

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:

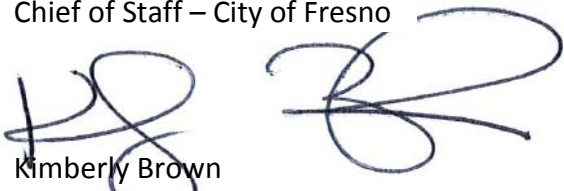
- Provide congressional direction concerning the operation of the Central Valley Project and the State Water Project to ensure sufficient operational flexibility to restore water supply and water supply reliability. The operators of these projects must be able to capture water from the Delta during periods 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,




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




Kimberly Brown  
Director of Water Resources – Paramount  
Farming Company



Loren Booth  
President – Booth Farms  
Chair – Hills Valley Irrigation District  
Chair – California AgLeadership Foundation



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




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




Mark Watte  
Partner – Watte & Sons  
Director – Friant Water Authority




Dan Errotabere  
General Partner – Errotabere Ranches  
Western County Grower




Paul Adams  
Booth Farms  
Wheeler Ridge Maricopa Water Storage  
Dist.




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



Ashley Swearengin  
Mayor – City of Fresno



Earl Perez  
President – Perez Farms  
Vice President – Del Puerto Water District  
Board – California Processing Tomato  
Advisory Board



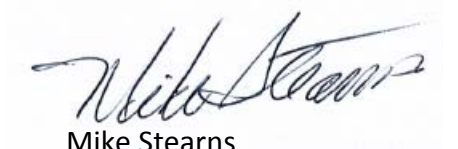
Sarah Woolf  
Partner – Clark Bros. Farming  
Director – Westlands Water District



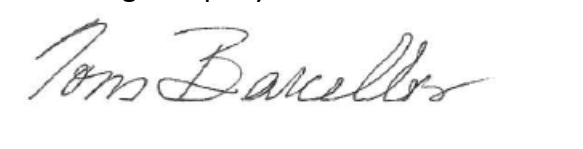
John Bennett  
President – JFB Ranch  
President – Panoche Water District



William D. Phillimore  
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Mike Stearns  
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Chairman – San Luis & Delta-Mendota  
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Tom Barcellos  
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Director – Lower Tule River Irr. Dist.



Harvey Bailey  
President Bailey Brothers Farming  
Chairman – Friant Water Authority



Ted Page  
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