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# California State Senate



**SENATOR  
JIM NIELSEN**

FOURTH SENATE DISTRICT

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VICE CHAIR

February 14, 2017

## Open Letter to North State Citizens

On Sunday, North State residents were alarmed by the alert from the Department of Water Resources about the potential failure of the auxiliary spillway at Lake Oroville.

Within hours, the great people of the North State, from Plumas Lake to Oroville, peacefully evacuated their homes due to the damaged spillways at Lake Oroville. Nearly 200,000 people loaded their most valuable possessions, pets and essential needs into vehicles and headed on to crammed highways.

In heavy traffic, North State residents – fearing the unknown and dealing with anxiety, no doubt – evacuated without incident.

Law enforcement officials and social workers helped steer citizens to where they needed to go. Hundreds of first responders assisted and transported those who were most vulnerable. Residents of neighboring regions opened their homes to strangers.

Construction crews filled bags of rocks overnight so helicopters could drop them into the spillway at first sunlight. Workers continue to watch water levels around the clock.

In this time of high stress and unease, the citizens of our region held their heads up high and behaved admirably.

These are amazing actions of kindness, cooperation and patience.

The world's eyes are upon us. Thank you for showing the world how great Americans are.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jim Nielsen".

Jim Nielsen  
Senator  
Fourth District