



**DAVID COUCH**  
SUPERVISOR - FOURTH DISTRICT

February 17, 2015

Felicia Marcus  
Board Chair  
State Water Resources Control Board  
1001 L Street  
Sacramento, CA 95814

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Dear Chairwoman Marcus:

As a Kern County Supervisor who serves many farms, businesses, and families that desperately need water during this severe drought, I respectfully urge you to reconsider the portion of your Executive Director's order on February 3, 2015 denying the request of the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation and the California Department of Water Resources for added operational flexibility.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the National Marine Fisheries Service, and the California Department of Fish and Game all concurred in the petition filed by the project operators, stating increased releases of Delta water would not elevate the harm to endangered fish species. Yet your Executive Director denied the request for increased Delta flows without citing valid environmental reasons and denying project operators the opportunity to monitor and evaluate the environmental impact of higher Delta water exports as they occur.

The State and Federal agencies that collectively operate the State Water Project and the Central Valley Project must have full ability to manage limited water supplies in order to provide this precious resource to communities throughout our valley that are placing multiple demands on these systems during this unprecedented crisis.

To deny the request for increased Delta flows would deal a critical blow to the State and Central Valley Water project operators' ability to meet their responsibilities and to the people of the San Joaquin Valley who depend on this water. Wells are running dry, homes are being abandoned, fields are being fallowed, people are being thrown out of work, and no end to the drought is in sight.

On behalf of the people of Kern County, I urgently request the State Water Resources Control Board to reverse your Executive Director's denial and approve the Temporary Urgency Change Petition of the Bureau of Reclamation and the California Department of Water Resources in its entirety.

Sincerely,

David Couch  
Fourth District Supervisor