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UNITED STATES
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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April 9, 2013

The Honorable Doc Hastings
Chairman
House Committee on Natural Resources
1324 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Hastings:

Thank you for your continued leadership in working with California's Central Valley delegation to address the persistent and often preventable water shortages that plague our region. As you are aware, securing a reliable supply of water continues to be one of the greatest challenges facing the economic growth of Central Valley Communities.

Time and again, parts of the Central Valley have experienced "man-made" droughts due to unworkable federal laws and regulations. Just this year, California water users south of the Delta have lost over 800,000 acre feet of water, estimated to have a cumulative economic effect of over \$1 billion in lost economic activity in what would otherwise be one of the world's most productive agricultural regions. Water shortages will result in the fallowing of farm lands and the loss of economic and employment opportunity in an area that has already been ravaged by America's economic downturn. The Bureau of Reclamation's recent decision to reduce the area's water allocation to 20% of normal water deliveries has only exacerbated this growing economic and societal disaster.

I have heard from many of my constituents who are concerned that their livelihoods are being sacrificed because of scientifically questionable decisions made by federal officials working to protect the delta smelt. Our water laws and regulations were intended to strike a reasonable balance between protecting our natural resources and ensuring a clean and reliable water supply. However, today we find ourselves trapped underneath a system that continually places the needs of fish ahead of some of America's hardest working farmers and families.

This issue deserves congressional attention. As such, I cordially invite you and the House Natural Resources Committee to see firsthand the real impact of water loss in my congressional district, the epicenter of California's water crisis. I stand ready to work with you in any way possible to help facilitate this important visit and hope we can continue to work together to find common sense solutions to the region's water crisis.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "D. Valadao", written over a blue circular stamp.

David G. Valadao
Member of Congress