



May 7, 2015

The Honorable Jerry Brown
Governor, State of California
State Capitol
Suite 1173
Sacramento, California 95814

Re: Is This Our California?

Dear Governor Brown:

As elected and appointed public officials from the San Joaquin Valley, we are writing because this drought and government's management of limited water supplies has severely jeopardized the health and safety of the people we serve. Specifically we want you to know about the deteriorating human condition in our communities. Emergency food distribution and bottled water funding resulting from the legislation you signed into law on March 27, 2015 is appreciated but what we really need is a water supply that creates jobs.

On April 2 at a press conference at Selma City Hall in Fresno County, twenty of us talked about this problem, one which is growing worse by the day. The Valley's east and west sides are enduring zero surface water allocations for the second consecutive year. This cannot continue!

Our collective job is to address the needs of our constituencies as best we can. That includes the delivery of water which we believe can occur through more balanced decision making and better management of the water we have. We must keep people employed and a roof over their heads. If we don't, this economic and social catastrophe will scar California for years to come.

Here is just a little of what we are seeing. A myriad of health and safety dilemmas is quickly expanding beyond the limited abilities and resources of local government. Food lines have become commonplace. Domestic violence is on the rise. So are other law enforcement problems, such as theft and drugs. Large numbers of families have been forced out of their homes. Educational opportunities for our children are declining.

The lack of jobs is only part of the problem. The surface water deficit has created a huge over-reliance on groundwater use resulting in damaged aquifers, and failed wells at rural residences, farms, and in some communities with no water supply at all.

Of course, none of us can miraculously make it rain but we look to you, the Legislature and other public officials to do everything possible to keep conditions from getting worse which we think can be accomplished. There are sources of available water that could be put to the beneficial use of people.

For instance, North state reservoir storage in 2015, while still far below average, is substantially improved over what it was in the early spring of 2014. Much of this water is not being allocated to human uses but instead is being reserved for other purposes later in 2015 such as temperature control and other means of benefitting salmon, delta smelt and other endangered species. There are also questions about amounts of this water being set aside to counter saltwater intrusion in the Delta.


In your recent executive order in which you imposed a new 25% water-use reduction on urban customers, reductions in environmental consumption of water were not mentioned. In this fourth year of drought, all users of water must share in the shortage. Environmental water supplies could and should be curtailed up to the 25% level imposed on municipal uses. Environmental interests simply have to be as responsible in managing and accounting for water usage as is everyone else in California.

In raising these examples, we are not suggesting that environmental issues be ignored but we are asking whether available water is being managed in the most efficient and appropriate way possible. In our view, if this is done, there would be additional water that could be moved to the Valley. We are asking that you make this happen now.

Finally, Governor, we cannot accept that this terrible situation is our California. We must meet with you immediately to find a more caring, socially responsible pathway.

In order to coordinate communications with you, please respond to Robert Silva, Mayor, City of Mendota at 643 Quince Street, Mendota, CA 93640 rsilva@ci.mendota.ca.us or call 559-630-0861.

Sincerely,



Paul Rodriguez, Chair
California Latino Water Coalition



Buddy Mendes, Supervisor
Fresno County



Henry R. Perea, Supervisor
Fresno County



Deborah A. Poochigian, Supervisor
Fresno County



Steve Worthley, Supervisor
Tulare County



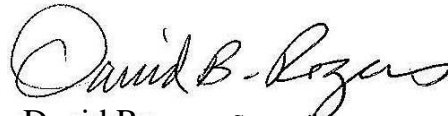
Phil Cox, Supervisor and Board Chair
Tulare County



Pete Vanderpoel, Supervisor
Tulare County



Rick Farinelli, Supervisor
Madera County



David Rogers, Supervisor
Madera County



Doug Verboon, Supervisor
Kings County



Richard Valle, Supervisor
Kings County



Craig Pederson, Supervisor
Kings County



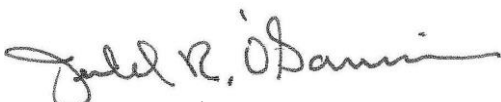
Richard Fagundes, Supervisor
Kings County



Leticia Perez, Supervisor
Kern County



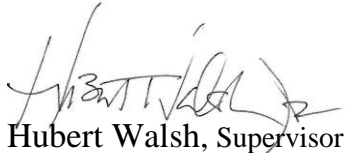
Daron McDaniel, Supervisor
Merced County




Jerry O'Banion, Supervisor
Merced County



John Pedrozo, Supervisor
Merced County




Hubert Walsh, Supervisor
Merced County



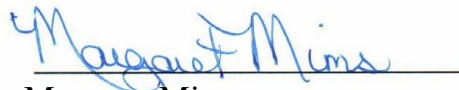
Tim Bowers, Superintendent
Kings County




Jim Yovino, Superintendent
Fresno County




Dave Robinson, Sheriff
Kings County




Margaret Mims, Sheriff
Fresno County




Donny Youngblood, Sheriff
Kern County




Amarpreet Dhaliwal, Mayor
City of San Joaquin
Chair, Fresno County Council of Governments




David Cardenas, Mayor
City of Fowler




Alma Beltran, Mayor
City of Parlier



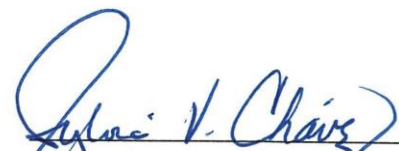
Rodrigo Espinoz, Mayor
City of Livingston




Ray Soleno, Mayor
City of Reedley



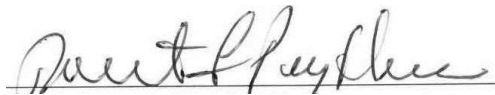
Victor Lopez, Mayor
City of Orange Cove



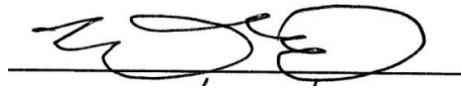
Sylvia Chavez, Mayor
City of Huron



Ron Ramsey, Mayor
City of Coalinga



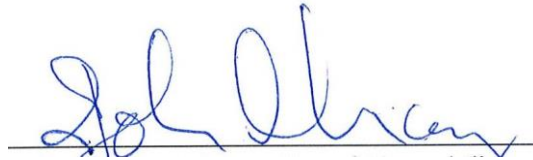
Robert Poythress, Mayor
City of Madera



Nathan Magsig, Mayor
City of Clovis



Scott Robinson, Mayor
City of Selma



John Chavez, Mayor
City of Chowchilla



Craig Knight, Mayor
City of Firebaugh



Stephen Hill, Mayor
City of Kerman



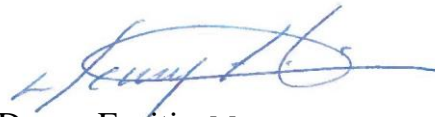
Jennifer Wood, Mayor
City of California City



Peggy Breeden, Mayor
City of Ridgecrest



Dennis Brazil, Mayor
City of Gustine



Danny Espitia, Mayor
City of Wasco



Russ Curry, Mayor
City of Hanford



Harlin Casida, Mayor
City of Avenal



Anita Betancourt, Mayor Pro Tem
City of Reedley



Diana Guerra, Mayor Pro Tem
City of Orange Cove



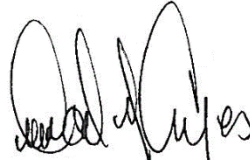
Daniel Parra, Mayor Pro Tem
City of Fowler



Bruce Blaney, Mayor Pro Tem
City of Kingsburg



Raul Cantu, Mayor Pro Tem
City of Sanger



David Ayers, Mayor Pro Tem
City of Hanford



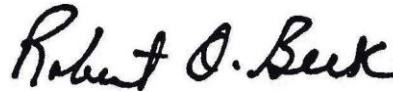
Raul Villanueva, Mayor Pro Tem
City of Parlier



Steve Brandau, Councilmember
City of Fresno



Mary Fast, Councilmember
City of Reedley



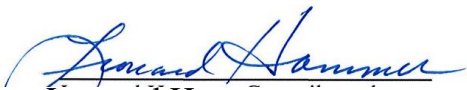
Robert Beck, Councilmember
City of Reedley



Henry Rodriguez, Councilmember
City of Reedley



Bob Link, Councilmember
City of Visalia



Leonard Hammer, Councilmember
City of Fowler



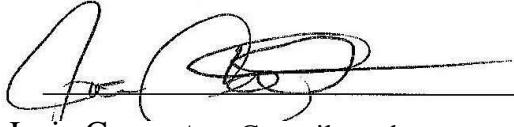
Sandie Monis, Councilmember
City of Fowler



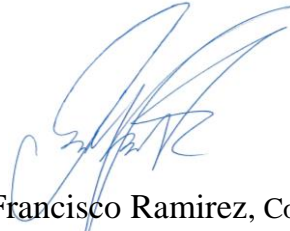
Gilbert Garcia, Councilmember
City of Orange Cove



Minerva Pineda, Councilmember
City of Orange Cove



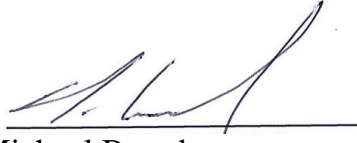
Josie Cervantes, Councilmember
City of Orange Cove



Francisco Ramirez, Councilmember
City of Hanford



Jerry Dyer, Chief of Police
City of Fresno



Michael Brand, Chief of Police
City of Fowler



CITY OF MENDOTA

"Cantaloupe Center Of The World"

April 30, 2015

RE: LETTER ATTACHED FROM LATINO WATER COALITION TO GOVERNOR BROWN CONCERNING THE DROUGHT


With our signatures below, the members of the City Council of the City of Mendota support the issues raised in the April 17 letter from the Latino Water Coalition to California Governor Jerry Brown.



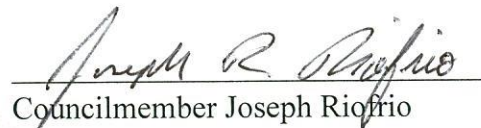
Mayor Robert Silva



Mayor Pro Tem Sergio Valdez



Councilmember Joseph Amador



Councilmember Joseph Riofrio



Councilmember Rolando Castro



CITY HALL
1015 ELEVENTH AVENUE
POST OFFICE BOX 3010

DELANO, CALIFORNIA 93216-3010

(661) 721-3300
(661) 721-3317 TDD
www.cityofdelano.org

COUNCIL MEMBERS

Rueben Pascual
MAYOR

Ricardo G. Chavez
MAYOR PRO TEM

Ruben "Ruby" Hill
Liz Morris
Grace Vallejo

Maribel G. Reyna
CITY MANAGER

April 29, 2015

The City Council Members do hereby state their support of the letter from California Latino Water Coalition, dated April 17, 2015, to the Honorable Jerry Brown, Governor, State of California, regarding: Is This Our California?

Rueben Pascual, Mayor

Ricardo G. Chavez, Mayor Pro Tem

Ruben "Ruby" Hill, Council Member

Liz Morris, Council Member

Grace Vallejo, Council Member

cc: Members, California State Legislature
Members, California State Water Resources Control Board
Secretary, California Natural Resources Agency
Secretary, California Department of Food and Agriculture
Secretary, California Environmental Protection Agency
Secretary, California Health and Human Services Agency
Attorney General, California Department of Justice
Superintendent, California Department of Education
Director, California Department of Water Resources
Director, California Department of Fish and Wildlife
United States Senator Dianne Feinstein
United States Senator Barbara Boxer
Congressman Kevin McCarthy
Congressman Devin Nunes
Congressman David Valadao
Congressman Jim Costa
Congressman Jeff Denham
Secretary, United States Department of the Interior
Secretary, United States Department of Commerce

Attachments

IS THIS OUR CALIFORNIA?



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