2026
(WATER YEAR 2026)

The TRRP Interdisciplinary Team (IDT) met on September 3, 2025 and discussed the attached memo from the TRRP Flow Workgroup, and the flow proposal described. The consensus of the IDT, with no concerns raised, was to support the Flow Workgroup's proposal that Winter Flow Variability be implemented in Water Year 2026, and to forward the Flow Workgroup's memo to the Trinity Management Council (TMC) for consideration.

Eric Peterson

TRRP Interdisciplinary Team Coordinator



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TECHNICAL MEMORANDUM

TO: ERIC PETERSON, SCIENCE COORDINATOR, BUREAU OF RECLAMATION, IDT COORDINATOR

FROM: PATRICK FLYNN, FLOW WORKGROUP COORDINATOR

CC: MIKE DIXON, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, TRINITY RIVER RESTORATION PROGRAM

SUBJECT: RECOMMENDATION FROM FLOW WORK GROUP TO IDT FOR FLOWS FROM THE PERIOD OF OCTOBER 16, 2025 TO OCTOBER 15, 2026 (WATER YEAR 2026)

DATE: AUGUST 13, 2025

ATTACHMENT: N/A

Recommendation For WY2026

On December 19, 2024, the Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for the Trinity River Variable Flow Project was signed by the Bureau of Reclamation, the Hoopa Valley Tribe, and the Yurok Tribe. The FONSI contains a statement:

The proposed activities in the Variable Flow Project as described above and in Chapter 2 of the EA and as adopted by the TMC in September 2024 will take effect in December 2024 for water year 2025. Similar Winter Flow Variability projects with a Flow Synchronization Period and Elevated Baseflow Period may also be adopted in the next two consecutive water years consistent with this EA subject to the ROD's adaptive management process and approval by the TMC or consistent with the ESA reconsultation and associated decisions for Trinity River Division operations (as appropriate).

To meet the objectives of this statement, the Flow Work Group (FWG) met on August 11, 2025 to decide upon an approach to flow planning for Water Year 2026 (WY2026). The Flow Work Group unanimously recommended implementation of the full Winter Flow Variability (WV) project during WY2026 including a Flow Synchronization Period and Elevated Baseflow Period. The FWG also recommends that, after the “winter period” (December 15 – April 14) is concluded, the remaining water volume (as allocated by the April 50% B120 forecast) be scheduled and released in line with the requirements of the 2000 Record of Decision (ROD).

WY2025 was unique in two primary ways. First, it was the first implementation of the full WV project including a flow synchronization event. Second, WY2025 saw the implementation of reservoir safety releases (a.k.a. Safety of Dams releases or SODs) throughout much of the “winter flow period” (December 15 – April 15). The FWG recognizes that SOD releases are sometimes unavoidable to protect life and property. It is the understanding of the FWG that Reclamation staff reached out to staff members of the Trinity River Restoration

Program (TRRP) to ask for guidance as to how SOD releases were to be implemented for WY2025. We appreciate the effort made to include the TRRP when considering the best approach for SOD releases and thank Reclamation for that effort. The FWG encourages a similar approach be taken in the future, should SOD releases overlap with any portion of the winter or spring restoration releases. We appreciate the opportunity to provide guidance.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'P. Flynn', followed by a horizontal line.

Patrick Flynn
Flow Workgroup Coordinator