



2035 Tulare St., Ste. 201 tel 559-233-4148
 Fresno, California 93721 fax 559-233-9645

www.fresnocog.org

April 15, 2014

Via Facsimile – 202-228-3954
 Senator Dianne Feinstein
 331 Hart Building
 Washington, DC 20510

Via Facsimile – 202-228-3864
 Senator Barbara Boxer
 112 Hart Building
 Washington, CA 20510

Via Facsimile – 202-225-5444
 Congressman Tom McClintock
 4th District
 2437 Rayburn Bldg.
 Washington, DC 20515

Via Facsimile – 202-225-4060
 Congressman Jerry McNerny, 9th District
 1210 Longworth House Bldg.
 Washington, DC 20515

Via Facsimile – 202-225-3402
 Congressman Jeff Denham
 10th District
 1605 Longworth Office Bldg.
 Washington, DC 20515

Via Facsimile – 202-225-9308
 Congressman Jim Costa
 16th District
 1314 Longworth House Bldg.
 Washington, DC 20515

Via Facsimile – 202-225-3196
 Congressman David Valadao
 21st District
 1004 Longworth House Bldg.
 Washington, DC 20515

Via Facsimile – 202-225-3404
 Congressman Devin Nunes
 22nd District
 1017 Longworth House Bldg.
 Washington, DC 20515

Via Facsimile – 202-225-2908
 Congressman Kevin McCarthy
 23rd District
 2421 Rayburn House Office Bldg.
 Washington, DC 20515

City of Clovis
 City of Coalinga
 City of Firebaugh
 City of Fowler
 City of Fresno
 City of Huron
 City of Kerman
 City of Kingsburg
 City of Mendota
 City of Orange Cove
 City of Parlier
 City of Reedley
 City of San Joaquin
 City of Sanger
 City of Selma
 County of Fresno

Dear Honorable Members of the United States Senate and House of Representatives:

We extend our heartfelt thanks for the time each of you took with our Fresno Council of Governments One Voice delegation this past week to learn about our nine regional priorities. We appreciate your understanding, concern and pledge to identify resources and actions available to help ameliorate some of the deep challenges we expressed to improve the quality of life for your constituents in the Central Valley.

While we have identified nine regional priorities to be presented during our visit last week, clearly the most urgent among them is an immediate and long-term solution to our need for water. We understand that delivering sufficient quantities of water meeting human, economic, and environmental needs is complicated, and that augmenting existing infrastructure with increased storage and conveyance capacity in a responsible, efficient manner will require extensive planning and capital. We also understand from our own daily encounters with the impact of water shortages that now is the time for solutions, that next year is not an option. The human and economic toll the current drought is having on our many fragile rural communities is devastating. But its full impact is

yet unknown. The impact of these conditions will go well beyond the painful economic hardship created by fallowed fields and the obliteration of thousands of farmworker jobs for families that struggle to meet their obligations even when they have work. It will have a daunting effect on retail sales of every variety – agriculture and non-agriculture. Investments in planting, equipment, equipment repairs, feed, chemicals, and irrigation will be deferred. And if permanent crops are not irrigated and maintained, they will be lost and will need to be removed. The time associated with planting new trees and nurturing them to productivity is generally seven-plus years; during this time there will be no yield, no jobs, just considerable capital outlay. The human and economic disaster the drought will cause, both up and down stream, simply cannot be quantified, nor can we allow such disaster to occur.

The One Voice delegation is completely and uncompromisingly united around the urgency for an immediate and long-term solution for reliable fresh water supply. Our cities have produced resolutions, countless phone calls, letters, and meetings in search of a solution. Private, non-profit, and public organizations have united around the call for action and have made considerable investments in relief. But we all recognize that while emergency food, housing, and water conservation are important, these measures will not bring about reliable water supplies and will not improve the economies of the cities and industries most affected by the drought.

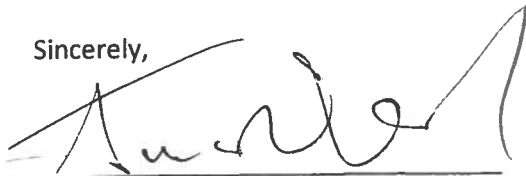
H.R.3964 and S.2016, the two current federal legislative proposals contain different ideas on how to address drought relief in California and both bills are critically important to advance. We are very pleased with the efforts of our local Congressional Leaders for quickly assembling strong support from the entire California Congressional Delegation in order to advance and pass H.R.3964.

We also thank Senators Feinstein and Boxer for crafting S. 2016 and urge lawmakers to bring more flexibility to the operation of state and federal water projects, while at the same time balancing upstream storage needs, the reasonable needs of endangered species and protecting the rights of other legal users of water in the future. We continue to urge the U.S. Senate to pass this water legislation so that conferees can bring a substantive bill to the President for his signature.

We applaud you for making this matter your highest, and most urgent priority, as it is for us and we appreciate your skillful negotiation to identify responsible, long-term solutions for reliable water supply that assures first and foremost that the people you represent are able to sustain themselves and proudly continue to feed the world with the abundance this land is able to produce. Please call on us should you require any direct testimony or information that will help bring swift resolution to our need for water.

You may contact me at 559-233-4148 if you need any additional information.

Sincerely,



Mayor Amarpreet Dhaliwal, Policy Board Chair
Fresno Council of Governments

Cc: President Barack Obama
Sally Jewell, Secretary of Department of Interior – Via Facsimile – 202-208-6950