



STATE OF MONTANA

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May 30, 2023

Brian Mercier
Regional Director
Northwest Regional Office BIA
911 NE 11th Avenue
Portland, OR 97232

Larry Nelson
Manager
220 Project Drive
St. Ignatius, MT 59865

RE: Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribal Water Compact

Director Mercier and Manager Nelson,

I have recently been informed by members of the Mission and Jocko Irrigation District that the Bureau of Indian Affairs intends to begin immediate implementation of the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribal (CSKT) water compact.

While I understand that the CSKT water compact has been adopted by the Montana Legislature and ratified by the United States Senate, significant legal issues still surround it. These issues are, at least in part, being litigated in the Montana State Water Court. I request that the BIA delay implementation of the CSKT water compact until the Montana Water Court has completed its work and these issues have been resolved.

Sincerely,

Austin Knudsen