

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

Ms. Christy Goldfuss  
Managing Director  
Council on Environmental Quality  
730 Jackson Place NW  
Washington, DC 20506

December 2, 2016

Dear Director Goldfuss,

We write in strong opposition to the attached proposal that would override existing regulations to expedite and increase the shipment of water from the Sacramento San Joaquin Delta (Delta) to South-of-Delta water users.

The proposal undermines both state and federal environmental protections for the Delta ecosystem and impedes local agencies and water experts from determining how best to manage our state's strained water resources. The legislation does not reflect an agreement among all stakeholders, members of the California delegation, or the impacted communities of the entire West Coast. Instead, this measure serves as yet another attempt to export more water to corporate agriculture interests south of the Delta at the expense of Northern California's farmers, the Delta ecosystem, families, and fishing communities across the West Coast.

The challenges facing California's water system will not be solved through operational changes to divert more water through the Delta pumps. Instead, these measures provide a short-sighted approach that jeopardizes water quality for Northern California users with no clear evidence of improved deliveries for Central Valley Project contractors.

The State of California has strongly opposed similar efforts in previous versions of this legislation. Governor Brown has stated that these harmful proposals would "undermine California's own ability to address serious water challenges." The state rejected "such unwelcome and divisive intrusion into California's efforts to manage this severe crisis. It would override state laws and protections, and mandate that certain water interests come out ahead of others."

Western water supply issues stem from conditions like diminished snowpack, groundwater overdraft, and high utilization. Insufficient contract allocations come from a lack of water, not environmental protections. Instead of bleeding the state's existing resources dry, we must look to new and innovative ways to maximize supplies like water reuse and recycling, or desalination. We do not believe that this proposal offers substantive relief to the communities we represent nor does it reflect the work accomplished by state and federal agencies to address drought conditions in the West.

We appreciate this Administration's efforts thus far to balance needs across regions and users. President Obama has threatened to veto substantially similar measures, finding that such bills

would “not provide additional meaningful relief to those most affected by the drought. It will, however, negatively impact our ability to protect Delta fish and wildlife in the long-term; particularly those species listed under Federal and State endangered species laws.” As you review this latest proposal, we urge you again to consider all communities throughout California and the Pacific Northwest who rely on these natural resources.

The outcome of this Presidential election has charted a precarious course for our ecosystems’ most important protections. The legacy of this Administration should be defined by actions taken to preserve and defend our environment, we urge you to oppose the reversal of decades of environmental achievements protecting communities dependent upon thriving forests, fisheries, and estuaries for their livelihoods and recreational enjoyment.

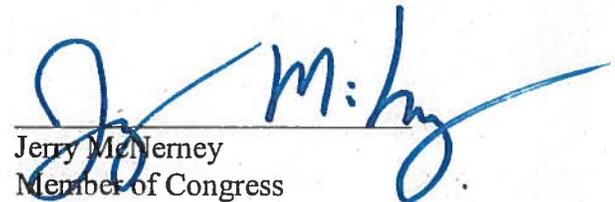
Thank you for your consideration of this urgent request. Please contact our offices should you need further information.

Sincerely,

  
Jared Huffman  
Member of Congress

  
Mike Thompson  
Member of Congress

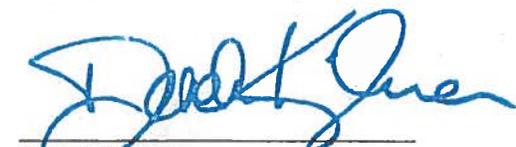
  
Doris Matsui  
Member of Congress

  
Jerry McNerney  
Member of Congress

  
Mark DeSaulnier  
Member of Congress

  
Michael M. Honda  
Member of Congress

  
Anna G. Eshoo  
Member of Congress

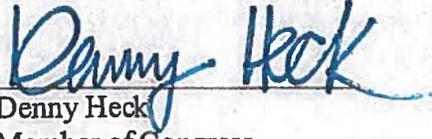
  
Derek Kilmer  
Member of Congress



Sam Farr  
Member of Congress



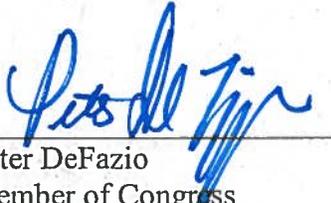
Suzan K. DeBene  
Member of Congress



Denny Heck  
Member of Congress



Suzanne Bonamici  
Member of Congress



Peter DeFazio  
Member of Congress