



Coalition for a Sustainable Delta

February 13, 2015

VIA EMAIL

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

Re: Temporary Urgency Change Petition

Dear Chairwoman Marcus:

This letter is submitted on behalf of the Coalition for a Sustainable Delta ("Coalition"), a California nonprofit corporation comprised of agricultural, municipal, and industrial water users, as well as individuals in the San Joaquin Valley. The Coalition and its members depend on water from the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta ("Delta") for their continued livelihood.

The Coalition is concerned that the recent decision by the State Water Resources Control Board ("Water Board") to decline the portion of the Temporary Urgency Change Petition ("TUCP") related to increased pumping during specified times of February and March 2015 will unjustifiably exacerbate the negative impacts of the drought. As you are well aware, California is preparing to enter into its fourth year of an historic drought, and with little relief expected in the near future, we urge the Water Board to reconsider and reverse the decision on the TUCP to allow additional water to get through the Delta to farms and urban communities where it is so badly needed.

We understand the challenges the Water Board faces in balancing competing interests when water supplies are increasingly scarce. But in this case, the agencies tasked with species protection - the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, the National Marine Fisheries Services, and the United States Fish and Wildlife Service ("Wildlife Agencies") - have all concurred that the proposed TUCP will not have adverse impacts on protected species. It is inexplicable that the Water Board has substituted its own judgment, with little reasoning or support, for that of the Wildlife Agencies to deny additional pumping to occur during these critical winter months on the basis of species protection.

In light of the scientific evidence provided by the Department of Water Resources, Bureau of Reclamation and the Wildlife Agencies, the Coalition respectfully requests that the State Board reverse its decision denying this critical portion of the TUCP to allow additional water to move through the Delta to the millions of residents and acres of farmland that are dependent on these water supplies.

Sincerely,

William D. Phillimore