

July 10, 2014

Dear Member of Congress,

We write in our individual capacities to thank each of you for the effort you have made to address the dire water situation facing the State of California. The passage of S. 2198, the Emergency Drought Relief Act out of the U.S. Senate, and H.R. 3964, the Sacramento-San Joaquin Valley Emergency Water Delivery Act out of the U.S. House of Representatives, are significant and commendable milestones. The efforts you have taken are greatly appreciated. We are, however, acutely aware of the need for you to promptly resolve the differences between these bills before any legislation will become law. We also know that we are in urgent need of a change in law.

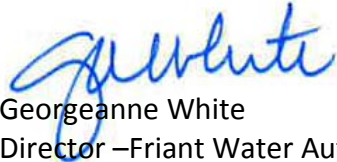
Therefore, we are asking each of you to work diligently and in good faith to bridge your differences. Failure will ensure that the current regulatory and policy regimes that were put in place to improve the health of the Delta and the Central Valley, but have actually done the opposite, will continue unchecked. As a result, more acreage will be fallowed further diminishing our ability to provide a safe and sustainable food supply and threatening our national security. In addition, the demands on food banks, existing high unemployment, the inability of families to pay utilities and stay in their homes, and the lack of job opportunity that already exists in disadvantaged communities will all be exacerbated.

To facilitate the resolution of your differences, we have come together to emphasize the concepts we believe are essential to any legislation that moves forward. To be meaningful, any bill must:

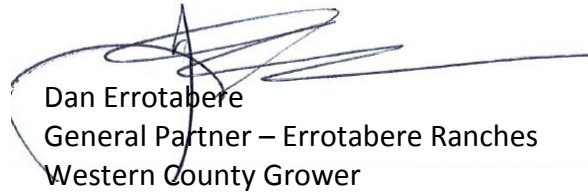
- Provide congressional direction concerning the operation of the Central Valley Project and the State Water Project to ensure sufficient operational flexibility to restore water supply and water supply reliability. The operators of these projects must be able to capture water from the Delta during periods of higher flows and move water from north to south in a rational way.
- Extend the provisions of any legislation for a period of time that will allow communities to establish sound long term water supplies for their future;
- Establish a process that could lead to increased storage in a reasonable timeframe;
- Ensure that additional burdens are not placed on the State Water Project as a result of congressional action; and
- Recognize that the reasonableness and efficacy of the San Joaquin River Restoration Program must be reevaluated in light of changed conditions since its authorization, including the reality of federal budget constraints.

We are optimistic that if you focus on addressing these concepts, you can resolve your differences in time to provide our communities the needed relief. It is time for you to move forward with policies that restore regulatory balance, achieve benefits, and improve the social, economic, and environmental health of much of California.


Respectfully,



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Director – Friant Water Authority
Chief of Staff – City of Fresno



Dan Errotabere
General Partner – Errotabere Ranches
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Kimberly Brown
Director of Water Resources – Paramount
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Paul Adams
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Loren Booth
President – Booth Farms
Chair – Hills Valley Irrigation District
Chair – California AgLeadership Foundation



Kent Stephens
Sec/CFO – Sunview Vineyards of California
Director – Friant Water Authority



Cannon Michael
President – Bowles Farming
Director – San Luis Canal Company



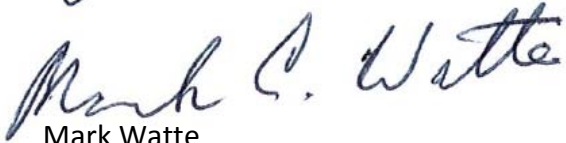
Ashley Swearengin
Mayor – City of Fresno



Jim Nickel
President – Nickel Family
Treasurer – San Joaquin River Exchange
Contractors Water Authority



Earl Perez
President – Perez Farms
Vice President – Del Puerto Water District
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President Bailey Brothers Farming
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Partner – Bookland Farms
President – Kern County Water Agency

Sent to:

The Honorable Diane Feinstein
The Honorable Barbara Boxer
The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
The Honorable Doug LaMalfa
The Honorable Tom McClintock
The Honorable Paul Cook
The Honorable Jeff Denham
The Honorable David Valadao
The Honorable Devin Nunes
The Honorable Howard McKeon
The Honorable Gary Miller
The Honorable Ed Royce
The Honorable Ken Calvert
The Honorable John Campbell
The Honorable Dana Rohrabacher
The Honorable Darrell Issa
The Honorable Duncan Hunter
The Honorable Jim Costa