

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

July 11, 2016

The Honorable Sally Jewell
Secretary
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, NW
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Secretary Jewell,

As you are aware, communities in California, and especially in the San Joaquin Valley, continue to be impacted by a drought that has ravaged the state over the last few years. We had hoped for the strong El Nino conditions that developed earlier this year to bring a respite from the dry conditions experienced over the last few years. Unfortunately, for many communities in the San Joaquin Valley, the precipitation and snowpack delivered this year failed to provide the much hoped for recovery.

If the impacts of the drought have demonstrated anything, it is that California's water system is no longer adequate to sustain the demands placed on it by our state's communities and ecosystems. Significant investment is required to diversify our water supply, including increasing both surface and subsurface water storage, so that California's communities and its ecosystems can weather the future droughts we know are sure to come. Thus, we were particularly concerned when we were made aware that the Bureau of Land Management may have increased uncertainty for the future of a much needed project for California and the San Joaquin Valley; the Upper San Joaquin River Basin Storage Investigation, more commonly known as Temperance Flat Dam.

On December 22, 2014, the Bureau of Land Management issued a Regional Management Plan (RMP) and associated Record of Decision (ROD) for the Bakersfield Field Office. Significantly, in this RMP, BLM determined that 7.25 miles of the San Joaquin River are eligible for inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic River System and suitable for a "wild and scenic river" designation under the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. At the same time, the Bureau of Reclamation is working collaboratively with California stakeholders to complete a feasibility study and to prepare a proposal to the California Water Commission to fund the public benefits of Temperance Flat Dam under Chapter 8 of Proposition 1.

We are very concerned that a proposed wild and scenic river designation would directly conflict with any potential recommendation by the Bureau of Reclamation to move forward with Temperance Flat Dam and negatively impact the opportunity for project funding before the California Water Commission. Such an outcome would have negative consequences to water reliability for California communities, including those in the eastern San Joaquin Valley, which have been severely impacted by the current drought conditions. Additionally, we are concerned that the Wild and Scenic River segment proposed by the BLM could undermine the significant investments made in preparing the technical and feasibility studies for Temperance Flat Project,

which the federal taxpayer has already invested over \$38,000,000 dollars and more than 10 years of agency staff time to complete.

We support the efforts by the Bureau of Reclamation to advance the Temperance Flat feasibility study and urge you to ensure that their efforts are not negatively impacted by the BLM's proposal.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,



Jim Costa
MEMBER OF CONGRESS



Kevin McCarthy
MEMBER OF CONGRESS



David G. Valadao
MEMBER OF CONGRESS



Jeff Denham
MEMBER OF CONGRESS



Doug LaMalfa
MEMBER OF CONGRESS



Tom McClintock
MEMBER OF CONGRESS