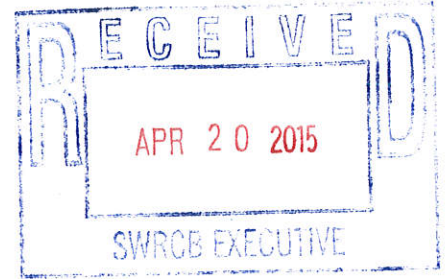


Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

OLA



April 13, 2015

Mr. Tom Howard
State Water Resources Control Board
Executive Director
1001 I Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

Mr. William Stelle
National Marine Fisheries Service
West Coast Regional Administrator
7600 Sand Point Way, NE, Bldg 1
Seattle, WA 98115-0070 501

Dear Director Howard and Administrator Stelle,

The State of California is facing unprecedented drought conditions that threaten the wellbeing and livelihood of cities, towns, farms, and people of the Central Valley. With Californians facing mandatory water restrictions imposing further constraints on the day to day life of our constituents, we ask that you, the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) and National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), quickly move forward in approving the Sacramento River Temperature Control Plans as submitted by the Bureau of Reclamation (BoR) relating to the operations of the Central Valley Project (CVP) and do so with the following commitments.

First, the operational scenarios developed to date demonstrate a significant range of water supply outcomes, several hundred thousand acre-feet, while producing only slight changes in water temperature. Given the predicted nominal changes in water temperature, the final operations plan must be one that provides the greatest deliverable water supply. Second, while south of Delta agricultural service contractors have expressed willingness to hold purchased transfer water in Shasta storage to provide additional cold water protection, in doing so they risk losing that water due to restrictions in the biological opinions on when transfer water may be delivered. Given the added cold water benefit transfer water can provide, the final operations plan must clearly state that the regulatory transfer limitations will be extended to allow the transfer water to be delivered later, as was done in 2014, to the extent that can be accomplished without displacing movement of CVP project water. Third, the final operations plan must allow for minimal pumping at the federal and/or state facilities in the Delta to provide for the agricultural, urban, and fish and wildlife needs south of the Delta, as was shown in previous Reclamation forecasts without impacting State Water Project pumping at Banks Pumping Plant or storage in Oroville Reservoir. Eliminating pumping at this late date will have disastrous impacts on the Exchange Contractors as well as refuges and other water users south of the Delta who have already planted crops or made management commitments. Lastly, time is of the essence. The first call date for the purchase of transfer water is fast

approaching. In order for purchasers to make the financial commitment, they must have some assurance that the water they buy will be available and deliverable. Therefore, it is imperative that a final operations plan be adopted as soon as possible, within days, not weeks.

Agencies must show the maximum degree of flexibility to ensure that water resources provide the greatest public benefit. It appears to us that NMFS and the SWRCB can achieve the desired outcome by adopting an option which facilitates the ability of CVP contractors to cooperate with federal and state agencies to enhance cold water in storage at Shasta for the protection of fish while meeting obligations to provide critical water deliveries to areas North and South of the Delta that have been devastated by this drought.

As members of the California Congressional delegation, we demand you not ignore the needs of the people. We urge you to adopt an option that addresses the need for immediate action to provide relief to the Golden State.

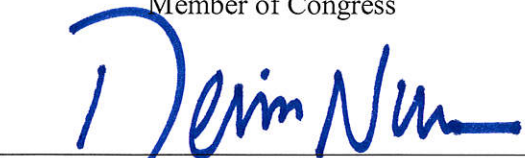
Sincerely,



David G. Valadao
Member of Congress



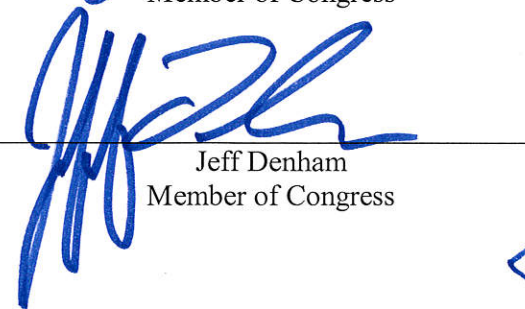
Kevin McCarthy
House Majority Leader



Devin G. Nunes
Member of Congress




Ken Calvert
Member of Congress



Jeff Denham
Member of Congress



Doug LaMalfa
Member of Congress



Jim Costa
Member of Congress