



United States House of Representatives Media Alert

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

December 10, 2015

CONTACT

Rep. Valadao	Anna R. Vetter; (202) 815-1685
Rep. Calvert	Jason Gagnon; (202) 225-1986
Leader McCarthy	Matt Sparks; (202) 225-4000
Rep. Nunes	Jack Langer; (202) 225-2523
Rep. Denham	Jordan Langdon; (202) 225-4540
Rep. Cook	Peter Rescigno; (202) 225-5861
Rep. McClintock	Jennifer Cressy; (202) 225-2511
Rep. LaMalfa	Kevin Eastman; (202) 225-3076
Rep. Walters	Christine Hardman; (202) 225-5611
Rep. Knight	Dan Outlaw; (202) 225-1956
Rep. Issa	Ben Carnes; (202) 225-3906
Rep. Royce	Saat Alety; (202) 225-4111
Rep. Hunter	Joe Kasper; (202) 225-5672
Rep. Rohrabacher	Ken Grubbs; (202) 225-2415

California Members Issue Statements on Water Negotiations

Washington, DC – Today, California Members of the House of Representatives released a timeline outlining water negotiations between the House of Representatives and the U.S. Senate dating back to 2011. In addition, Members issued statements regarding their ongoing, years-long efforts to alleviate the impacts of California's drought.

Negotiation Timeline

2011

- H.R. 1837 the *Sacramento-San Joaquin Valley Water Reliability Act* is introduced in the House. The bill would roll back government restrictions on the pumping of water for use by California communities and would ease regulations that result in hundreds of billions of gallons of fresh water getting flushed out into the ocean.

2012

- The House passes H.R. 1837.
- The Senate, with a Democratic majority, does not consider H.R. 1837 or pass its own water bill.

2014

- The House introduces and passes H.R. 3964, the *Sacramento-San Joaquin Emergency Water Delivery Act*, another attempt to ease government water regulations that restrict the water supply.
- Senator Feinstein introduces S. 2016, the *California Emergency Drought Relief Act*, which would provide far less water for California families than H.R. 3964.
- Senator Feinstein then pushes House Republicans to instruct Senate Republicans to allow passage of a second bill, the *Emergency Drought Relief Act of 2014*, S. 2198, which allowed the two Chambers to enter a negotiating conference.
- House members and Senators begin talks on a compromise water bill, but Senator Feinstein walks away from the negotiations shortly before Congress adjourns
- The House quickly passes H.R. 5781, the *California Emergency Drought Relief Act of 2014*, that reflects negotiated language with Senator Feinstein.
- Senators Boxer and Feinstein block H.R. 5781 from being included in an omnibus spending bill.

2015

- The House introduces and passes H.R. 2898, the *Western Water and American Food Security Act of 2015*, which reflects the 2014 negotiations with the Senate.
- The Senate introduces a water bill that spends \$1.3 billion without an offset, meaning it has no chance of passing either chamber.
- House-Senate negotiators meet for several months and make progress toward an agreement.
- The House submits language to include in an omnibus spending bill that retains Democrat priorities as well as Republican priorities that the Obama Administration had largely agreed not to oppose.
- Senator Feinstein publically rejects the proposal less than 24 hours after the proposal is made privately.

Individual statements from members of the California Delegation are below:

Leader Kevin McCarthy (CA-23)

“The current drought and water crisis demands a response. The California Republican delegation has put forth a proposal to provide our communities immediate relief as El Nino is likely to bring a wetter than usual winter. Continued opposition from California Democrats in Congress to any solution that is designed to allow more water to flow to central and southern California only exacerbates the current drought and hurts our state. The response from Senator Feinstein and Senator Boxer is disappointing given our proposal’s inclusion of many California Democrat priorities but unfortunately not surprising as they have opposed every legislative effort to find bipartisan agreement. The stakes are too high not to act.”

Congressman Ken Calvert (CA-42)

“One of our top priorities throughout these negotiations was to create flexibility in the operation of the pumps in the Delta in order to capture as much water as possible during the upcoming rainy season (El Niño). After many lengthy discussions with the Senate, the Administration, conservation groups, water districts throughout the state, and other interested stakeholders, we

arrived at a compromise that would have provided some relief to the drought-stricken communities of California. The language that was proposed did not violate the Endangered Species Act or the biological opinions; a view that was shared by the Administration. We entered into good faith omnibus negotiations at Senator Feinstein's *request*. The deal was close to done but unfortunately, Senator Feinstein took umbrage to what was at most a staffer error in a closed-door meeting. Our 14 California Republican members remained hopeful, and quiet, until the 11th hour trying to resolve small differences with a bipartisan coalition to help the state of California. Our good faith negotiations came to naught. It's unfortunate when the LA Times gets the story wrong, but it is tragic when the Senate gets the policy wrong."

Congressman David G. Valadao (CA-21)

"The House of Representatives has repeatedly tried to provide a federal solution to drought conditions impacting our constituents. However, our Senators from California have failed to get a single piece of legislation, even vaguely related to the drought, passed in the Senate this year. To no avail, the House has exhausted all legislative resources. My House-passed bill, H.R. 2898, the *Western Water and American Food Security Act* remains in the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources pending further action. The House of Representatives looks forward to the Senate passing legislation so that the two Chambers may go to Conference to reconcile differences between the Chambers."

Congressman Devin Nunes (CA-22)

"The House has proposed a compromise to ease the California water crisis -- one that satisfies the Senate's demands -- and once again Senate Democrats are rejecting our efforts by prioritizing fish over families. If anyone still wonders why Congress has not approved pumping more water for California communities, they should look at the Senate's inexplicable refusal to take yes for an answer."

Congressman Jeff Denham (CA-10)

"While Californians suffer through a horrific drought, our senators continue to request secret negotiations only to stall the process. More storage equals jobs. I will settle for nothing less."

Congressman Paul Cook (CA-08)

"California is facing the worst drought in a century. California Republicans have been trying for weeks to work with the administration and our California Senators on a drought bill to bring relief to California and capitalize on the upcoming El Niño season. The time to act is now and I urge our California Senators to join us in getting a water deal done."

Congressman Tom McClintock (CA-04)

"For many critical months, House Republicans have negotiated in good faith with Congressional Democrats led by Senator Feinstein for a water policy that balanced the desperate needs of the people of California with the demands of the environmental Left. The events of the last week make it obvious that neither she nor the Democratic delegation has been dealing in good faith and that their plan from the outset is to run out the legislative clock. Droughts are nature's fault, but water shortages are a public policy choice. And regrettably, the Democrats continue to choose scarcity over abundance."

Congressman Doug LaMalfa (CA-01)

“Every aspect of this proposal was developed by a working group of California’s Republican and Democratic members of the House and Senate, in cooperation with the Obama administration, Governor Brown’s administration, agricultural and urban water districts, environmental groups, and other stakeholders. Any member who claims that they weren’t included has willfully chosen not to be a part of this process and is choosing not to be part of a workable solution to California’s water crisis. The simple facts are that time has run out, that these proposals have received broad, bipartisan, bicameral support, and that the people of California has been waiting for action for three long years.”

Congresswoman Mimi Walters (CA-45)

“Finding a solution to California’s drought problem is one of my top priorities and we must seize the opportunity to address this issue immediately. With over 37 million people throughout the state impacted by the drought, it is critical that Congress take action and pass legislation that will provide relief to California’s families, farmers, and businesses. We simply cannot afford to stand by and continue to allow existing policies to mismanage our water resources. I remain committed to working with my colleagues to address this problem.”

Congressman Stephen Knight (CA-25)

“California’s water issue will require swift, coordinated action between local, state, and federal agencies. By refusing to act on this measure, Congress will miss a critical opportunity to do its part, which will further hurt California’s families and communities.”

Congressman Darrell E. Issa (CA-49)

“The purpose of this drought relief bill is to expeditiously bring water to California communities, which have been suffering from a devastating drought for more than four years. House Republicans have been diligently working with Senator Feinstein for months, crafting a bill ideal for bipartisan and bicameral support. It is disingenuous for someone who has been a critical participant in these discussions to say that the process was secretive. I am hopeful that the Senator can put our communities first and help us bring drought relief to our state as soon as possible.”

Congressman Ed Royce (CA-39)

“Republicans and Democrats have been in negotiations for months in an attempt to develop a solution to California’s prolonged water shortages. Our proposal strikes the right balance by increasing pumping and water storage without violating the Endangered Species Act and providing funding for desalination and water recycling programs. It’s a shame that Democrats have abandoned the negotiating table instead of helping deliver California the relief it so desperately needs.”

Congressman Duncan Hunter (CA-50)

“Millions of Californians are suffering from the worst drought conditions in our state’s history. We must take action to address California’s water crisis without further delay, and enact real solutions that will provide relief to citizens across our state.”

Congressman Dana Rohrabacher (CA-48)

“Californians can no longer be treated as second-class citizens by congressional Democrats and radical environmentalists who insist on putting fish first. Democrats must stop interfering with our efforts to make sure that Californians have the water they need.”

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Compromise drought package could move next week

Annie Snider, E&E reporter

Published: Tuesday, November 10, 2015

Lawmakers negotiating a Western drought relief package are hopeful they are nearing a compromise bill that could be marked up in the Senate next week.

In a brief interview this afternoon, Sen. Dianne Feinstein (D-Calif.), who has been leading negotiations on the California piece for the upper chamber, said lawmakers are motivated to get something done in time to be included in the end-of-year spending package for the federal government. She said active negotiations with the House are underway.

"We hope to have something that can go to markup -- I think it's next Friday -- and then be included in the omnibus," she said. "You see, for us, if we don't catch the early flows of water, we lose them. So if you get a bill done in the spring, it's too late to be able to hold the water that we need to hold."

Senate Energy and Natural Resources Chairwoman Lisa Murkowski (R-Alaska) confirmed in a separate interview that a markup is in the works for before Thanksgiving recess.

California is now in the fifth year of a record drought that is sending reservoir levels plummeting, forcing deep cuts to deliveries for the state's economically powerful agriculture industry and prompting efficiency measures for cities and suburbs.

The state's lawmakers have spent more than two years trying to put together a relief package that would free up water for central and Southern California. But a deep divide has remained between the House and the Senate, largely over whether and to what extent Endangered Species Act protections should be altered to do so.

With the drought now engulfing vast swaths of the West, Murkowski this year broadened the legislative effort to West-wide legislation, but the divide between California lawmakers in the House and Senate has continued to stymie progress ([E&E Daily](#), Oct. 9).

Murkowski said this afternoon that, whatever the avenue to passage, her focus is still on a bill that addresses the entire region's needs.

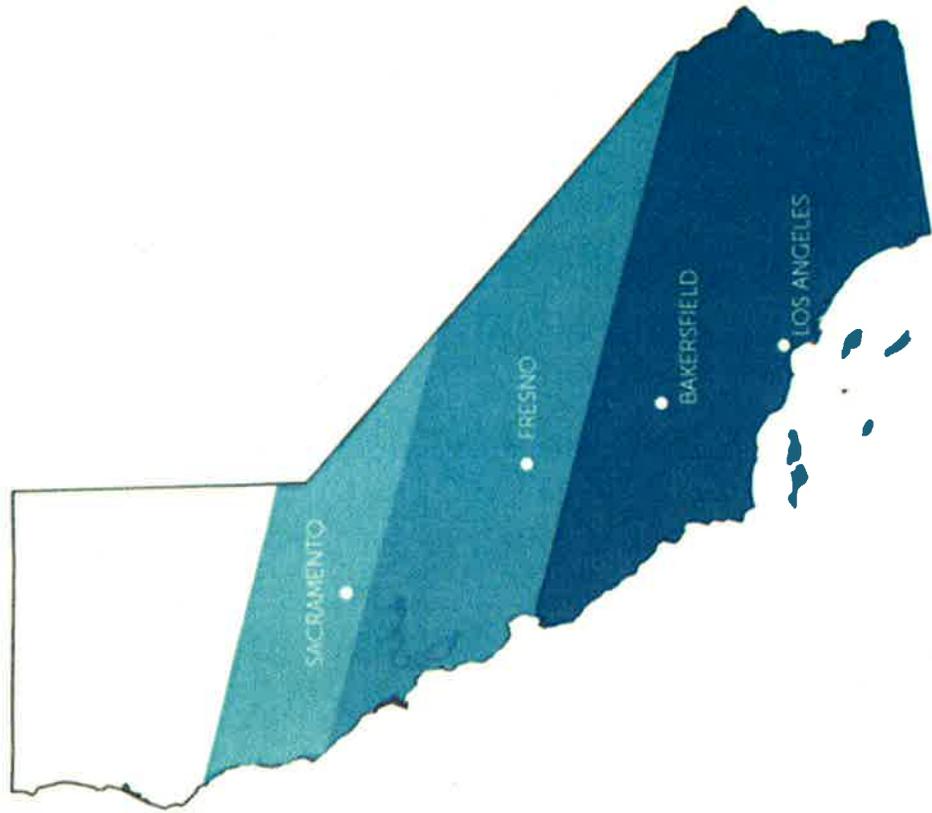
"We have been working to do a broader, West-wide, California, full-meal deal, and that's the push," she said. "I've met with several members of the California delegation -- Sen. [Maria] Cantwell [D-Wash.] and myself -- and all of us are talking about the broader piece, the broader package."

She said she is looking at "all the options" for moving such a package.

California lawmakers have been under pressure from groups representing farmers, cities and other major water users in the West to put aside their differences and find common ground quickly enough for legislation to go into effect for this winter's rainy season ([E&E Daily](#), Oct. 28).

Feinstein said this afternoon that, after years of work, the time has come to make a deal real.

"We have worked and worked and worked; I have people who know this stuff chapter and verse, [who have] met with group after group after group," she said. "But at a certain point you've got to put it together and get it done, and we're at that point."



33% ABOVE NORMAL PRECIPITATION

40% ABOVE NORMAL PRECIPITATION

50% ABOVE NORMAL PRECIPITATION

Source: NOAA, Three Month Outlook Precipitation Probability

Democrats vs. Republicans at Negotiations



■ Boxer

■ Feinstein

■ Garamendi

■ Napolitano

■ McCarthy

■ McClintock

■ Calvert



FRIANT
NORTH
AUTHORITY



Westlands Water District



SOUTH VALLEY WATER ASSOCIATION



December 9, 2015

Senator Dianne Feinstein
United States Senate
331 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Kevin McCarthy
House Majority Leader
H-107, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

Senator Feinstein and Leader McCarthy:

We are writing to express our appreciation and ask for your continued efforts to find a legislative solution to the water crisis facing the State of California. The undersigned and your staff, as well as staff from other California delegation offices, have worked tirelessly to develop compromise, common sense legislation that does not amend the Endangered Species Act or existing biological opinions while at the same time creating much needed operational flexibility to provide water for California's families, farms and businesses.

The California drought is a slow moving natural disaster with impacts having been documented by media outlets locally, nationally, and across the globe. The accumulated impacts of the past four years have devastated families, created unlivable conditions in many of the Valley's disadvantaged communities, reduced California's ability to feed the nation and the world, and left local governments with increased demands for social services. Nowhere in the State have the impacts of water supply shortages been more severe than in the Central Valley.

As you know, the lack of snow pack and rainfall are not the only reasons the State has run dangerously low on water. Administrative actions have paralyzed operations of the Central Valley Project and the California State Water Project. These water supply delivery systems have historically been able to supply the State with water, even during extended drought conditions. If legislation to provide clear congressional direction and to create operational flexibility for the State's two major water projects is not enacted this year, the devastation

experienced over the last four years could be extended to a fifth year, even with the El Nino conditions projected for this winter. That is, millions of acre feet of water will be lost, at a time when the people of the state of California need it most.

We need you to act now, through any vehicle possible, to pass legislation that can provide California with relief. You personally have acknowledged the need for action this year. Historically, California's heaviest rainfall occurs from December through March. Legislation must be enacted now to take advantage of those wet months. Waiting to take up the discussions and process again when Congress returns in January will be too late to help in 2016. For these reasons, absent another form of legislation that would be equally effective, we must support inclusion of the compromise, common sense legislation you and others have worked on in the omnibus appropriations bill being considered by both Houses of Congress.

Thank you for your continued leadership and dedication to find common sense solutions that are required to sustain the people and the economy of the State of California.

Sincerely,

Friant North Authority
Friant Water Authority
Kern County Water Agency
San Joaquin River Exchange Contractors
San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water Authority
South Valley Water Association
Westlands Water District

Cc: California Congressional Delegation
House Speaker Paul Ryan
Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell
Senator Lisa Murkowski

California State Senate

SENATOR
JEAN FULLER

SENATE REPUBLICAN LEADER
SIXTEENTH SENATE DISTRICT



December 10, 2015

The Honorable Dianne Feinstein
United States Senate
Washington, D. C. 20510

The Honorable David Valadao
U. S. House of Representatives
Washington, D. C. 20515

The Honorable Barbara Boxer
United States Senate
Washington, D. C. 20510

The Honorable Tom McClintock
U. S. House of Representatives
Washington, D. C. 20515

The Honorable Ken Calvert
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The Honorable Devin Nunes
U. S. House of Representatives
Washington, D. C. 20515

The Honorable Doug LaMalfa
U. S. House of Representatives
Washington, D. C. 20515

The Honorable Jim Costa
U. S. House of Representatives
Washington, D. C. 20515

Dear Senators and Representatives,

I am writing to ask that you necessitate immediate action in Congress to address California's dire water crisis. As you know, California is experiencing a persistent, catastrophic drought, and one of the driest years on record since 1895. This is negatively affecting communities, families, the environment, and industries statewide.

Many communities are depleting their existing water supplies or simply running out of water altogether, as we have seen in some Central Valley regions. The extent of the drought has also resulted in unprecedented water rationing orders designed to stretch our already limited supplies into the future and first-of-their-kind groundwater regulations in our state. California's water

situation remains bleak; however, I believe that opportunity still exists to give our state a fighting chance.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), predicts the current El Nino in the Pacific Ocean has a 95% chance of continuing through the 2015-2016 winter, and further states that current atmospheric conditions indicate this could be a strong El Nino, bringing heavy and much-needed precipitation to our drought-parched state, in northern, central, and southern California. Therefore, the time to act is now.

In addition, NOAA Climate Prediction Center (CPC) data shows there is a 66% chance that El Nino could bring normal to above normal precipitation this winter in northern California, where rain and snow feed critical reservoirs that supply water to the rest of our state. CPC data also shows upwards of a 93% chance of normal to above average precipitation for the rest of the state. This precipitation would likely peak in the first quarter of 2016. This El Nino-related precipitation will provide the desperately needed water that is crucial for our struggling constituents.

In an effort to capture as much precipitation from these rare El Nino conditions, we need to act immediately through any means possible to pass legislation to bring California relief. The legislation proposed by Republican Members of California's House Delegation for inclusion in the omnibus appropriations bill is largely the product of an extraordinary bi-partisan effort, negotiated in good faith among Members of the California Delegation with Federal agencies. While arguably not perfect, this legislation is the best vehicle to enact law to avoid disastrous results for millions of Californians.

It is for these reasons that I humbly urge you to support language offered by California House Republicans in the upcoming omnibus appropriations bill, and pass legislation to help get California flowing towards recovery.

Sincerely,



JEAN FULLER
California State Senate
16th District

SEAN P. GEIVET
General Manager

JODY A. GRISWOLD-
BRATCHER
Secretary-Treasurer
Assessor/Collector

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Vice-President

DENNIS L. SCHNEIDER
Director

JOSEPH "BRETT" McCOWAN
Director

EDWIN L. CHAMBERS
Director

December 9, 2015

The Honorable Dianne Feinstein
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Barbara Boxer
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Ken Calvert
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Devin Nunes
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Jim Costa
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable David Valadao
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Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable John Garamendi
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Doug LaMalfa
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Senators and Representatives:

We are among the 15,000 farmers in the Friant Division of the Central Valley Project (CVP) on the Eastside of the San Joaquin Valley, and we write to urgently request your assistance to immediately enact legislation to provide at least some chance of relief from the water shortage that is destroying our communities.

Physical: 22086 Avenue 160, Porterville CA 93257-9261
Mailing: PO Box 1248, Porterville CA 93258-1248
Phone: 559-784-0716 Fax: 559-784-6733

December 9, 2015

Page 2 of 3

After two years with no water deliveries from the CVP, the farms and communities of the Friant Division are facing another devastatingly dry year. We've already lost many small family-owned citrus farms, and those of us who have managed to hold things together thus far are running out of options. Groundwater supplies and life savings are depleted. A third year without water will mean more farms going under and more unemployment. It means that agriculture on the Eastside of the San Joaquin Valley as we know it today – mostly small family farms – will be ruined. We need you to act NOW to prevent this. We need you to pass legislation this month to ensure that winter CVP operations can make some water available to the Friant Division to help us scrape by for another year in the hope of a better future.

Only Congress – only you, our elected representatives, can help. The Bureau of Reclamation has abandoned the Friant Division, effectively writing off a taxpayer investment that has returned huge benefits to the region and to the Nation for six decades. The federal agencies have turned their backs on our families, our economy, and our future.. We implore you not to do the same.

While we understand and respect the desire to continue to pursue legislation through the standard process, the plain and simple fact is that there isn't enough time for that. Besides, there is nothing in the pending legislative proposals that hasn't been thoroughly examined by Members of Congress of both parties, by federal and state agencies, and by supporters and critics alike. During the past four years, there have been four House and Senate drought bills introduced, two passed by the House, and at least three Congressional hearings on the California drought and drought legislation, including one in the Senate only a few weeks ago. There is little, if anything, to be gained by more process, except delay, we can't afford any more of that.

While the California Delegation has worked hard to overcome partisan and regional differences to find a compromise to maximize water for farms, towns and cities while protecting endangered species, some environmental groups have spent their time loudly and harshly attacking every bill and legislative proposal to increase operational flexibility in the Delta and the CVP. They have been explicit and exceedingly clear that they will oppose ANY drought legislation. Their feigned ignorance of the Delegation's negotiating process and their manufactured outrage at every reasonable idea must be recognized for what they are: a tactic, a ploy, a strategy of intimidation and delay. It worked for them a year ago when the Delegation neared agreement on drought legislation only to stumble at the last minute under a withering barrage of orchestrated attacks. And it appears, to us at least, that the same strategy of fearmongering, intimidation and delay is being employed again now, just when all your hard work is about to pay off. Don't let it succeed.

December 9, 2015

Page 3 of 3

We are genuinely grateful to each of you for the vast amounts of time and effort that you have invested in negotiations over the past few months and last year. But the time for talk is over. It's time to act.

The legislation proposed by Members California's House Delegation for inclusion in the omnibus appropriations bill is the product of an extraordinary bipartisan effort and good-faith negotiations among Members of the California Delegation and with federal and state agencies. It's not perfect, but don't let perfect be the enemy of the good. Don't let process substitute for action. We urge you; *we beg you* to act now, through any vehicle possible, to pass legislation that can provide some relief to the Friant Division and to California as a whole.

Do the right thing. Please.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Sean P. Geivet", is written over the typed name.

Sean P. Geivet
General Manager

ORANGE COVE IRRIGATION DISTRICT

1130 Park Boulevard - P.O. Box 308
ORANGE COVE, CALIFORNIA 93646
Phone: (559) 626-4461
Fax: (559) 626-4463

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December 9, 2015

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United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

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U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

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United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Tom McClintock
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Washington, D.C. 20515

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U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

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The Honorable Devin Nunes
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Doug LaMalfa
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Jim Costa
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

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Do the right thing. Please.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Fergus Morrissey". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, sweeping "F" and "M".

Fergus Morrissey

Engineer-Manager

Orange Cove Irrigation District



December 7, 2015

The Honorable Paul Cook
Member of Congress
1222 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Cook:

On behalf of the Hi-Desert Water District I am pleased to inform you of our support of the proposed California Emergency Drought Relief and Water Storage language to be included in a Consolidated Appropriations Act for fiscal year 2016. We are particularly encouraged by the establishment of new water recycling and reuse projects with competitive grants funding. We believe this legislation would improve California's water supply sustainably for the future.

We support this bill because it encourages short-term drought mitigations efforts and long-term infrastructure capabilities through the combination of federal and local investment. These water recycling and reuse projects would provide critical funding to high-priority areas and will not only provide a more reliable water supply, but would also help protect local ecosystems and reduce our impact on local water resources. The bill would encourage these water projects to have multiple beneficiaries—from cities and agriculture, to fisheries and wildlife—ensuring that Californians can look forward to both maintaining basic water needs and ensuring environmental sustainability.

I would like to personally thank you for your and your staff's leadership and continued efforts toward maintaining multifaceted approach to ensuring Californians have adequate water supply now and in the years to come.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ed Muzik".

Ed Muzik
General Manager





Yucaipa Valley Water District

12770 Second Street • P. O. Box 730 • Yucaipa, California 92399-0730
(909) 797-5117 • Fax: (909) 797-6381 • www.yvwd.dst.ca.us

December 4, 2015

Congressman Paul Cook
8th District
1222 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Attn: Peter Rescigno
Via Email: Peter.Rescigno@mail.house.gov

Subject: Support of the California Emergency Drought Relieve and Water Storage Legislation

Dear Congressman Cook,

The Yucaipa Valley Water District strongly supports the efforts by Congress to address California's historic drought by expanding water infrastructure development included in the *Western Water and American Food Security Act of 2015*. This important bill will expand our water infrastructure, allow for more water conveyance, and utilize legitimate science to ensure a reliable water supply for farmers and families.

The Federal government can show leadership in creating the necessary infrastructure, and environmental protections California needs to plan for the future. We encourage Senators Diane Feinstein and Senator Barbra Boxer to work with the House delegation to forge a compromise before the end of the 2015 legislative calendar.

California needs additional surface storage, water recycling, and desalination to provide the necessary water for our growing population and economy. The Yucaipa Valley Water District is proud of developing a robust recycled water program plan for our future. We generate 4 million gallons per day of high quality water in an effort to become water self-sufficient. Californians will benefit from similar federal planning for the state's future.

Sincerely,



Lonni Granlund, President
Board of Directors

cc: Congressman Kevin McCarthy
Via Email: kevinmccarthy.house.gov

Directors and Officers

KENNETH P. MUÑOZ
Division 1

BRUCE GRANLUND
Division 2

JAY BOGH
Division 3

LONNI GRANLUND
Division 4

THOMAS SHALHOUB
Division 5

JOSEPH B. ZOBA
General Manager
and Secretary



ARVIN-EDISON WATER STORAGE DISTRICT

December 9, 2015

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Jeffrey G. Gumarra
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Charles Fanucchi

Catalino M. Martinez

Kevin E. Pascoe

The Honorable Dianne Feinstein
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Barbara Boxer
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Ken Calvert
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable David Valadao
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Tom McClintock
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Jeff Denham
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable John Garamendi
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Doug LaMalfa
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Devin Nunes
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Jim Costa
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

STAFF

Steven C. Collopy
Engineer Manager

David A. Nixon

Assistant Manager

Jeevan S. Mular

Staff Engineer

Christopher P. Krauter

General Superintendent

Dear Senators and Representatives:

We are among the 15,000 farmers in the Friant Division of the Central Valley Project (CVP) on the Eastside of the San Joaquin Valley, and we write to urgently request your assistance to immediately enact legislation to provide at least some chance of relief from the water shortage that is destroying our communities.

After two years with no water deliveries from the CVP, the farms and communities of the Friant Division are facing another devastatingly dry year. We've already lost many small family-owned citrus farms, and those of us who have managed to hold things together thus far are running out of options. Groundwater supplies and life savings are depleted. A third year without water will mean more farms going under and more unemployment. It means that agriculture on the Eastside of the San Joaquin Valley as we know it today – mostly small family farms – will be ruined. We need you to act NOW to prevent this. We need you to pass legislation this month to ensure that winter CVP operations can make some water available to the Friant Division to help us scrape by for another year in the hope of a better future.

Only Congress – only you, our elected representatives, can help. The Bureau of Reclamation has abandoned the Friant Division, effectively writing off a taxpayer investment that has returned huge benefits to the region and to the Nation for six decades. The federal agencies have turned their backs on our families, our economy, and our future. We implore you not to do the same.

December 9, 2015
Page Two

While we understand and respect the desire to continue to pursue legislation through the standard process, the plain and simple fact is that there isn't enough time for that. Besides, there is nothing in the pending legislative proposals that hasn't been thoroughly examined by Members of Congress of both parties, by federal and state agencies, and by supporters and critics alike. During the past four years, there have been four House and Senate drought bills introduced, two passed by the House, and at least three Congressional hearings on the California drought and drought legislation, including one in the Senate only a few weeks ago. There is little, if anything, to be gained by more process, except delay, we can't afford any more of that.

While the California Delegation has worked hard to overcome partisan and regional differences to find a compromise to maximize water for farms, towns and cities while protecting endangered species, some environmental groups have spent their time loudly and harshly attacking every bill and legislative proposal to increase operational flexibility in the Delta and the CVP. They have been explicit and exceedingly clear that they will oppose ANY drought legislation. Their feigned ignorance of the Delegation's negotiating process and their manufactured outrage at every reasonable idea must be recognized for what they are: a tactic, a ploy, a strategy of intimidation and delay. It worked for them a year ago when the Delegation neared agreement on drought legislation only to stumble at the last minute under a withering barrage of orchestrated attacks. And it appears, to us at least, that the same strategy of fear mongering, intimidation and delay is being employed again now, just when all your hard work is about to pay off. Don't let it succeed.

We are genuinely grateful to each of you for the vast amounts of time and effort that you have invested in negotiations over the past few months and last year. But the time for talk is over. It's time to act.

The legislation proposed by Members California's House Delegation for inclusion in the omnibus appropriations bill is the product of an extraordinary bipartisan effort and good-faith negotiations among Members of the California Delegation and with federal and state agencies. It's not perfect, but don't let perfect be the enemy of the good. Don't let process substitute for action. We urge you; *we beg you* to act now, through any vehicle possible, to pass legislation that can provide some relief to the Friant Division and to California as a whole.

Do the right thing. Please.

Respectfully,



Steven C. Collup
Engineer-Manager

KERN-TULARE Water District

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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December 9, 2015

The Honorable Dianne Feinstein
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Barbara Boxer
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Ken Calvert
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Devin Nunes
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Jim Costa
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable David Valadao
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Tom McClintock
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Jeff Denham
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable John Garamendi
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Doug LaMalfa
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

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Do the right thing. Please.

Respectfully,



Steven C. Dalke
General Manager



801 South Mount Vernon Avenue
Bakersfield, CA 93307-2888
www.KernCFB.com

Phone: (661) 397-9635
Fax: (661) 397-3403
Email: kcfb@kerncfb.com

Jeff Rasmussen
President

Catalino "Tito" Martinez^{1st}
Vice President

John Moore III
2nd Vice President

Beatris Espericueta Sanders
Executive Director

December 10, 2015

Senator Dianne Feinstein
United States Senate
331 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Kevin McCarthy
House Majority Leader
H-107, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

Senator Feinstein and Leader McCarthy:

We are writing to express our appreciation and ask for your continued efforts to find a legislative solution to the water crisis facing the State of California. You and your staff, as well as staff from other California delegation offices, have worked tirelessly to develop compromise, common sense legislation that does not amend the Endangered Species Act or existing biological opinions while at the same time creating much needed operational flexibility to provide water for California's families, farms and businesses.

The California drought is a slow moving natural disaster with impacts having been documented by media outlets locally, nationally, and across the globe. The accumulated impacts of the past four years have devastated families, created unlivable conditions in many of the Valley's disadvantaged communities, reduced California's ability to feed the nation and the world, and left local governments with increased demands for social services. Nowhere in the State have the impacts of water supply shortages been more severe than in the Central Valley.

As you know, the lack of snow pack and rainfall are not the only reasons the State has run dangerously low on water. Administrative actions have paralyzed operations of the Central Valley Project and the California State Water Project. These water supply delivery systems have historically been able to supply the State with water, even during extended drought conditions. If legislation to provide clear congressional direction and to create operational flexibility for the State's two major water projects is not enacted this year, the devastation experienced over the last four years could be extended to a fifth year, even with the El Nino conditions projected for this winter. That is, millions of acre feet of water will be lost, at a time when the people of the state of California need it most.

We need you to act now, through the FY17 omnibus bill or any vehicle possible, to pass the emergency drought language offered by California House Republicans that can provide California with relief. You personally have acknowledged the need for action this year. Historically, California's heaviest rainfall occurs from December through March. The House proposal must be enacted now to take advantage of those wet months. Waiting to take up the discussions and process again when Congress returns in January will be too late to help in 2016. For these reasons, absent another form of legislation that would be equally effective, we must support inclusion of the House proposal in the omnibus appropriations bill being considered by both Houses of Congress.

Thank you for your continued leadership and dedication to find common sense solutions that are required to sustain the people and the economy of the State of California.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeff Rasmussen". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Jeff Rasmussen
President
Kern County Farm Bureau

Cc: California Congressional Delegation
House Speaker Paul Ryan
Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell
Senator Lisa Murkowski

December 9, 2015

The Honorable Dianne Feinstein
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable David Valadao
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Barbara Boxer
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Tom McClintock
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Ken Calvert
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Jeff Denham
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable John Garamendi
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Devin Nunes
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Doug LaMalfa
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Jim Costa
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Senators and Representatives:

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Only Congress – only you, our elected representatives, can help. The Bureau of Reclamation has abandoned the Friant Division, effectively writing off a taxpayer investment that has returned huge benefits to the region and to the Nation for six decades. The federal agencies have turned their backs on our families, our economy, and our future. We implore you not to do the same.

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Do the right thing. Please.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Dennis L. Schneider". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Dennis L. Schneider

CALIFORNIA CATTLEMEN'S ASSOCIATION

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FAX: (916) 444-2194
www.calcattlemen.org

December 10, 2015

The Honorable Dianne Feinstein
U.S. Senate
331 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
House Majority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
H-107, the Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Senate Feinstein & Representative McCarthy,

The California Cattlemen's Association (CCA) strongly supports the California emergency drought relief language which seeks to bring immediate relief to farmers, ranchers and rural communities who have been dramatically impacted by the current drought.

California ranchers have been forced to reduce cattle numbers and in some cases completely liquidate their herds solely due to a lack of water. Increasing water storage and improving conveyance is universally supported by all segments of the beef cattle industry and the language that has been offered by California's congressional delegation will help reduce the hemorrhaging that has occurred and help farmers, ranchers and rural communities to rebuild their economic base.

Legislative action cannot wait and CCA urges Congress to include emergency drought relief language offered by California House Republicans in the upcoming omnibus appropriations bill. Postponing any effort to formalize this compromise until after the beginning of the new year will have disastrous results for California's farmers, ranchers and rural communities.

Thank you for your ongoing leadership and support.

Sincerely,

Justin Oldfield
Vice President, Government Relations

BILLY FLOURNOY
PRESIDENT
LIKELY

ROB VON DER LIETH
TREASURER
COPPEROPOLIS

BILLY GATLIN
EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT
HERALD

RICH ROSS
SECOND VICE PRESIDENT
LINCOLN

MARK LACEY
SECOND VICE PRESIDENT
INDEPENDENCE

DAVE DALEY
FIRST VICE PRESIDENT
CHICO

BILL BRANDENBERG
FEEDER COUNCIL CHAIR
EL CENTRO

JACK LAVERS
SECOND VICE PRESIDENT
GLENNVILLE

MIKE SMITH
FEEDER COUNCIL VICECHAIR
SELMA



"In Unity There Is Strength"

December 11, 2015

The Honorable Dianne Feinstein
United State Senate
331 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Barbara Boxer
United States Senate
112 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
House Majority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
H-107, the Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Ken Calvert
Chairman of the House Appropriations Subcommittee
on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies
2205 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Senator Feinstein, Senator Boxer, Representative McCarthy, and Chairman Calvert;

Western United Dairymen (WUD) strongly supports the California emergency drought relief language which seeks to bring immediate relief to farmers, ranchers and rural communities who have been dramatically impacted by the current drought.

California dairies have been forced to reduce cattle numbers and in some cases completely liquidate their herds solely due to a lack of water. Increasing water storage and improving conveyance is universally supported by all segments of the dairy industry and the language that has been offered by California's congressional delegation will help reduce the tragic impact that has occurred and help dairies and their rural communities to rebuild their economic base.

Legislative action cannot wait and WUD urges Congress to include emergency drought relief language offered by California House Republicans in the upcoming omnibus appropriations bill. Postponing any effort to formalize this compromise until after the beginning of the New Year will have disastrous results for California's dairies and rural communities.

Thank you for your ongoing leadership and support in this challenging effort.

Sincerely,

Anja Raudabaugh, CEO



One Massachusetts Ave., NW • Suite 800 • Washington, D.C. 20001 • (202) 789-4100 • Fax (202) 408-7763
Website: www.cropinsurers.com • E-mail: aaci@mwmlaw.com

December 10, 2015

The Honorable Dianne Feinstein
United States Senator
331 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Majority Leader, U.S. House of Representatives
H-107 Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Senator Feinstein and Leader McCarthy:

On behalf of our farmer, rancher and grower customers, as well as the rural economies that depend on the commerce related to production agriculture in the State of California, we urge you to continue your efforts to find a legislative solution to the state's water crisis. We believe it is possible to timely develop common sense legislation that does not amend the Endangered Species Act or existing biological opinions while at the same time creating much needed operational flexibility to provide water for California's families, farms and businesses.

Historically, California's heaviest rainfall occurs from December through March. Timely action by Congress is needed to allow the State of California to have the opportunity to capture benefits that can be derived from the upcoming series of wet months.

Thank you for your continued leadership and dedication to finding common sense solutions that are required to sustain production agriculture, the people and the economy of the State of California.

Sincerely,

David Graves
President



LOS ANGELES AREA
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

December 7, 2015

The Honorable Dianne Feinstein
U.S. Senate
Hart Office Building, Rm 331
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
U.S. Congressman & Majority Leader
2421 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Barbara Boxer
U.S. Senate
Hart Senate Office Building
Suite 112
Washington D.C. 20510-0505

Dear Senators Feinstein and Boxer and Representative McCarthy,

The members of the Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce would like to commend each of you and the other members of California's Congressional Delegation for your recent conversations, on a bi-partisan basis, to craft federal legislation to assist California in managing our chronic water supply challenges.

The extended drought has demonstrated the vulnerability of our environment and our economy. The expected El Nino flood conditions could exacerbate the situation, rather than relieve it, if not properly managed. Targeted investments in our infrastructure are needed to protect human health, our environment, and our economy.

Reaching bipartisan and bicameral Congressional agreement to help California manage this water crisis is in the interest of California residents. It is also in the national interest, given our contributions to the economy of this country. Continuing and finishing your deliberations on this crucial issue in order to take action at the federal level should be one of the highest priorities of our state and nation.

Thank you again for your leadership. We look forward to celebrating a successful conclusion to your bi-partisan federal efforts on behalf of all Californians.

Sincerely,

Gary Toebben
President & CEO
Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce



TULARE COUNTY FARM BUREAU

Mission: to promote and enhance the viability of Tulare County agriculture.

December 11, 2015

Senator Dianne Feinstein
United States Senate
331 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Senator Barbara Boxer
United States Senate
112 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Kevin McCarthy
House Majority Leader
2421 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Congressman Ken Calvert
2205 Rayburn
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Senators and Congressional members,

We are writing to express our appreciation and ask for your continued efforts to find a legislative solution to the water crisis facing the State of California. We ask that you **take immediate action** to advance the California House drought relief legislation for inclusion in the omnibus appropriations bill. We cannot wait any longer for relief from this crippling drought. The exhaustive work of your staff and so many more should not be allowed to languish, it is imperative that we act now to pass drought relief assistance for California's parched farms and ranches and its citizens. Many of our most disadvantaged citizens are suffering the most in light of this drought.

In Tulare County, the agriculture industry directly supports 25% or more of the employment of our County's residents, and a large percentage of our disadvantaged and minority residents are directly impacted when agriculture jobs are lost. In-directly the agriculture industry's multiplier effect adds approximately \$3 additional dollars for every \$1 produced by agriculture, and the effect in our communities is immense when drought and water cut backs cripple our farms and ranches.

The legislation proposed by Members California's House Delegation for inclusion in the omnibus appropriations bill is the product of an extraordinary bipartisan effort and good-faith negotiations among Members of the California Delegation and with federal and state agencies. It's not perfect, but don't let perfect be the enemy of the good. Don't let process substitute for action. We urge you; *we beg you* to act now, through any vehicle possible, to pass legislation that can provide some relief to the Friant Division and to California as a whole. **Your citizens deserve action now.**

The California drought is a slow moving natural disaster with impacts having been documented by media outlets locally, nationally, and across the globe. The accumulated impacts of the past four years have devastated families, created unlivable conditions in many of the Valley's disadvantaged communities, reduced California's ability to feed the nation and the world, and left local governments with increased demands for social services. Nowhere in the State have the impacts of water supply shortages been more severe than in the Central Valley.

As you know, the lack of snow pack and rainfall are not the only reasons the State has run dangerously low on water. Administrative actions have paralyzed operations of the Central Valley Project and the California State Water Project. These water supply delivery systems have historically been able to supply the State with water, even during extended drought conditions. If legislation to provide clear congressional direction and to create operational flexibility for the State's two major water projects is not enacted this year, the devastation experienced over the last four years could be extended to a fifth year, even with the El Nino conditions projected for this winter. That is, millions of acre feet of water will be lost, at a time when the people of the state of California need it most.

We need you to act now, through any vehicle possible, to pass legislation that can provide California with relief. You personally have acknowledged the need for action this year. Historically, California's heaviest rainfall occurs from December through March. Legislation must be enacted now to take advantage of those wet months. Waiting to take up the discussions and process again when Congress returns in January will be too late to help in 2016. For these reasons, absent another form of legislation that would be equally effective, we must support inclusion of the compromise, common sense legislation you and others have worked on in the omnibus appropriations bill being considered by both Houses of Congress.

Thank you for your continued leadership and dedication to find common sense solutions that are required to sustain the people and the economy of the State of California.

Farm Bureau has always affirmed its support for a comprehensive solution including the following key provisions:

In the Short Term,

- Direct the Bureau of Reclamation not to authorize restoration flows related to habitat recovery goals in the river settlement in light of the devastating drought
- Provide immediate relief from the Endangered Species Act and the biological opinions in California that further restrict the flows from the state and federal water projects
- Resume pumping at the Tracy pumps and operate the State Water Project and Central Valley Project with maximum discretion and flexibility
- Cessation of restoration flows on the San Joaquin River until such a time as the necessary improvements have been completed and surplus water exists beyond the needs of communities and industry

In the Long Term,

- Increase storage capacity within our existing reservoir systems
- Construct new reservoirs throughout the entire state
- Re-evaluate the current management plans to allow improved operational flexibility of our water projects
- Reform the Endangered Species Act
- Conduct an economic and biological review of the San Joaquin River Restoration Settlement and determine whether modification, reform, or revision is necessary

Sincerely,



JOEY AIROSSO
President

CC: Governor Jerry Brown
CDFA Secretary Karen Ross
California Congressional Delegation
Tulare County Board of Supervisors
Tulare County Farm Bureau Board of Directors
Tulare County Irrigation Districts
Friant Water Authority
California Farm Bureau Federation, Executive Office
California County Farm Bureau presidents

California Emergency Drought Relief and Water Storage Act of 2015
Section-by-Section
12-3-2015

Sec. 1. Title, Table of Contents, Findings

- *Origination:* House
- *Authorization:* None
- *Summary:* California Emergency Drought Relief and Water Storage Act of 2015; Includes finding on water gap.

Sec. 2. Emergency Operations

- *Origination:* Senate & House
- *Authorization:* None
- *Summary:* Requires the Secretaries to provide maximum amount of water to CVP & SWP contractors by approving temporary operations or projects as quickly as possible, including: keeping the Cross Channel Gates open for the maximum extent possible, implement turbidity control measures to for smelt to increase water supplies; expand water transfers windows and shorten approval timing; and creates a process for the governor of a state to request that the Feds implement the emergency authorities under this subsection to approve projects to provide emergency water supplies or address the drought.

Sec. 3. Actions to Benefit Fish

- *Origination:* Senate (with House modifications)
- *Authorization:* \$21M
- *Summary:* Requires the agencies to take various actions to benefit fish, such as gravel & rearing area additions on the Sacramento River, improvements to fish passages, trap & barge programs, etc.

Sec. 4. Scientifically supported implementation of OMR flow requirements

- *Origination:* House (with significant modifications)
- *Authorization:* None
- *Summary:* Requires pumping to occur at -5,000 CFS. Authorizes a reduction in pumping only if there are no additional adverse impacts to listed species beyond the range of effects anticipated to occur to the listed species for the duration of the biological opinions; prohibits the Secretaries from initiating re-consultation unless there are additional adverse impacts to listed species beyond the range of effects anticipated to occur to the listed species for the duration of the biological opinions.

Sec. 5. Temporary operational flexibility for first few storms of the water year.

- *Origination:* House (with significant modifications)
- *Authorization:* None

- Summary: Under certain conditions, the Secretaries are authorized to pump at rates more negative than -5,000 CFS to capture water during the first few storms of the water year provided there are no additional adverse impacts to listed species beyond the range of effects anticipated to occur to the listed species for the duration of the biological opinions; prohibits the Secretaries from initiating re-consultation unless there are additional adverse impacts to listed species beyond the range of effects anticipated to occur to the listed species for the duration of the biological opinions.

Sec. 6. State Water Project Offset and Water Rights Protections

- Origination: House & Senate, reflecting Senate revisions
- Authorization: None

Sec. 7. Westwide Storage Provisions.

- Origination: Senate
- Authorization: \$600M
- Summary: Creates a process by which certain Federally-owned or State Led storage projects can be authorized; established Federal cost shares for both types of storage projects; authorizes \$600M for authorized storage projects.

Sec. 8. CALFED Storage Feasibility Studies

- Origination: Senate (with House modifications)
- Authorization: None
- Summary: Requires the Bureau of Reclamation to finish the five CALFED feasibility studies for the Shasta, Sites, Los Vaqueros, Temperance Flat, and San Luis Reservoir dam projects by the deadlines prescribed in this section; requires the Secretary of the Interior to prioritize water supply benefits from Temperance Flat when determining feasibility; requires the Secretary to testify before Congress if the Interior Department fails to finish the CALFED feasibility studies by the date prescribed in this section.

Sec. 9. Losses Caused by Construction and Operation of Water Storage Projects

- Origination: House – new material
- Authorization: None
- Summary: This language repeats and clarifies existing law regarding private property adversely impacted by construction or raising of various dams.

Sec. 10. Assistance for Drought Stricken Communities

- Origination: Senate
- Authorization: \$15M
- Summary: Creates a grant program to help drought stricken communities with

a population between 10,000 and 60,000 to fund various activities to increase water supply, like wastewater, point of use, point of treatment, distribution facilities, connection feeds, and well construction.

Sec. 11. Conservation Fish Hatcheries

- Origination: House (with significant modifications)
- Authorization: None
- Summary: Requires the Secretaries in two years to establish expanded use of conservation fish hatcheries for Delta smelt and listed salmonid species to minimize water supply reductions to CVP and SWP contractors and for the benefit of listed species; authorizes the Secretaries to enter into agreements with other entities to establish and promote conservation fish hatcheries for Delta smelt and listed salmonid species.

Sec. 12. Non-federal program to protect native anadromous fish in the Stanislaus River.

- Origination: House
- Authorization: None
- Summary: Authorizes a pilot fish predatory suppression program on the Stanislaus River for the benefits of listed salmonid species.

Sec. 13. Pilot program to implement CALFED invasive species program

- Origination: House
- Authorization: None
- Summary: Requires that predator fish suppression programs authorized in P.L. 108-361 (CALFED) to begin to be implemented in the Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta.

Sec. 14. Additional storage at New Melones

- Authorization: None
- Origination: House
- Summary: Directs the Bureau of Reclamation to work with water districts within the Stanislaus River basin to increase available storage for conservation, conjunctive use, transfers, and rescheduled water projects for maximum storage in New Melones Reservoir.

Sec. 15. Reauthorization of the Desalination Act

- Authorization: \$100M
- Origination: Senate
- Summary: Reauthorizes the Desalination Act; increases the annual authorization from \$5M to \$10M for 5 years for research grants; authorizes \$50M for 5 years for construction grants.

Sec. 16. New water recycling and reuse projects

- Authorization: \$200M

- Origination: Senate
- Summary: Expands Title XVI by creating a new water recycling grant Program; authorizes \$200 for this new grant program.

Sec. 17. Accelerated revenue, repayment, and surface water storage enhancement.

- Authorization: \$721M (offset)
- Origination: House
- Summary: Allows water agencies to pre-pay certain Federal debt; based on prior law enacted by the Democrats.

Sec. 18. Deauthorization of inactive projects

- Authorization: \$250M (offset)
- Origination: Senate - new material
- Summary: Creates a process to de-authorize old Bureau of Reclamation projects.

Sec. 19. Compliance with Endangered Species Act

- Authorization: None
- Origination: House – new material
- Summary: States that nothing in this bill shall or be construed to modify the Endangered Species Act.

Sec. 20. Sunset

- Authorization: None
- Origination: New Material
- Summary: The entire bill expires in five years except for Sections 17 and 18.