

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 26, 2015

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

Dear Governor Brown:

On July 1, 2014, several Members of Congress sent you a letter that pleaded with you to formally request that President Obama convene the Endangered Species Committee (ESC). Once convened, the ESC would have had the authority to suspend or modify a litany of Endangered Species Act mandates placed upon water managers in California, thus providing those water managers with the necessary authority to prioritize California's water supply for human consumption and use.

Sadly, the ESC was never convened, and the opportunity to save additional water for this year was lost.

Since last year, the drought conditions have only grown more severe. The condition of our state's water supply is increasingly perilous, and many forecasts continue to predict drought conditions to continue.

The United States Bureau of Reclamation recently announced 0% initial water allocations for north- and south-of-the-delta federal water contractors and reduced initial water allocations for senior water rights holders. The state water contractors' allocation is not significantly larger, further reducing systemwide ability to absorb water releases mandated by the ESA.

We cannot allow water that should remain stored behind our dams for human use to be wasted. Nor can we allow released water that otherwise should and could be sent to drought-parched communities to be lost to the ocean again. Action must be taken to prevent another year of mandated releases for the theoretical benefit of fish populations. Absent such measures, it is increasingly likely that Californians across the state will face an even more dangerous water shortage this year that could do irreparable harm to our economy, state, and the environment.

Once again, we write to urge you to formally request President Obama convene the ESC now, before more valuable water is lost and before the summer heat begins.


Sincerely,



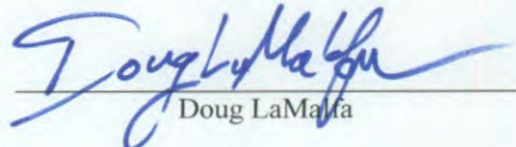
Tom McClintock



Darrell Issa



Dana Rohrabacher



Doug LaMalfa