

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
STATE OF MONTANA

GREG GIANFORTE
GOVERNOR



KRISTEN JURAS
LT. GOVERNOR

SYSTEM OPERATIONAL REQUEST

July 13, 2023

Columbia River Technical Management Team
c/o Chairman Doug Baus
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Dear Columbia River Technical Management Team:

Regarding the drought conditions in the Flathead Valley and low water levels in Flathead Lake, I asked officials with the U.S. Department of the Interior on July 6 to provide specific data and information to guide a potential request for a release from the Hungry Horse Project (Hungry Horse). I have yet to receive a formal response, only partial, incomplete information.

On July 11, I urged the Columbia River Technical Management Team (TMT) to act, writing "any and all solutions must be fully discussed at the upcoming meeting of the Technical Management Team," and made three specific requests to the TMT. No meaningful action was taken at yesterday's TMT meeting.

Pursuant to TMT guidelines, TMT members and non-TMT members may provide recommendations to the TMT in the form of System Operational Requests (SOR) to deviate from or refine planned, existing, or BiOp recommended operations.

Therefore, as a non-TMT member, I submit this letter as my SOR for the TMT to use all available data and criteria to consider releases from the Hungry Horse into Flathead Lake in an amount practical and compliant with state and federal law and regulations.

Given time remains of the essence, I urge you to act without delay.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Greg Gianforte".

Greg Gianforte
Governor