

File: New Melones

May 5, 1975

President Gerald Ford
White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, D.C.

Dear President Ford:

The enclosed petitions were gathered by volunteers from 1971 to 1972. They were to have been submitted to President Nixon, in the hope that he would prevent the construction of New Melones Dam. Although our staff scientist Gerald Meral went to Washington to deliver them, John Ehrlichman personally refused to admit Dr. Meral to the White House, or to receive the petitions in any way except by mail. This was clearly unacceptable to the thousands of volunteers who collected them.

Your administration has shown itself to be more open to the people, and although much has happened on the New Melones Dam issue since 1972, including an unsuccessful initiative statewide in California, we hope you will still consider stopping construction of New Melones Dam until it becomes clear what the dam will be used for. California Governor Brown has called for the inclusion of language which would restrict the filling of the reservoir until it can be proven that the dam is truly needed, thus preserving the upper nine miles of river--California's most popular watercourse for "white-water" recreation.

We would be glad to provide you with more information on this issue, and we hope you will take into consideration the amount of work which went into gathering the signatures on these petitions, which bear over 120,000 names.

Very truly yours,

David A. Kay
Educational Programs

bcc: Doug Allen, Roanoke