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## Save California Salmon Statement on Trump’s California Water Executive Orders and Impacts on California Water and Wildfires

Los Angeles, CA - Today, President Trump issued executive orders regarding increasing water diversions and withholding aid to California two days after visiting fire-impacted areas in Los Angeles where he tied disaster relief for California to overriding critical California water quality, Endangered Species Act and Bay Delta protections.

“There is no question that this is a manufactured crisis and water grab for the agricultural sector, who are mainly growing crops for export,” stated Regina Chichizola from Save California Salmon. “Save California Salmon strongly opposes any federal

actions that prioritize private interests over protecting millions of peoples' drinking water quality, Indigenous Peoples' rights, salmon, and jobs in the fishing industry."

Kasil Willie of Save California Salmon added, "These orders taken in conjunction with the myriad of actions taken this week show that Trump intends to attack the environment in any way that he can. California has been placed on the chopping block, and Governor Newsom must do everything he can to protect our beautiful state and all who live here."

Southern California water districts and leaders have been very clear there is no water crisis in Southern California and that the climate induced weather conditions and other factors hampered initial firefighting efforts. Southern California reservoirs are at above average levels. Meanwhile, California's salmon fishing industry is facing its third year of commercial and recreational salmon fishing shutdowns due to water policy with devastated salmon populations under the previous Trump administration.

The Sacramento Bay Delta, which is fed by California's largest rivers, is the West Coast's Largest freshwater tidal estuary. It is known as one of the most over-allocated and degraded waterways in the west. Experts have warned that weakened protections would hasten the decline of California's salmon, which are essential to our ecosystems, cultures, and economies.

"The challenges of wildfire recovery and water management demand thoughtful, science-based, and community-driven solutions—not political strong-arming that disregards Indigenous rights, possible solutions, and essential environmental protections," stated Josa Talley from Save California Salmon. "President Trump has placed an unacceptably high cost on these potential federal emergency funds. We urge California to enact state laws to help Californians prepare for fires, safeguard the drinking water quality, and ensure adequate water flows in our rivers."

Talley continued, "Disaster relief for the second biggest city in the United States should not be held hostage by Trump's unreasonable water demands."

Save California Salmon remains committed to protecting clean water, healthy rivers, and sustainable ecosystems. We will not stand silent in the face of policies that harm salmon, waterways, or the communities that depend on them.

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