

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

July 11, 2016

The Honorable Sally Jewell
Secretary, Department of Interior
1849 C St N.W.
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Secretary Jewell,

As you are well aware, Congress initially authorized a feasibility study of the Temperance Flat Reservoir in the Upper San Joaquin River basin in 2003. The final feasibility study for the proposed project is expected to be completed by the Bureau of Reclamation within the next several months. Studies by the Bureau have identified that a dam on the upper San Joaquin River could potentially provide over a million acre feet of additional water storage capacity. This project will go a long way to meet the needs of everyone in Madera, Fresno, Tulare, Kings and Kern counties and would significantly improve water supply reliability and quality for the entire San Joaquin Valley.

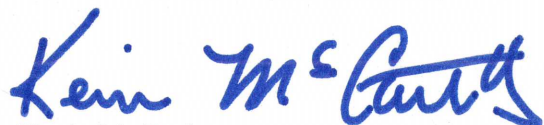
This is why it is particularly troubling that in 2012 and 2014, the Bureau of Land Management proposed to designate a segment of the upper San Joaquin River as a National Wild and Scenic River. Despite serious concerns about the eligibility of this 7.25 mile segment, the BLM has continued to recommend the segment for designation. Designating a portion of the river would ultimately prevent construction of the Temperance Flat project, thereby having detrimental effects on water users and citizens throughout the San Joaquin Valley.

In light of exceptional drought conditions over the past few years, water supply challenges in California have only grown. State and federal water resources lack both storage capacity and operational flexibility, particularly in dry years. Additional storage, among other actions, is necessary to provide greater certainty to water supply reliability. Any actions to imperil the construction of new storage, such as the wild and scenic designation on the Upper San Joaquin River, are in direct contradiction of the mutual goals to improve reliability for all water users. We urge you to prevent this designation from being finalized and look forward to your response.

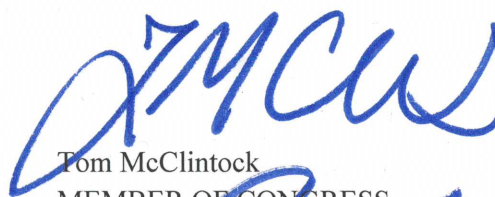
Sincerely,



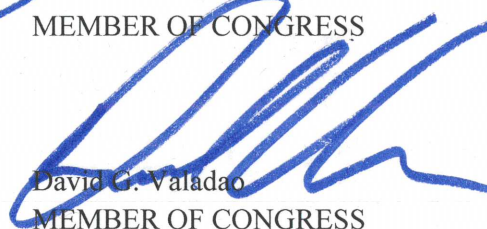
Devin Nunes
MEMBER OF CONGRESS



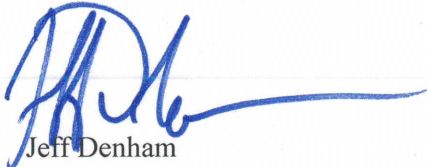
Kevin McCarthy
MEMBER OF CONGRESS



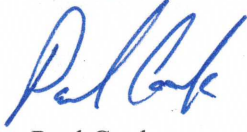
Tom McClintock
MEMBER OF CONGRESS



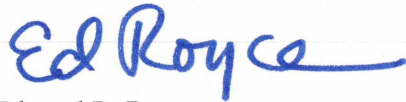
David G. Valadao
MEMBER OF CONGRESS



Jeff Denham
MEMBER OF CONGRESS



Paul Cook
MEMBER OF CONGRESS



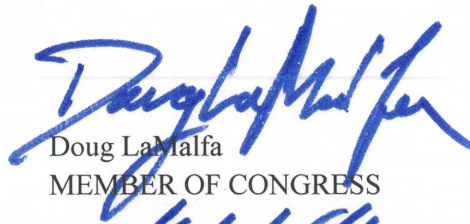
Edward R. Royce
MEMBER OF CONGRESS



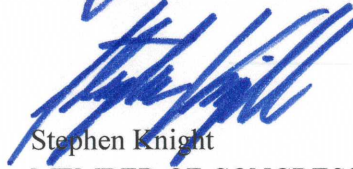
Mimi Walters
MEMBER OF CONGRESS



Ken Calvert
MEMBER OF CONGRESS



Doug LaMalfa
MEMBER OF CONGRESS



Stephen Knight
MEMBER OF CONGRESS



Dana Rohrabacher
MEMBER OF CONGRESS



Darrell E. Issa
MEMBER OF CONGRESS