

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

June 12, 2015

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

Dear Governor Brown,

As the ongoing drought continues to exact its toll on California's families, communities and economy, the limitations of the once resilient state and federal water supply systems are fully apparent. Throughout this year, each increasingly difficult problem has been addressed through creative and constructive collaboration among the state and federal agencies' project operators, biologists, and public water agencies. Today, we find ourselves at another hard point, where recent information regarding water temperatures in Shasta Reservoir indicates that there is insufficient cold water to manage Sacramento River temperatures for salmon as originally planned. This is a most unfortunate reality; one that could potentially unravel an entire series of decisions and agreements affecting water supplies throughout all of California. We are writing to express our concern about the potential actions by the State Water Resources Control Board and to enlist your help. The magnitude of environmental and socio-economic consequences to the state as a result of the decision to be made are extreme and demand engagement at the highest levels.

In mid-April, a framework agreement among state, federal, and public water agencies in the Sacramento and San Joaquin Valleys resulted in an operations plan that would reasonably meet environmental and water supply objectives through November 2015. Essentially, the agreement made water available to Central Valley Project Sacramento River Settlement Contractors, which in turn made water available for transfer to the San Joaquin Valley. San Joaquin Valley contractors agreed to purchase nearly \$100 million worth of water and leave it in Shasta reservoir until the fall, in order to enhance cold water management potential. National Marine Fisheries Service agreed to extend the transfer window for moving that water and due to the increased volume of water in Shasta, Reclamation was able to provide flows through the summer to improve Delta water quality and provide for a minimal level of pumping to deliver some water to prior rights holders, wildlife managers, municipalities, and agricultural districts throughout California, including the San Joaquin Valley, the Santa Clara Valley, and Los Angeles. With this complex series of interdependent agreements in place, thousands of decisions were made, committing hundreds of millions of dollars to endeavors of every kind, resulting in potentially billions of dollars of economic activity throughout the state.

After so much had been irreversibly set in motion, in late May it was learned that temperatures in Shasta Reservoir were higher than expected and, as a result, on May 29, State Water Resources Control Board Executive Director Tom Howard suspended his approval of the plan to implement these agreements. Since, state and federal agencies have been meeting with Water Board staff to determine a path forward. Oddly, public water agencies that had been an

essential part of prior solutions have been excluded from participating directly. Yet, a solution must be developed that reasonably balances the limited water supply to environmental objectives and water delivery obligations. To that end, we propose the following principles to guide the development of the best achievable solution:

1. Maximize beneficial use of water this year. Temperature measurements of Shasta Reservoir indicate that there is an insufficient volume of cold water to achieve desired temperatures for salmon throughout the summer. The law of diminishing returns applies in this instance. Beyond a reasonable threshold, each diminishing increment of biological benefit can only be achieved by exponential increases of applied resources, which results in grossly disproportionate burdens to all other users of water. Water must be distributed to have the greatest overall effect statewide.
2. Balance outcomes. Intense focus is being paid to the fate of salmon at the expense of other listed species like Giant Garter Snake, San Joaquin Kit Fox, Red Legged Frog, and the California Condor. A new plan must ensure reasonable protection for all listed species, not protect any single species at the expense of another.
3. Rely upon proven expertise. The state and federal operators and biologists have the appropriate expertise to develop a workable plan. Agencies like the State Water Resources Control Board and other interests should facilitate, not impede, efforts to manage limited water resources as efficiently as possible to serve as many beneficial interests as possible.
4. Utilize all tools. This salmon management crisis is unprecedented. As such, all tools should be brought to the table including non-flow interventions and the unique abilities of public water agencies to optimize outcomes.

The extraordinary harmful effects of this drought are devastating for both people and wildlife. While we cannot control the drought, we can control how we cope with its challenges. We must be realistic about what is achievable, reasonable about the balances we must strike, inclusive and creative in our problem solving, and avoid creating artificial or unnecessary impediments to a desperately needed solution. We appreciate your efforts to support and implement these principles and stand by to assist in any way we can.



Jim Costa  
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

Sincerely,



Ken Calvert  
MEMBER OF CONGRESS



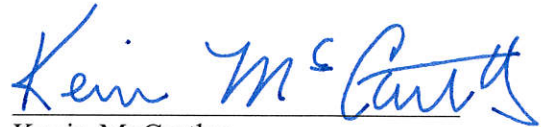
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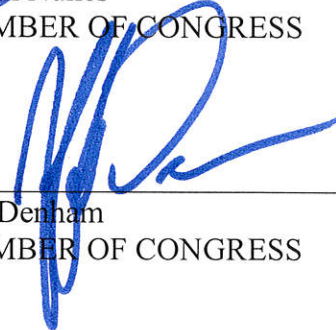
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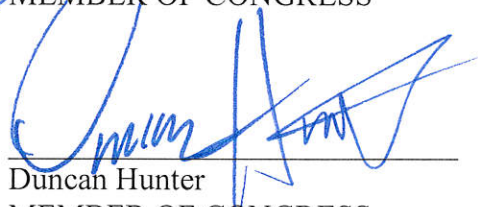
Jeff Denham  
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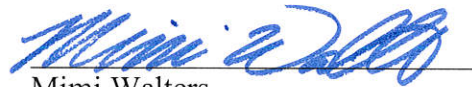
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Cc:

Mr. Tom Howard, Executive Director, State Water Resources Control Board

Mr. David Murillo, Regional Director, Mid-Pacific Region, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation

Mr. Will Stelle, Regional Administrator, West Coast Region, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Fisheries

Mr. Ren Lohofener, Regional Director, Pacific Region, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service