

South Valley Water Association



President
Jim Costa

Vice President
Kelley Hampton

Executive Director
Daniel G. Vink

General Counsel
Alex Peltzer

Member Districts

Delano-Earlimart I.D.

Exeter I.D.

Ivanhoe I.D.

Lower Tule River I.D.

Pixley I.D.

Shafter-Wasco I.D.

Stone Corral I.D.

SSJMUD

Tea Pot Dome WD

February 11, 2020

The Honorable Jared Huffman
Chairman – Water, Oceans, and Wildlife Subcommittee Committee
1527 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Re: FUTURE Drought Resiliency Act Discussion Draft

Dear Congressman Huffman,

On behalf of the South Valley Water Association (SVWA), I write to thank you for the inclusion of language in your draft legislation, the FUTURE Drought Act, that would authorize additional funding to fix the Friant-Kern Canal. We support the provisions in the Act that directly address authorization for Friant-Kern Canal repairs.

SVWA consists of seven irrigation districts that supply water for farming within the Central Valley Project's (CVP) Friant Division. SVWA represents more than 400,000 acres of the world's most productive farmland in the southern end of the Great Central Valley of California. The center of the subsidence area for the Friant Kern canal is in the heart of our member districts so we know first-hand the need for immediate funding to address the problem.

As the state of California moves towards implementation of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA), the inability to efficiently move water through the Friant-Kern canal creates significant hurdles as it limits the ability to move water from Millerton Lake through to the southern end of the Friant service area. This part of the San Joaquin Valley has significant groundwater recharge capability, but that potential can only be fully realized if the infrastructure exists to deliver water during times when there are flows in the system beyond what is needed for irrigation. The benefits of that groundwater recharge include improvements in water quality and quantity, both of which are critical to providing a reliable water supply to farms and communities in the region.

We look forward to working with you as this bill moves through the legislative process.

Sincerely,

Dan Vink
South Valley Water Association

3746 W. Mineral King Ave.
Visalia, CA 93291
Tel: (559) 372-2400
Fax: (559) 553-6221