



December 2, 2013

The Honorable Dianne Feinstein
United States Senate
331 Hart Senate Office Bldg.
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Jim Costa
United States House of Representatives
1314 Longworth HOB
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Feinstein and Congressman Costa,

We are writing to express the gratitude of our customers for your unmistakable awareness of the complex issues potentially affecting our 2014 Central Valley Project water supply, including State and federal regulatory actions, as expressed in your November 27th letter to Secretaries Jewell and Pritzker. We deeply appreciate you encouraging the Secretaries to engage personally and to exercise the “significant policy discretion” available in implementing the remanded biological opinions.

The region we serve encompasses portions of Contra Costa, San Joaquin, Stanislaus, Merced, Fresno, and Kings counties on the Westside of the San Joaquin Valley as well as San Benito and Santa Clara counties. Our customers produce much of the healthy fruits, nuts, and vegetables that feed the nation; manage the largest contiguous freshwater wetlands west of the Rocky Mountains hosting diverse wildlife, including threatened and endangered species; and meet the daily needs of many Californians from small, rural, often disadvantaged communities on the Westside to the technology innovation capitol of the world, Silicon Valley. Our customers have borne a disproportionate burden of implementing State and federal regulatory actions related to the Endangered Species Act and Clean Water Act. These regulatory burdens have had a profound socio-economic affect on the region that will only be magnified by continuing dry conditions.

Your leadership on 2014 water supply issues is significant; however, equally vital will be your support for the families, businesses, and communities that will suffer unprecedented hardships if dry conditions persist. It is not too early to begin planning for the community support services, bridge loans for families and business, and other emergency relief that will be necessary if California’s once elastic water supply systems do not receive the rainfall necessary to meet today’s regulatory and human needs.

Lastly, we also wish to recognize the hard work of your dedicated staffs. Their excellent service and attention to our mutual constituents serves us all well. If there is any support or information we can provide you, please do not hesitate to ask.

842 SIXTH STREET
SUITE 7
P.O. BOX 2157
LOS BANOS
CALIFORNIA
93635

(209) 826-9696
OFFICE

(209) 826-9698
FAX

Respectfully,



Jeff Cattaneo
District Manager/Engineer
San Benito County Water District



Beau Goldie
Chief Executive Officer
Santa Clara Valley Water District



Anthea Hansen
Acting General Manager
Del Puerto Water District



Martin McIntyre
General Manager
San Luis Water District



Dan Nelson
Executive Director
San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water Authority



Ric Ortega
General Manager
Grassland Water District



Peter Rietkerk, P.E.
General Manager
Patterson Irrigation District