

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

January 28, 2025

The Honorable Pete Hegseth
Secretary
Department of Defense
1000 Defense Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301-1000

Dear Secretary Hegseth,

I write regarding President Trump's January 27th post on Truth Social in which he wrote, "The United States Military just entered the Great State of California and, under Emergency Powers, TURNED ON THE WATER flowing abundantly from the Pacific Northwest, and beyond. The days of putting a Fake Environmental argument, over the PEOPLE, are OVER. Enjoy the water, California!!!"

Given this statement from the President and Commander-in-Chief of the U.S. Armed Forces, I ask that you respond in writing to the following questions:

1. Which units of the U.S. Armed Forces have been assigned to this mission?
2. Specifically, where in California were they deployed? Please name the specific cities that were "entered" by U.S. Armed Forces, and the names and ownership of any facilities where troops were assigned.
3. When the President says members of the military "TURNED ON THE WATER," what specific actions did U.S. servicemembers undertake to accomplish this mission?
4. To which specific "Emergency Powers" is the President referring to justify this mission?
5. Compared to the week of January 13, 2025, how much more water is now flowing through the federal pumps?

Clarity and transparency on these matters are crucial to ensure that the public is properly informed and that any actions comply with federal laws governing the use of the U.S. military within the United States.

I look forward to your prompt response to these questions.

Sincerely,



Alex Padilla
United States Senator