

Ellsworth Rose
P.O. Box 4149
Georgetown, CA 95634
(530) 333-0369

COPY

February 4, 1997

Mr. Mark Lantz
Editor & Publisher
El Dorado Gazette
P.O. Box 49
Georgetown, CA 95634-0049

JANUARY FLOOD CONTROL?

From my view point, those in charge of the large reservoir cubic feet per second (cfs) releases were responsible for 50% of the California river levee failures. Keep in mind, the prime function of these major reservoirs from the first part of December to the last days of March is flood control.

By Friday, January 3, 1997, the weather forecast was forecasting a high pressure ridge and an end to rain in California's hardest hit storm areas. Yet, by Saturday, January 4, 1997, Shasta's outflow is still 64,779 cfs, Orville is still 108,967 cfs and Folsom is still 104,527 cfs!!!!???

From Monday, December 30, 1996 through Saturday, January 4, 1997, Shasta could have stored an additional 138,028 acre feet of water. Orville could have stored an additional 205,446 acre feet and Folsom could have stored an additional 110,633 acre feet. But they chose to release it. Just one acre foot of water is 35 ft. x 35 ft. x 35 ft. high, or 43,560 cubic feet. The 3 mentioned reservoirs totaled an over-release of 454,107 acre feet.

Officials will say they needed to bring the reservoirs storage down as fast as possible to be ready for the next storm system. I say there were no storms in the forecast, levees were failing left and right, yet the high flows continued!!!!???. The outflows of Shasta, Orville and Folsom should have been cut to the bare minimum, just enough outflow for fish to survive. These large reservoirs should have been filled to the brim instead of allowing an additional 454,107 acre feet to block the egress of every California river which must exit to the Pacific via the Delta river system.

Officials will say 454,107 acre feet is just a drop in the bucket. I say when we have rivers running one foot below the tops of levees, it is lunacy to inject just one more acre foot into the rivers much less 454,107 acre feet.

With the forecast for no rain and expected high tides, why weren't these major reservoirs filled to the maximum instead of setting up a water blockage of more than 450,000 acre feet!? The question is: How many levees did we loose due to this over-release?

Figures for this article are from page B2 daily water storage data of the Sacramento Bee.

Sincerely,



Ellsworth Rose