

# FRIANT

## WATER AUTHORITY

**Eric Borba**

*Chairman of the Board*

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*Vice Chairman*

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*Secretary/Treasurer*

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*Chief Executive Officer*

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*Madera I.D.*

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*Porterville I.D.*

*Saucelito I.D.*

*Terra Bella I.D.*

*Tulare I.D.*

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*[www.friantwater.org](http://www.friantwater.org)*

January 3, 2017

The Honorable David Valadao  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Valadao:

Friant Water Authority (FWA) appreciates the relentless dedication you have brought to Central Valley water issues for many years. FWA commends you for introducing H.R. 23, the Guiding Responsibility on Water Act of 2017, which promotes a comprehensive approach to solving California's water crisis, especially for the San Joaquin Valley.

The current drought and regulatory constraints have been catastrophic for the San Joaquin Valley's communities and businesses. Experts are estimating that the Valley is approximately 2.5 million acre-feet short, as an annual average, of meeting the needs of our agricultural development. H.R. 23 is a timely and comprehensive approach to eliminating a major portion of that water supply shortfall.

H.R. 23 includes many common-sense provisions that FWA supports and has supported previously in very similar legislation. Title IV of the bill includes specific provisions related to the 2009 San Joaquin River Settlement Act. As you know, FWA has a number of concerns regarding the viability of the San Joaquin River Restoration Program (SJRRP) as contemplated by the Settlement and the Settlement Act. We have formally requested that the other Settlement Parties join us in a process to examine the Settlement and realize implementation of a SJRRP in a manner that is reasonable, prudent, and feasible.

Again, thank you for your continuing efforts to champion San Joaquin Valley water issues. We appreciate and support your leadership in introduction of this bill, and look forward to working with you and your colleagues in the

Senate to ensure this will be a successful, bipartisan effort to secure long-term water supply reliability.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Eric Borba". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Eric Borba  
Chair of the Board of Directors



## Westlands Water District

3130 N. Fresno Street, P.O. Box 6056, Fresno, California 93703-6056, (559) 224-1523, FAX (559) 241-6277

January 3, 2017

The Honorable David Valadao  
U.S. House of Representatives  
1728 Longworth HOB  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Valadao:

Thank you for providing Westlands Water District with the opportunity to review H.R. 23, the Guiding Responsibility On Water Act of 2017. As an initial matter, we want to once again express our appreciation for you and your colleagues' efforts to successfully include key legislative language relating to operations of the Central Valley Project and the California State Water Project in S. 612, the Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation Act. Since the enactment of that legislation only a few short weeks ago, we are already seeing better decisions being made regarding operations of the CVP and SWP. Westlands agrees with you and your colleagues that although S. 612 was a significant and necessary step forward, it does not provide a solution to the long-term water supply challenges facing California, and the San Joaquin Valley in particular.

As you know, it is Westlands Water District's policy to support the enactment of any reasonable legislation intended to restore the ability of the CVP and SWP to deliver a reliable supply of water, sufficient to meet reasonable demands around the state. H.R. 23 is consistent with that policy, and Westlands has in the past supported legislation that is nearly identical to H.R. 23. As H.R. 23 moves forward, we are mindful of the effort needed to achieve meaningful bipartisan and bicameral legislation to provide a secure long-term water supply. In that regard, we appreciate your leadership on the critical issue of water supply, and Westlands reaffirms its support of your efforts.

We look forward to working with you and your colleagues to achieve a meaningful, long-term solution to California's water needs.

Very truly yours,

Thomas W. Birmingham  
General Manager



# National Milk Producers Federation

2101 Wilson Blvd., Suite 400, Arlington, VA 22201 | (703) 243-6111 | www.nmpf.org

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Agri-Mark, Inc.  
Associated Milk Producers Inc.  
Bongards' Creameries  
Cooperative Milk Producers Association  
Cortland Bulk Milk Producers Cooperative  
Dairy Farmers of America, Inc.  
Dairymen's Marketing Cooperative, Inc.  
Ellsworth Cooperative Creamery  
Farmers Cooperative Creamery  
FarmFirst Dairy Cooperative  
First District Assoc.  
Foremost Farms USA  
Land O'Lakes, Inc.  
Lone Star Milk Producers  
Maryland & Virginia Milk Producers Cooperative Association  
Michigan Milk Producers Association  
Mid-West Dairymen's Company  
Mount Joy Farmers Cooperative Association  
Northwest Dairy Assoc.  
Oneida-Madison Milk Producers Cooperative Association  
Prairie Farms Dairy, Inc.  
Premier Milk Inc.  
Scioto Cooperative Milk Producers' Association  
Select Milk Producers, Inc.  
Southeast Milk, Inc.  
St. Albans Cooperative Creamery, Inc.  
Swiss Valley Farms  
Tillamook County Creamery Association  
United Dairymen of Arizona  
Upstate Niagara Cooperative, Inc.  
Zia Milk Producers, Inc.

January 6, 2017

The Honorable David G. Valadao  
1728 Longworth House Office Building  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Valadao,

We are writing to support your new legislation, the Gaining Responsibility On Water (GROW) Act of 2017 (H.R. 23). This legislation includes critical provisions to put in place long-term solutions to the water supply challenges in California, our nation's largest dairy and agricultural state.

As you know, California dairy farmers have experienced the worst drought in modern history while also struggling with anemic milk prices caused by weak international markets. California ranks first in U.S. dairy production, producing roughly 20% of the nation's milk in 2015, but drought, environmental, and economic factors are combining to threaten the state's \$7.6 billion dairy farming sector.

California's milk production fell by 3% in 2015, while milk output in much of the rest of the country continued to increase. The drought has increased milk production costs in California, forcing farmers to reduce their herds. This damage follows years of high grain prices, which have boosted production costs in the state and, coupled with volatile milk prices, have greatly eroded farm balance sheets.

We commend your years of leadership on this critical issue for California's dairy industry. We support the common sense provisions included in H.R. 23, which builds upon the WIIN Act that you helped enact into law last year, and we look forward to working with you to advance this important proposal.

Sincerely,

**James Mulhern**  
President & Chief Executive Officer  
National Milk Producers Federation



Consisting of 240,000 acres on the Westside of the San Joaquin Valley

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January 6, 2017

**JAMES E. O'BANION**  
Chairman

**CHRIS CARDELLA**  
Vice Chairman

**STEVE CHEDESTER**  
Executive Director

**LARRY FREEMAN**  
Water Resources Specialist

**JOANN WHITE**  
Administrative Assistant

**MINASIAN, MEITH,  
SOARES, SEXTON  
& COOPER LLP**  
Legal Counsel

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**CENTRAL CALIFORNIA  
IRRIGATION DISTRICT**

**James E. O'Banion**  
President

**Christopher White**  
General Manager

**SAN LUIS CANAL  
COMPANY**

**James L. Nickel**  
President

**Chase Hurley**  
General Manager

**FIREBAUGH CANAL  
WATER DISTRICT**

**Mike Stearns**  
President

**Jeff Bryant**  
General Manager

**COLUMBIA CANAL  
COMPANY**

**Chris Cardella**  
President

**Randy Houk**  
General Manager

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Fax (209) 827-9703  
e-mail: [jwhite@sjrecwa.net](mailto:jwhite@sjrecwa.net)  
Website: [www.sjrecwa.net](http://www.sjrecwa.net)

The Honorable David Valadao  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Valadao:

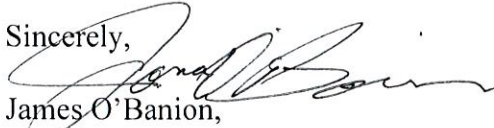
We write to convey the appreciation of the San Joaquin River Exchange Contractors Water Authority (Exchange Contractors) for your unrelenting focus throughout your entire tenure in the U.S. Congress to obtain additional and reliable water supplies for the Central Valley. The thousands of hours both you and your staff members have dedicated to the issue are recognized and greatly appreciated.

The Exchange Contractors also greatly appreciate all of your efforts, along with those of your many House colleagues and members of the U.S. Senate, to achieve the enactment of the Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation (WIN) Act. The provisions of the WINN Act already show promise of delivering on their potential.

The introduction of HR 23, the Guiding Responsibility on Water the (GROW) Act, is also greatly appreciated. HR 23 contains provisions in Title I, Section 114 which have been considered previously to address the San Joaquin River Restoration Program (SJRRP). The Exchange Contractors have for the last several years taken the position that the SJRRP is in need of comprehensive overhaul. The Program simply is not being executed as it was envisioned – and in all likelihood never can be. This is unfortunate for all interested parties, but especially for the Exchange Contractors, who could be subject to millions of dollars in damages if the program is not substantially revised. This is doubly unacceptable, since the Exchange Contractors were not direct parties to the original lawsuit or settlement.

Thank you for your untiring efforts. We look forward to working with you, your colleagues, and the California Senators in the weeks and months ahead to improve the water supply outlook for the Central Valley -- for both the near term and for generations to come.

Sincerely,

  
James O'Banion,  
President



**To nurture one business at a time.**

January 10, 2017

The Honorable David G. Valadao  
1728 Longworth Building  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Valadao,

Thank you, thank you, thank you! California's Central Valley, which provides the majority of fruits and vegetables for the country, has been suffering from a drought, which has been made worse by federal regulations. As a result, over 300 billion gallons of water have been diverted away from the region in an effort to protect the Delta Smelt. Today, citizens and farmers in the Central Valley are receiving less water, if any at all, than they previously contracted for and purchased. The water system that established California as a beacon of ingenuity has been pushed to the wayside for a bait fish and has had devastating consequences for farmers, as they now fallow thousands of acres of farmland. In addition, many communities in the Central Valley have run completely dry, and have resorted to relying solely on trucks to deliver potable water to residents.

For years, you have fought to bring water back to the valley; this year is no different. We support your introduction of H.R. 23, the Gaining Responsibility On Water (GROW) Act of 2017. This legislation would ensure reliable water deliveries for our valley, secure private property and senior water rights, and save millions of dollars by ending wasteful protectionist plans. To ensure water reliability in the future, the bill obligates the federal government to complete feasibility studies for multiple water storage projects in California and increases the scope of investigation for dam safety throughout the West, including expansion.

Now is the time to enact long term, meaningful solutions to California's water supply issues and we are hopeful this legislation is the next step in addressing the challenges we face. We look forward to working with you on advancing H.R. 23, the GROW Act, this Congress.

Thank you again!

Sincerely,

Katie Delano  
Executive Director



Coalinga Chamber of Commerce  
265 W. Elm Avenue, Coalinga, CA 93210  
559-935-2948 email: [exec@coalingachamber.com](mailto:exec@coalingachamber.com)



**Chairman of the Board**  
Reverend Paul McCoy

**First Vice Chair**  
Linda Hayes

**Second Vice Chair**  
Julia Hernandez

**Treasurer**  
Charles Garabedian, Jr.

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Tito A. Lucero  
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Pastor Bruce McAlister  
Barigye McCoy  
Lisa Nichols  
Daniel T. Parra  
Yvette Quiroga  
Catherine Robles  
Jimi Rodgers  
Cheryl Sullivan  
Maiyer Vang  
Juanita Veliz

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Brian Angus

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Fresno, CA 93721

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January 10, 2017

The Honorable David G. Valadao  
1728 Longworth Building  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Valadao,

California's Central Valley, which provides the majority of fruits and vegetables for the country, has been suffering from a drought, in part due to federal regulations that should be re-examined to assure adequate water for our agricultural industry. For instance over 300 billion gallons of water have been diverted from this region in an effort to protect the Delta Smelt. Today, citizens and farmers in the Central Valley are receiving less water, if any at all, than they previously contracted for and purchased. The water system that established California as a beacon of ingenuity is not functioning as intended, with devastating consequences for farmers, as they now fallow thousands of acres of farmland. In addition, many communities in the Central Valley have run completely dry, and have resorted to relying solely on trucks to deliver potable water to residents.

For years, you have fought to bring water back to the valley; this year is no different. We support your introduction of H.R. 23, the Gaining Responsibility On Water (GROW) Act of 2017. This legislation would ensure reliable water deliveries for our valley, secure private property and senior water rights, and save millions of dollars by ending imprudent protectionist plans. To ensure water reliability in the future, the bill obligates the federal government to complete feasibility studies for multiple water storage projects in California and increases the scope of investigation for dam safety throughout the West, including expansion.

Now is the time to enact long term, meaningful solutions to California's water supply issues and we are hopeful this legislation is the next step in addressing the challenges we face. We look forward to working with you on advancing H.R. 23, the GROW Act, this Congress.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Brian Angus', is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Brian Angus

Chief Executive Officer





City Manager's Office  
559/591-5904

Development Services  
559/591-5906

Parks & Community Services  
559/591-5940

City Attorney  
559/734-6729

Public Works Services  
559/591-5924

Fire/Ambulance Services  
559/591-5931

Administrative Services  
559/591-5900

Engineering Services  
559/591-5906

Police Services  
559/591-5914

January 10, 2017

The Honorable David G. Valadao  
1728 Longworth Building  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Valadao,

California's Central Valley, which provides the majority of fruits and vegetables for the country, has been suffering from a drought, which has been made worse by federal regulations. As a result, over 300 billion gallons of water have been diverted away from the region in an effort to protect the Delta Smelt. Today, citizens and farmers in the Central Valley are receiving less water, if any at all, than they previously contracted for and purchased. The water system that established California as a beacon of ingenuity has been pushed to the wayside for a bait fish and has had devastating consequences for farmers, as they now fallow thousands of acres of farmland. In addition, many communities in the Central Valley have run completely dry, and have resorted to relying solely on trucks to deliver potable water to residents.

For years, you have fought to bring water back to the valley; this year is no different. We support your introduction of H.R. 23, the Gaining Responsibility On Water (GROW) Act of 2017. This legislation would ensure reliable water deliveries for our valley, secure private property and senior water rights, and save millions of dollars by ending wasteful protectionist plans. To ensure water reliability in the future, the bill obligates the federal government to complete feasibility studies for multiple water storage projects in California and increases the scope of investigation for dam safety throughout the West, including expansion.

Now is the time to enact long term, meaningful solutions to California's water supply issues and we are hopeful this legislation is the next step in addressing the challenges we face. We look forward to working with you on advancing H.R. 23, the GROW Act, this Congress.

Respectfully,

Scott Harness  
Mayor  
City of Dinuba

cc: Dinuba City Council





January 12, 2017

The Honorable David G. Valadao  
1728 Longworth Building  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Re: Support of H.R. 23

Dear Representative Valadao,

California's Central Valley, which provides the majority of fruits and vegetables for the country, has been suffering from a drought, which has been made worse by federal regulations. As a result, over 300 billion gallons of water have been diverted away from the region in an effort to protect the Delta Smelt. Today, citizens and farmers in the Central Valley are receiving less water, if any at all, than they previously contracted for and purchased. The water system that established California as a beacon of ingenuity has been pushed to the wayside for a bait fish and has had devastating consequences for farmers, as they now fallow thousands of acres of farmland. In addition, many communities in the Central Valley have run completely dry, and have resorted to relying solely on trucks to deliver potable water to residents.

For years, you have fought to bring water back to the valley; this year is no different. We support your introduction of H.R. 23, the Gaining Responsibility On Water (GROW) Act of 2017. This legislation would ensure reliable water deliveries for our valley, secure private property and senior water rights, and save millions of dollars by ending wasteful protectionist plans. To ensure water reliability in the future, the bill obligates the federal government to complete feasibility studies for multiple water storage projects in California and increases the scope of investigation for dam safety throughout the West, including expansion.

Now is the time to enact long term, meaningful solutions to California's water supply issues and we are hopeful this legislation is the next step in addressing the challenges we face. We look forward to working with you on advancing H.R. 23, the GROW Act, this Congress.

Sincerely,

Carlton Jones, Mayor  
City of Tulare



Tim Thiesen  
Guarantee Real Estate  
Chairman

January , 2017

Gary Dodd  
Rabobank  
Vice Chairman

Denver Schutz  
Gerawan Farming  
Secretary

Dawn Barcellos  
Valentino's Italian  
Restaurant  
Treasurer

Board of Directors

Chuck Bohn  
Reedley Lumber

Sandra Caldwell  
President of Reedley  
College

Susan Chapman  
Adventist Health

Juan Garza  
Superintendent of KCUSD

Wes Isaac  
Wes Isaac Construction

Dennis Lowe  
Town & Country Market

Karim Nunez  
N.C. Ag. Inc

Vito Genna  
Sierra View Homes

Michael Franzen  
Dopkins Funeral Home

Aaron Khasigian  
Ace Hardware

The Honorable David G. Valadao  
1728 Longworth Building  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515


Dear Representative Valadao,

California's Central Valley, which provides the majority of fruits and vegetables for the country, has been suffering from a drought, which has been made worse by federal regulations. As a result, over 300 billion gallons of water have been diverted away from the region in an effort to protect the Delta Smelt. Today, citizens and farmers in the Central Valley are receiving less water, if any at all, than they previously contracted for and purchased. The water system that established California as a beacon of ingenuity has been pushed to the wayside for a bait fish and has had devastating consequences for farmers, as they now fallow thousands of acres of farmland. In addition, many communities in the Central Valley have run completely dry, and have resorted to relying solely on trucks to deliver potable water to residents.

For years, you have fought to bring water back to the valley; this year is no different. We support your introduction of H.R. 23, the Gaining Responsibility On Water (GROW) Act of 2017. This legislation would ensure reliable water deliveries for our valley, secure private property and senior water rights, and save millions of dollars by ending wasteful protectionist plans. To ensure water reliability in the future, the bill obligates the federal government to complete feasibility studies for multiple water storage projects in California and increases the scope of investigation for dam safety throughout the West, including expansion.

Now is the time to enact long term, meaningful solutions to California's water supply issues and we are hopeful this legislation is the next step in addressing the challenges we face. We look forward to working with you on advancing H.R. 23, the GROW Act, this Congress.

Tim Thiesen

  
Chairman of the Board

1633 11<sup>th</sup> Street  
Reedley, CA 93654  
559-638-3548  
559-638-8479 Fax

# ASV WINES

January 13, 2017

The Honorable David G. Valadao  
1728 Longworth Building  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

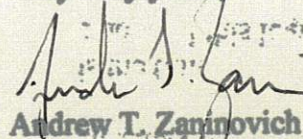
Dear Representative Valadao,

California's Central Valley, which provides the majority of fruits and vegetables for the country, has been suffering from a drought, which has been made worse by federal regulations. As a result, over 300 billion gallons of water have been diverted away from the region in an effort to protect the Delta Smelt. Today, citizens and farmers in the Central Valley are receiving less water, if any at all, than they previously contracted for and purchased. The water system that established California as a beacon of ingenuity has been pushed to the wayside for a bait fish and has had devastating consequences for farmers, as they now fallow thousands of acres of farmland. In addition, many communities in the Central Valley have run completely dry, and have resorted to relying solely on trucks to deliver potable water to residents.

For years, you have fought to bring water back to the valley; this year is no different. We support your introduction of H.R. 23, the Gaining Responsibility On Water (GROW) Act of 2017. This legislation would ensure reliable water deliveries for our valley, secure private property and senior water rights, and save millions of dollars by ending wasteful protectionist plans. To ensure water reliability in the future, the bill obligates the federal government to complete feasibility studies for multiple water storage projects in California and increases the scope of investigation for dam safety throughout the West, including expansion.

Now is the time to enact long term, meaningful solutions to California's water supply issues and we are hopeful this legislation is the next step in addressing the challenges we face. We look forward to working with you on advancing H.R. 23, the GROW Act, this Congress.

Very truly yours,

  
Andrew T. Zaninovich

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SAN MARTIN, CA 95046 USA  
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January 12<sup>th</sup>, 2017

Congressman David Valadao  
101 N. Irwin Street, Suite 110B  
Hanford, CA 93230

**RE: Letter of Support for H.R. 23- The GROW Act**

Dear Congressman Valadao,

On behalf of the Fresno Chamber of Commerce, I am pleased to write this letter in strong support of H.R. 23 the GROW act. This piece of legislation signifies an important step in the right direction for our region when it comes to our securing a reliable water source.

In our region, a popular slogan is “Food Grows Where Water Flows”, and its also the reality that jobs and the economy grow where that water flows as well. The GROW act takes a thoughtful approach at helping to address the multiple facets of this issue that are the contributors to the reduced water supply in our valley. It is our belief that this legislation will help our economy by ensuring that we retain and use to the benefit of our families and economy the most finite resource that we have in California, which is our water supply.

We look forward to a future in which the federal government is using better and more responsible studies when it comes to the feasibility of its water management practices, and we are hopeful in an increased water supply for the valley. We are proud to support this legislation and we look forward to assisting in the efforts to make it successful. Please let us know how we can be of further assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Nathan M. Ahle", is written over a faint blue circular stamp or watermark.

Nathan M. Ahle, IOM  
President/CEO  
Fresno Chamber of Commerce



**100**  
YEARS  
1917 - 2017

# TULARE COUNTY FARM BUREAU

*Mission: to promote and enhance the viability of Tulare County agriculture.*

January 13, 2017

The Honorable David G. Valadao  
1728 Longworth Building  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Valadao,

On behalf of the Tulare County Farm Bureau and its 2,000 farm and ranch families we represent, we are encouraged and in support of your efforts to introduce new drought relief legislation in the House of Representatives. We support your introduction of H.R. 23, Gaining Responsibility On Water (GROW) Act of 2017.

Thank you for your important and critical work in developing a new water bill for Congress to address California's Central Valley, which provides the majority of fruits and vegetables for the country, has been suffering from a drought, which has only been made worse by federal regulations. As a result, over 300 billion gallons of water have been diverted away from the region in an effort to protect the Delta Smelt. Today, citizens and farmers in the Central Valley are receiving less water, if any at all, than they previously contracted for and purchased. The water system that established California as a beacon of ingenuity has been pushed to the wayside for a bait fish and has had devastating consequences for farmers, as they now fallow thousands of acres of farmland. Cities in the Central Valley have run dry, relying solely on trucks to deliver potable water.

For years, you have fought to bring water back to the valley; this year is no different. This bill would ensure reliable water deliveries for our valley, secure private property and senior water rights, and save millions of dollars by ending wasteful protectionist plans. The bill also requires regulators to substantiate claims with scientific evidence. To ensure water reliability in the future, the bill obligates the federal government to complete feasibility studies for multiple water storage projects in California and increases the scope of investigation for dam safety throughout the West, including expansion.

Something must be done in response to the drought crisis and we are hopeful this legislation is the next step to addressing the water supply challenges we face. We look forward to working with you on advancing H.R. 23. Tulare County Farm Bureau continues to remain very concerned about water reliability in the San Joaquin Valley and throughout California and supports the efforts of our members of Congress to address immediate concerns for water reliability and develop a solution that can respond to our urgent and dire situation and develop comprehensive long term solutions. We thank Congressman Valadao for introducing H.R. 23.

The Valley's economy depends on healthy rural communities that can provide safe and reliable water supplies to their residents. These residents fuel the economy in the Valley by contributing to the agricultural workforce and beyond. The bill must address storage and short term relief in the immediate future, and long term solutions for more above ground storage infrastructure and less environmental restriction.

A comprehensive solution should including the following key provisions:

**In the Short Term,**

- Immediate relief from the Endangered Species Act
- Resume pumping at the Tracy pumps and operate the State Water Project and Central Valley Project with maximum discretion and flexibility
- Cessation of restoration flows on the San Joaquin River until such a time as the necessary improvements have been completed and surplus water exists beyond the needs of communities and industry

**In the Long Term,**

- Increase storage capacity within our existing reservoir systems
- Construct new reservoirs throughout the entire state
- Re-evaluate the current managements plans to allow improved operational flexibility of our water projects
- Reform the Endangered Species Act
- Revise the San Joaquin River Restoration Settlement

**Storage** must be in the final resolution, **new storage** including the Temperance Flat site; **enhanced storage** including raising dams and expanding reservoirs where possible; and also **building new conveyance and storage infrastructure** statewide to capture rain and snow melts.

In Tulare County, the agriculture industry directly supports 25% or more of the employment of our County's residents, and a large percentage of our disadvantaged and minority residents are directly impacted when agriculture jobs are lost. In-directly the agriculture industry's multiplier effect adds approximately \$3 additional dollars for every \$1 produced by agriculture, and the effect in our communities is immense when drought and water cut backs cripple our farms and ranches.

Farm Bureau supports a bipartisan effort from the House and the Senate to craft this comprehensive solution for immediate relief and long term solutions. Thereby securing a reliable water supply for all of California, and to protect the number one industry in the state, agriculture. We respectfully ask for your collective help and influence to save our state from catastrophic losses.

For years, you have fought to bring water back to the valley; this year is no different. We support your introduction of H.R. 23, the Gaining Responsibility On Water (GROW) Act of 2017. This legislation will ensure reliable water deliveries for our valley, secure private property and senior water rights, and save millions of dollars by ending wasteful protectionist plans.

Now is the time to enact long term, meaningful solutions to California's water supply issues and we are hopeful this legislation is the next step in addressing the challenges we face. We look forward to working with you on advancing H.R. 23, the GROW Act, this Congress.

Thank you,



ROGER EVERETT  
President



**MUNGER BROS., LLC**

**Munger Farms**

**Monarch Nut Company**

**Evergreen Empire, LLC**

**Crowne Cold Storage LLC**

January 16, 2017

The Honorable David G. Valadao  
1728 Longworth Building  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Valadao,

California's Central Valley, which provides the majority of fruits and vegetables for the country, has been suffering from a drought, which has been made worse by federal regulations. As a result, over 300 billion gallons of water have been diverted away from the region in an effort to protect the Delta Smelt. Today, citizens and farmers in the Central Valley are receiving less water, if any at all, than they previously contracted for and purchased. The water system that established California as a beacon of ingenuity has been pushed to the wayside for a bait fish and has had devastating consequences for farmers, as they now fallow thousands of acres of farmland. In addition, many communities in the Central Valley have run completely dry, and have resorted to relying solely on trucks to deliver potable water to residents.

For years, you have fought to bring water back to the valley; this year is no different. We support your introduction of H.R. 23, the Gaining Responsibility On Water (GROW) Act of 2017. This legislation would ensure reliable water deliveries for our valley, secure private property and senior water rights, and save millions of dollars by ending wasteful protectionist plans. To ensure water reliability in the future, the bill obligates the federal government to complete feasibility studies for multiple water storage projects in California and increases the scope of investigation for dam safety throughout the West, including expansion.

Now is the time to enact long term, meaningful solutions to California's water supply issues and we are hopeful this legislation is the next step in addressing the challenges we face. We look forward to working with you on advancing H.R. 23, the GROW Act, this Congress.

Sincerely,

*Cliff Woolley*

Cliff Woolley  
Chief Admin Officer  
The Munger Companies  
cliff@mungerfarms.com



# City of Reedley

---

**Mayor Anita Betancourt**  
1717 Ninth Street  
Reedley, Ca. 93654  
(559)637-4200 ext. 212

January 17, 2017

The Honorable David G. Valadao  
1728 Longworth Building  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Valadao:

California's Central Valley, which provides the majority of fruits and vegetables for the country, has been suffering from a drought, which has been made worse by federal regulations. As a result, over 300 billion gallons of water have been diverted away from the region in an effort to protect the Delta Smelt. Today, citizens and farmers in the Central Valley are receiving less water, if any at all, than they previously contracted for and purchased. The water system that established California as a beacon of ingenuity has been pushed to the wayside for a bait fish and has had devastating consequences for farmers, as they now fallow thousands of acres of farmland. In addition, many communities in the Central Valley have run completely dry, and have resorted to relying solely on trucks to deliver potable water to residents.

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Now is the time to enact long term, meaningful solutions to California's water supply issues and we are hopeful this legislation is the next step in addressing the challenges we face. We look forward to working with you on advancing H.R. 23, the GROW Act, this Congress.

Sincerely,

Mayor Anita Betancourt





January 13, 2017

The Honorable David G. Valadao  
1728 Longworth Building  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Valadao,

California's Central Valley, which provides the majority of fruits and vegetables for the country, has been suffering from a drought, which has been made worse by federal regulations. As a result, over 300 billion gallons of water have been diverted away from the region in an effort to protect the Delta Smelt. Today, citizens and farmers in the Central Valley are receiving less water, if any at all, than they previously contracted for and purchased. The water system that established California as a beacon of ingenuity has been pushed to the wayside for a bait fish and has had devastating consequences for farmers, as they now fallow thousands of acres of farmland. In addition, many communities in the Central Valley have run completely dry, and have resorted to relying solely on trucks to deliver potable water to residents.

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Now is the time to enact long term, meaningful solutions to California's water supply issues and we are hopeful this legislation is the next step in addressing the challenges we face. We look forward to working with you on advancing H.R. 23, the GROW Act, this Congress.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jay Tamsi".

Jay Tamsi, President/CEO  
Kern County Hispanic Chamber of Commerce



January 18, 2017

The Honorable David Valadao  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Valadao,

On behalf of the officers, directors and members of California Citrus Mutual I wish to offer our thanks and support for HR 23, The Guiding Responsibility on Water Act of 2017. In the past five years we have witnessed too many subjective decisions relative to water use or allocation coming from federal agencies. Admittedly Mother Nature has not been kind in those years but government exacerbated the problem without accountability.

Bottom line we support what you are proposing albeit there are sections and sentences that require some discussion for clarification. The Restoration Agreement specific to the San Joaquin River is in need of modernization, perhaps elimination, but certainly upgrade from its present status and that area is worthy of additional conversation.

Preserving water rights is very important but language is necessary to protect challenges from both the state, agencies operating under the guise of ESA and frankly from other stakeholders seeking "just a bit more." As the largest organized commodity within the Friant system we have witnessed a constant erosion of water rights to the point acreage is being bulldozed and both legal and political attacks continue.

Citrus Mutual is not seeking input on the technical issues as that is best left to water district managers and their cooperators. However policies affecting California water supplies are subjects we do engage in. You have started an honest effort on a myriad of subjects that we believe require attention and this we do support. Thank you for the opportunity and thank you for continuing to rectify a system that has gone seriously haywire.

Cordially,

Joel Nelsen  
President

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**CURT HOLMES**  
*Chairman*

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*Vice Chairman*

**AL BATES**  
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**BOB TEAGARDEN**

**RICK WESCOTT**

**TODD WILLIAMS**

**TOM WOLLENMAN**



**CLINTON J. OLIVIER**  
Council President

January 17, 2017

The Honorable David G. Valadao  
1728 Longworth Building  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Valadao,

California's Central Valley, which provides the majority of fruits and vegetables for the country, has been suffering from a drought, which has been made worse by federal regulations. As a result, over 300 billion gallons of water have been diverted away from the region in an effort to protect the Delta Smelt. Today, citizens and farmers in the Central Valley are receiving less water, if any at all, than they previously contracted for and purchased. The water system that established California as a beacon of ingenuity has been pushed to the wayside for a bait fish and has had devastating consequences for farmers, as they now fallow thousands of acres of farmland. In addition, many communities in the Central Valley have run completely dry, and have resorted to relying solely on trucks to deliver potable water to residents.

For years, you have fought to bring water back to the valley; this year is no different. I support your introduction of H.R. 23, the Gaining Responsibility On Water (GROW) Act of 2017. This legislation would ensure reliable water deliveries for our valley, secure private property and senior water rights, and save millions of dollars by ending wasteful protectionist plans. To ensure water reliability in the future, the bill obligates the federal government to complete feasibility studies for multiple water storage projects in California and increases the scope of investigation for dam safety throughout the West, including expansion.

Now is the time to enact long term, meaningful solutions to California's water supply issues and I am hopeful this legislation is the next step in addressing the challenges we face. I look forward to working with you on advancing H.R. 23, the GROW Act, this Congress.

Sincerely,

Clint Olivier  
Council President  
Fresno City Council, Seventh District

# Governing Board

## TULARE COUNTY

SUPERVISOR STEVE WORTHLEY,  
*President*

SUPERVISOR KUYLER CROCKER,  
*Alternate*

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*Director*

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*Alternate*

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*Director*

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MAYOR VICTOR LOPEZ,  
*Director*

CITY OF ORANGE COVE  
(VACANT), *Alternate*

## WESTERN CITIES

MAYOR PRO TEM ALVARO PRECIADO,  
*Director*

CITY OF AVENAL

(VACANT), *Alternate*

## WESTERN WATER AGENCIES

STEVE CHEDESTER,

*Director*

SAN JOAQUIN RIVER EXCHANGE  
CONTRACTORS WATER AUTHORITY

DAN POPE, *Alternate*  
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## TRIBAL MEMBERS

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*Director*

ANGELA KARST, *Alternate*  
TABLE MOUNTAIN RANCHERIA

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COUNCILMAN ROBERT SILVA



## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

MARIO SANTOYO

*Telephone*

(559) 779-7595

*E-Mail*

msantoyo@sjvwia.org

# SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY WATER INFRASTRUCTURE AUTHORITY

January 18, 2016

The Honorable David Valadao  
United States House of Representatives  
1728 Longworth House Office Bldg  
Washington, D.C. 20515

**BY ELECTRONIC MAIL**

Dear Congressman Valadao:

The San Joaquin Valley Water Infrastructure Authority (SJWVIA) Board of Directors — representing those who live, work and do business in Merced, Madera, Tulare, Kings and Fresno counties — is appreciative of your continued efforts to craft legislation that constructively and progressively addresses California's ongoing water crisis.

H.R. 23, the Gaining Responsibility on Water (GROW) Act, builds logically upon last year's bipartisan water legislation, the Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation (WIN), which has been signed into law. That measure is already having positive effects. So would H.R. 23.

All of the territory represented by our Authority's elected officials is located within California's San Joaquin Valley. Our constituents include growers, farm workers and those involved in many hundreds of farming-related service businesses. All of these people, and others in the communities and counties we serve, work hard to provide the majority of fruits and vegetables upon which the United States relies.

Our valley, like much of California, has suffered from acute shortages of water over the past several years. Some of this has been the result of natural drought effects but federal regulations and court mandates have made these shortages far worse, creating tremendous economic and social harm. Yes, we have been blessed in recent weeks by huge and welcomed storms but, ironically, these repeated heavy rainfall events have led to very large flood releases because the valley's reservoirs, particularly on the San Joaquin River system, are too small to control and fully capture all of the extremely high mountain runoff as it is occurring.

That is why the SJWVIA is so interested in the many surface water storage provisions within your bill. Our joint-powers Authority was organized last year to pursue means of developing one of California's most vitally-need surface water storage projects — Temperance Flat Dam and Reservoir on the San Joaquin River northeast of Fresno.

Although the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation is a valued and helpful partner in our endeavors, we believe H.R. 23's provisions aimed at expediting feasibility studies and expedited permitting for water storage and expanded infrastructure can only help such development efforts planned and contemplated here, elsewhere in California and around the nation.

Perhaps even more importantly for the Temperance Flat Project from a federal standpoint, your bill would halt and eliminate consideration currently aimed by the Bureau of Land Management at including a segment of the San Joaquin River located within the proposed reservoir site as a federal Wild and Scenic River. Such a designation would essentially block Temperance Flat, even though more than 20 years of federal investment and study, directed and carried out at a cost of approximately \$36 million to date by the Interior Department and USBR, have gone into the proposed project.

Our board also concurs with comments that other valley water agencies have offered on your bill regarding the Bay-Delta situation that has caused so much water supply grief in our region. Codifying the Bay-Delta Accord is of vital importance. We are pleased with the bill's provision that if the Central Valley Project and State Water Project are operated consistent with the Bay-Delta Accord, they would then be in conformance with the Endangered Species Act's requirements.

We also share our neighboring water agencies' beliefs that the San Joaquin River Restoration Program must be addressed and significantly overhauled. After a decade, it is obvious that this program's implementation has not and probably cannot be accomplished as anticipated.

Water reliability, since the beginning of settlement and development within the San Joaquin Valley in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, has always been the foundation sustaining our region's livelihoods, business and agricultural activity, and well being. This basic foundation is being continually chipped away by the sorts of federal actions, laws, regulations, mandates and decisions your bill seeks to correct. It is the SJVWIA's desire to work closely with you and your colleagues to solve these many problems and bring water supply reliability in California and the San Joaquin Valley back to where it belongs, allowing our state and region to move forward.

Thank you for considering our comments.

Sincerely,

  
J. Steven Worthley  
President

# California State Senate

SENATOR  
ANDY VIDAK  
FOURTEENTH SENATE DISTRICT



January 18, 2017

The Honorable David G. Valadao  
1728 Longworth House Office Building  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Valadao,

Businesses, families and entire communities across California are suffering as a result of these historic drought conditions. While less-than-normal rainfall has greatly contributed to the dire conditions Californians are experiencing, both state and federal regulations have severely exacerbated their suffering.

Agriculture drives the American economy and is the backbone of California's economy – a \$35 billion dollar industry that produces over 400 commodities and accounts for over a half of our nation's fruits and vegetables. Today, California produces over 12 percent of all nationwide agricultural exports and 30 percent of all dairy exports. Agriculture is vitally important to the economic security of our state.

The effects of this drought impact more than just the agriculture industry. With each passing day we hear from our constituents about the devastating consequences of this historic drought. Thousands of acres of farmland are left fallowed, parents are losing their jobs, and the cost of fruits and vegetables is skyrocketing at the grocery store.

Legislation cannot provide rain, but thoughtful legislation can deliver relief by addressing complex and contradictory laws, court decisions and regulations at the state and federal level, while working to improve water storage infrastructure throughout the Western United States.

We support your introduction of H.R. 23 – the *Gaining Responsibility on Water (GROW) Act of 2017* – in the United States Congress. We believe this legislation will ensure reliable water deliveries, secure private property and senior water rights, save millions of dollars by ending wasteful protectionist plans, and will expedite the construction of current and future water storage facilities.

Now is the time to enact long term, meaningful solutions to California's water supply issues and we are hopeful this legislation is the next step in addressing the challenges we face. We look forward to working with you to achieve a solution to bring our constituencies the drought relief they desperately need at both the state and federal level.

Sincerely,

*Andy Vidak*

Andy Vidak  
14<sup>th</sup> Senate District

*Ch* 512

*Juan Full* SD 16

*John Hanley* SD 37

*Stib* AD 40

*Brian Dell* AD 1

*AD 31*

*AD 35*

*Paul J. Clary*  
AD 76

*308*

*God* SD 38

*Min Howell* 523

*Vince Fong* SD 34

*AD 23*

*Thomas Larkin* AD 36

*Scott Witt* SD 21

*AD 26*

*Kent Clava*  
AD 12

Wm P. ... AD73

Jeff Stone SD 28

Jim Nelson SD4

Tom ... AD72

... by AD21

For ... SD1

Frank Bigelow AD5

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... Valadao AD71

Steve Choi AD68

... AD32

... SD36

... SD34

Cathleen Galgiani SD05

... AD42

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January 19, 2017

The Honorable David G. Valadao  
1728 Longworth Building  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Valadao,

California's Central Valley, which provides the majority of fruits and vegetables for the country, has been suffering from a long drought made worse by federal regulations. Long-term drought also is impacting other major agricultural areas across the Western United States.

To date, over 300 billion gallons of water have been diverted away from California's Central Valley in an effort to protect the Delta Smelt and salmonid species, including Chinook and coho salmon and steelhead.

Agricultural interests throughout the West are seeing their property and water rights decaying, lands available for cultivation becoming smaller due to protection mandates for endangered species of concern and surface and groundwater formerly available to their operations being diverted away from their farms and ranches.

Today, communities and farmers in the Central Valley and throughout the state are receiving less water — if any at all — than the amounts for which they previously contracted and paid. The water and agricultural production system that established California as a beacon of ingenuity and productivity has been pushed to the wayside for a bait fish without regard for scientific findings that show little improvement in Delta smelt populations. This, in turn, has devastated California's farmers, communities and even the environment. They now fallow hundreds of thousands of acres of farmland and struggle to keep many additional growing areas active by drilling expensive wells to tap deep and costly groundwater reserves. The result is that many communities in the Central Valley have run completely dry, with their citizens relying solely on truck deliveries for potable water to use for drinking, bathing and cooking.

Across the Southwest, water compacts dividing the Colorado River resource between various states and Mexico have become unworkable and adjudication and revision efforts difficult because of the decade-long drought and dwindling Rocky Mountain snowfall. States lack the necessary tools to coordinate federal water infrastructure with dams, canals and aqueducts owned by state and local water entities. These difficulties are threatening the public health and stifling the economic expansion of the entire Southwest.

In the Intermountain West, the Columbia River and its tributaries are another case where long-standing water rights are under attack. Federal impositions of mandates affecting water capture

and releases are upending ranching, agriculture and economic viability in areas with vast swaths of land held by the U.S. Government.

All of these matters require remedies, but none so much as the Central Valley suffering under California's and the federal government's heavy hands.

For years, you have fought to bring water back to the Central Valley; this year is no different. You have introduced H.R. 23, the Gaining Responsibility On Water (GROW) Act of 2017

We support the GROW Act and encourage you to seek co-sponsors and endorsements from California's congressional delegation and across the West. Your legislation would ensure reliable water deliveries for our valley, secure private property and senior water rights, and save millions of dollars by replacing wasteful protectionist plans with sane and sensible alternatives.

To ensure water reliability in the future, the GROW Act obligates the federal government to complete feasibility studies for multiple water storage projects in California and increases the scope of investigation of dam safety throughout the West, including planning for expansion needs with concrete construction proposals.

GROW will improve the Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta Estuary and promote better water reliability for all recipients of the Central Valley Project's water.

Now is the time to enact this long-term, meaningful solution to California's water supply issues. We add our voices to thousands of supporters of your legislation in hope that the GROW Act is the next step taken by Congress to address the challenges facing California's Central Valley and the West.

We look forward to working with you on advancing H.R. 23, the GROW Act, this session.

Sincerely,



Aubrey J. D. Bettencourt

Executive Director

California Water Alliance



January 19, 2017

The Honorable David Valadao  
U.S. House of Representatives  
21<sup>st</sup> District of California  
1728 Longworth Building  
Washington, D.C., 20515

**RE: HR 23 – Gaining Responsibility On Water Act of 2017**

Congressman Valadao,

On behalf of Fresno County Farm Bureau (FCFB), I write in support of your recently introduced legislation, HR 23, the Gaining Responsibility On Water (GROW) Act of 2017.

FCFB applauds your efforts to ensure reliable water deliveries to our valley farmers and communities. Over the last several years, Fresno County has been severely affected by the impacts of the drought, only to be made worse by the billions of gallons of water being diverted from the region to protect environmental efforts.

Fresno County produces more than 400 different commodities that provide our country with much of its fruits and vegetables. Many of our farmers and ranchers have received less water than they were contracted for or purchased. The GROW Act will help address the water supply challenges we face as result of the drought crisis.

The time to secure long-term solutions to California's water supply issues is now. FCFB looks forward to continuing our work with you on the GROW Act.

Sincerely,

A large, stylized handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to read "Ryan Jacobsen".

Ryan Jacobsen  
CEO





January 19, 2017

The Honorable David G. Valadao  
1728 Longworth Building  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

783 S. Madera Avenue  
Kerman, CA 93630

Dear Representative Valadao,

California's Central Valley, which provides the majority of fruits and vegetables for the country, has been suffering from a drought, which has been made worse by federal regulations. As a result, over 300 billion gallons of water have been diverted away from the region in an effort to protect the Delta Smelt. Today, citizens and farmers in the Central Valley are receiving less water, if any at all, than they previously contracted for and purchased. The water system that established California as a beacon of ingenuity has been pushed to the wayside for a bait fish and has had devastating consequences for farmers, as they now fallow thousands of acres of farmland. In addition, many communities in the Central Valley have run completely dry, and have resorted to relying solely on trucks to deliver potable water to residents.

For years, you have fought to bring water back to the valley; this year is no different. We support your introduction of H.R. 23, the Gaining Responsibility On Water (GROW) Act of 2017. This legislation would ensure reliable water deliveries for our valley, secure private property and senior water rights, and save millions of dollars by ending wasteful protectionist plans. To ensure water reliability in the future, the bill obligates the federal government to complete feasibility studies for multiple water storage projects in California and increases the scope of investigation for dam safety throughout the West, including expansion.

Now is the time to enact long term, meaningful solutions to California's water supply issues and we are hopeful this legislation is the next step in addressing the challenges we face. We look forward to working with you on advancing H.R. 23, the GROW Act, this Congress.

Best Regards,

Dave Federoff, President  
Kerman Chamber of Commerce



January 19, 2017

The Honorable David G. Valadao  
1728 Longworth Building  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Valadao,

California's Central Valley, which provides the majority of fruits and vegetables for the country, has been suffering from a drought which has been made worse by federal regulations. As a result, over 300 billion gallons of water have been diverted away from the region in an effort to protect the Delta Smelt. Today, citizens and farmers in the Central Valley are receiving less water, if any at all, than they previously contracted for and purchased. The water system that established California as a beacon of ingenuity has been pushed to the wayside for a bait fish and has had devastating consequences for farmers, as they now fallow thousands of acres of farmland. In addition, many communities in the Central Valley have run completely dry, and have resorted to relying solely on trucks to deliver potable water to residents.

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Now is the time to enact long term, meaningful solutions to California's water supply issues and we are hopeful this legislation is the next step in addressing the challenges we face. We look forward to working with you on advancing H.R. 23, the GROW Act, this Congress.

Sincerely,



James L. Nickel  
President



336 Pacific Avenue • Shafter, California 93263

January 18, 2017

The Honorable David G. Valadao  
1728 Longworth Building  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Re: *H.R. 23, the Gaining Responsibility on Water (GROW) Act*

Dear Representative Valadao,

California's Central Valley, which provides the majority of fruits and vegetables for the country, has been suffering from a drought, which has been made worse by federal regulations. As a result, over 300 billion gallons of water have been diverted away from the region in an effort to protect the Delta Smelt. Today, citizens and farmers in the Central Valley are receiving less water, if any at all, than they previously contracted for and purchased. The water system that established California as a beacon of ingenuity has been pushed to the wayside for a bait fish and has had devastating consequences for farmers, as they now fallow thousands of acres of farmland. In addition, many communities in the Central Valley have run completely dry, and have resorted to relying solely on trucks to deliver potable water to residents.

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Now is the time to enact long term, meaningful solutions to California's water supply issues and we are hopeful this legislation is the next step in addressing the challenges we face. We look forward to working with you on advancing H.R. 23, the GROW Act, this Congress.

Sincerely,

Scott Hurlbert  
City Manager



CITY HALL  
1015 ELEVENTH AVENUE  
POST OFFICE BOX 3010

---

DELANO, CALIFORNIA 93216-3010

(661) 721-3300  
[www.cityofdelano.org](http://www.cityofdelano.org)

COUNCIL MEMBERS

Liz Morris  
MAYOR

Grace Vallejo  
MAYOR PRO TEM

Joe E. Aguirre, Jr.  
Ruben "Ruby" Hill  
Rueben Pascual

---

CITY MANAGER  
MARIBEL G. REYNA

January 19, 2017

The Honorable David G. Valadao  
1728 Longworth Building  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Valadao,

California's Central Valley, which provides the majority of fruits and vegetables for the country, has been suffering from a drought, which has been made worse by federal regulations. As a result, over 300 billion gallons of water have been diverted away from the region in an effort to protect the Delta Smelt. Today, citizens and farmers in the Central Valley are receiving less water, if any at all, than they previously contracted for and purchased. The water system that established California as a beacon of ingenuity has been pushed to the wayside for a bait fish and has had devastating consequences for farmers, as they now fallow thousands of acres of farmland. In addition, many communities in the Central Valley have run completely dry, and have resorted to relying solely on trucks to deliver potable water to residents.

For years, you have fought to bring water back to the valley; this year is no different. The City of Delano supports your introduction of H.R. 23, the Gaining Responsibility On Water (GROW) Act of 2017. This legislation would ensure reliable water deliveries for our valley, secure private property and senior water rights, and save millions of dollars by ending wasteful protectionist plans. To ensure water reliability in the future, the bill obligates the federal government to complete feasibility studies for multiple water storage projects in California and increases the scope of investigation for dam safety throughout the West, including expansion.

Now is the time to enact long term, meaningful solutions to California's water supply issues and we are hopeful this legislation is the next step in addressing the challenges we face. The City of Delano supports you in your efforts and we look forward to working with you on advancing H.R. 23, the GROW Act.

Sincerely,

Liz Morris  
Mayor, City of Delano

CITY OF DELANO



**Tulare County Association of REALTORS®**  
**Tulare County Multiple Listing Service (MLS)**

2424 E. Valley Oaks Drive - Visalia, CA 93292-6713

Tel: 559-627-1776 Fax: 559-627-9441

Web: [www.tcmls.org](http://www.tcmls.org)



January 20, 2017

The Honorable David G. Valadao  
1728 Longworth Building  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Valadao,

The Tulare County Association of REALTORS® is a group of over 1,000 professionals that live and serve the county and strive to see this area thrive. Not just for the benefit of business, but for the benefit of the families we work with to see their dream of homeownership come to light. We are a group that is comprised of a diverse socio-economic standing, beliefs and political affiliations. However, with our varied differences, we have many common interests. We work hard to champion positive enhancements to the real estate industry and protect private property rights. Tulare County is seeing great growth, however we have witnessed over the years that our friends, family, clients and those in the agricultural community are going through a tremendous struggle with the lack of water. This is an issue that should have never gone as far as it has. We have seen communities run completely out of water, wells go dry and thousands of acres of farm land fallowed. We have seen enough and realize that it is time to support an act that will bring critically needed relief to our area.

Our association has seen your fight, along with Congressman Nunes', to bring water back to the Central Valley and we appreciate the action you have taken. That is why we would like to announce our support of H.R. 23, the Gaining Responsibility on Water (GROW) Act of 2017. This legislation would ensure reliable water deliveries for our valley, secure private property and senior water rights, and save millions of dollars by ending wasteful protectionist plans. To ensure water reliability in the future, the bill obligates the federal government to complete feasibility studies for multiple water storage projects in California and increases the scope of investigation for dam safety throughout the West, including expansion.

Now is the time to enact long term, meaningful solutions to California's water supply issues and we are hopeful this legislation is the next step in addressing the challenges we face. We look forward to working with you on advancing H.R. 23, the GROW Act, this Congress.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Edward Morton". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, stylized "E" at the beginning.

Edward Morton  
2017 TCAOR President



*City of* **HANFORD**

CALIFORNIA 93230  
CITY OFFICES 319 NORTH DOUTY STREET



**MAYOR**  
DAVID G. AYERS  
**VICE MAYOR**  
SUE SORENSEN  
**COUNCIL MEMBERS**  
MARTIN DEVINE  
FRANCISCO RAMIREZ  
JUSTIN MENDES  
**CITY MANAGER**  
DARREL L. PYLE  
**CITY ATTORNEY**  
ROBERT M. DOWD

The Honorable David G. Valadao  
1728 Longworth Building  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Valadao:

California's Central Valley, which provides the majority of fruits and vegetables for the country, has been suffering from a drought, which has been made worse by federal regulations. As a result, over 300 billion gallons of water have been diverted away from the region in an effort to protect the Delta Smelt. Today, citizens and farmers in the Central Valley are receiving less water, if any at all, than they previously contracted for and purchased. The water system that established California as a beacon of ingenuity has been pushed to the wayside for a bait fish and has had devastating consequences for farmers, as they now fallow thousands of acres of farmland. In addition, many communities in the Central Valley have run completely dry, and have resorted to relying solely on trucks to deliver potable water to residents.

For years, you have fought to bring water back to the valley; this year is no different. We support your introduction of H.R. 23, the Gaining Responsibility On Water (GROW) Act of 2017. This legislation would ensure reliable water deliveries for our valley, secure private property and senior water rights, and save millions of dollars by ending wasteful protectionist plans. To ensure water reliability in the future, the bill obligates the federal government to complete feasibility studies for multiple water storage projects in California and increases the scope of investigation for dam safety throughout the West, including expansion.

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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. Ayers".

David G. Ayers  
Mayor

# HANFORD

The Honorable David G. Valadao  
1728 Longworth Building  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

January 10, 2017

Dear Representative Valadao,

California's Central Valley, which provides the majority of fruits and vegetables for the country, has been suffering from a drought, which has been made worse by federal regulations. As a result, over 300 billion gallons of water have been diverted away from the region in an effort to protect the Delta Smelt. Today, citizens and farmers in the Central Valley are receiving less water, if any at all, than they previously contracted for and purchased. The water system that established California as a beacon of ingenuity has been pushed to the wayside for a bait fish and has had devastating consequences for farmers, as they now fallow thousands of acres of farmland. In addition, many communities in the Central Valley have run completely dry, and have resorted to relying solely on trucks to deliver potable water to residents.

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Mike Bertaina  
Hanford Chamber of Commerce CEO  
(559) 582-0483  
mike@hanfordchamber.com



OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY  
COUNTY OF TULARE

Tim Ward, *District Attorney*

---

January 23, 2017

The Honorable David G. Valadao  
U.S. House of Representatives  
1728 Longworth Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Valadao,

California's Central Valley, which provides the majority of fruits and vegetables for the country, has been suffering from a drought, which has been made worse by federal regulations. As a result, over 300 billion gallons of water have been diverted away from the region in an effort to protect the Delta Smelt. Today, citizens and farmers in the Central Valley are receiving less water, if any at all, than they previously contracted for and purchased. The water system that established California as a beacon of ingenuity has been pushed to the wayside for a bait fish and has had devastating consequences for farmers, as they now fallow thousands of acres of farmland. In addition, many communities in the Central Valley have run completely dry, and have resorted to relying solely on trucks to deliver potable water to residents.

Often these are the very communities which have the highest unemployment rates and are plagued with crime. Water is not the only component to this problem, but we owe our residents access to nutritious food and water, especially our children. A sustainable and safe community is more likely to offer a child an opportunity to grow up free of violence, pollution, and poverty.

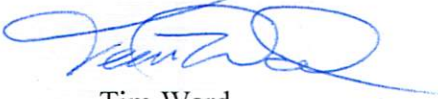
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The Honorable David G. Valadao  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Page Two

Now is the time to enact long term, meaningful solutions to California's water supply issues and we are hopeful this legislation is the next step in addressing the challenges we face. We look forward to working with you on advancing H.R. 23, the GROW Act, this Congress.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Tim Ward  
District Attorney

TW:rg



MARK D. JANSEN  
PRESIDENT  
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

January 24, 2017

The Honorable David G. Valadao  
1728 Longworth Building  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Valadao,

California's Central Valley, which provides the majority of fruits and vegetables for the country, has been suffering from a drought, which has been made worse by federal regulations. As a result, over 300 billion gallons of water have been diverted away from the region in an effort to protect the Delta Smelt. Today, citizens and farmers in the Central Valley are receiving less water, if any at all, than they previously contracted for and purchased. The water system that established California as a beacon of ingenuity has been pushed to the wayside for a bait fish and has had devastating consequences for farmers, as they now fallow thousands of acres of farmland. In addition, many communities in the Central Valley have run completely dry, and have resorted to relying solely on trucks to deliver potable water to residents.

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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark Jansen", written over a horizontal line.

Mark Jansen  
President and CEO  
Blue Diamond Growers



January 23, 2017

The Honorable David G. Valadao  
1728 Longworth Building  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

RE: H.R. 23, the Gaining Responsibility On Water (GROW) Act of 2017

Dear Honorable Congressman Valadao,

California's Central Valley, which provides the majority of fruits and vegetables for the country, has been suffering from a drought, which has been made worse by federal regulations. Over 300 billion gallons of water have been diverted away from the region due to mismanagement based upon outdated science and an illogical regulatory framework. Small rural San Joaquin Valley cities such as Farmersville are dependent upon the agricultural economy that was built based upon prior allocations of surface water to our area. Roughly 20 percent of our city's families' incomes are directly tied to the agricultural economy and many other residents and businesses are indirectly affected by an agricultural economy dependent upon available water for irrigation. Today, citizens and farmers in the Central Valley are receiving less water, if any at all, than they previously contracted for and purchased. The water system that established California as a beacon of ingenuity has been pushed to the wayside resulting in devastating consequences for farmers, as they now fallow thousands of acres of farmland. In addition, many communities in the Central Valley have run completely dry, and have resorted to relying solely on trucks to deliver potable water to residents. Close to home, our City recently extended water service to roughly 100 homes in a neighboring community that had its wells run dry.

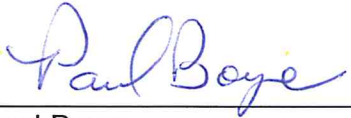
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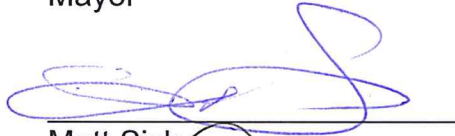
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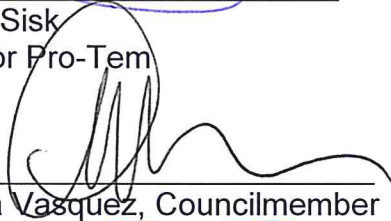
***The Mayor and City Council of the City of Farmersville, CA***



Paul Boyer  
Mayor



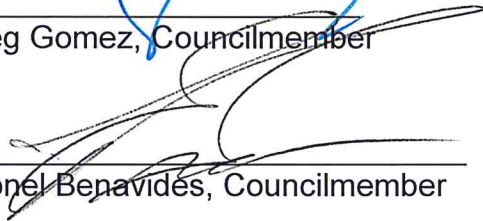
Matt Sisk  
Mayor Pro-Tem



Rosa Vasquez, Councilmember



Greg Gomez, Councilmember



Leonel Benavides, Councilmember

*Mayor*  
Victor P. Lopez

*Mayor Pro Tem:*  
Diana Guerra Silva

*City Council Members:*  
Gilbert Garcia  
Minerva Pineda  
Josie Cervantes



*City Manager:*  
Samuel A. Escobar  
(559) 626-4488 ext. 215

*Finance Director:*  
(559) 626-4488 ext. 216

*City Clerk:*  
June V. Bracamontes  
(559) 626-4488 ext. 214

Incorporated January 20, 1948

633 Sixth Street Orange Cove, California 93646 Phone: (559) 626-4488 / FAX: (559) 626-4653

January 11 , 2017

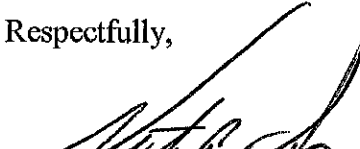
The Honorable David G. Valadao  
1728 Longworth Building  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Valadao,  
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Now is the time to enact long term, meaningful solutions to California's water supply issues and we are hopeful this legislation is the next step in addressing the challenges we face. We look forward to working with you on advancing H.R. 23, the GROW Act, this Congress.

Respectfully,

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Victor P. Lopez, Mayor  
City of Orange Cove





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C I T Y O F S E L M A

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1710 TUCKER STREET • SELMA, CALIFORNIA 93662

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January 18, 2017

The Honorable David G. Valadao  
1728 Longworth Building  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Valadao,

California's Central Valley, which provides the majority of fruits and vegetables for the country, has been suffering from a drought, which has been made worse by federal regulations. As a result, over 300 billion gallons of water have been diverted away from the region in an effort to protect the Delta Smelt. Today, citizens and farmers in the Central Valley are receiving less water, if any at all, than they previously contracted for and purchased. The water system that established California as a beacon of ingenuity has been pushed to the wayside for a bait fish and has had devastating consequences for farmers, as they now fallow thousands of acres of farmland. In addition, many communities in the Central Valley have run completely dry, and have resorted to relying solely on trucks to deliver potable water to residents.

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Now is the time to enact long term, meaningful solutions to California's water supply issues and we are hopeful this legislation is the next step in addressing the challenges we face. We look forward to working with you on advancing H.R. 23, the GROW Act, this Congress.

Respectfully,

Michael Derr  
Mayor  
City of Selma

THE CITY OF

# WOODLAKE

350 NORTH VALENCIA BOULEVARD • WOODLAKE, CA 93286-1244

PHONE (559) 564-8055 • FAX (559) 564-8776

www.cityofwoodlake.com

January 23, 2017

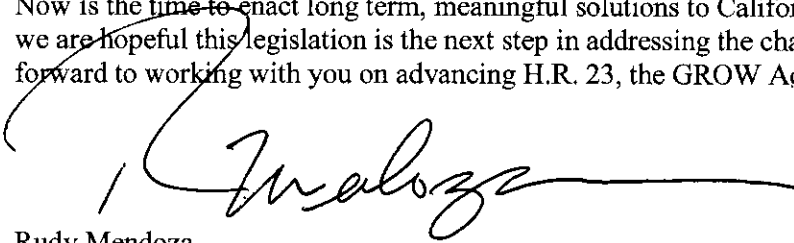
The Honorable David G. Valadao  
1728 Longworth Building  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

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Rudy Mendoza  
Mayor – City of Woodlake



JOE NEVES – DISTRICT 1  
LEMOORE & STRATFORD

RICHARD VALLE – DISTRICT 2  
AVENAL, CONCORAN, HOME GARDEN  
& KETTLEMAN CITY

DOUG VERBOON – DISTRICT 3  
NORTH HANFORD, ISLAND DISTRICT  
& NORTH LEMOORE

CRAIG PEDERSEN – DISTRICT 4  
ARMONA & HANFORD

RICHARD FAGUNDES – DISTRICT 5  
HANFORD & BURRIS PARK

## COUNTY OF KINGS BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

MAILING ADDRESS: KINGS COUNTY GOVERNMENT CENTER, HANFORD, CA 93230  
OFFICES AT: 1400 W. LACEY BLVD., ADMINISTRATION BUILDING # 1, HANFORD  
(559) 852-2362, FAX: (559) 585-8047  
Web Site: <http://www.countyofkings.com>

January 24, 2017

The Honorable David G. Valadao  
US House of Representatives  
1728 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Valadao:

On behalf of the Kings County Board of Supervisors, I am writing to thank you for your long-standing efforts to assist California farmers, businesses, and communities suffering from the devastating effects of our state's historic drought. In particular, we appreciate your leadership in securing passage of provisions in the *Water Infrastructure Investments for the Nation (WIIN) Act* (PL 114-322) that provide state and federal agencies with operational flexibility to maximize water supplies to the Central Valley.

As you know, Kings County is among the nation's leaders in agricultural production. Our shared constituents depend upon reliable supplies and quantities of water, delivered efficiently from a variety of sources. However, in recent years, the lack of rainfall – in combination with burdensome federal regulations – have resulted in severe curtailments of water supplies in some portions of Kings County. While our communities are already experiencing benefits from the aforementioned *WIIN Act* provisions, those reforms were only intended to provide temporary relief. Unless Congress enacts long-term, meaningful solutions to California's complex water management challenges, the Central Valley will continue to be disproportionately impacted by unprecedented dry conditions.

The Kings County Board of Supervisors believes that your legislation – the *Gaining Responsibility On Water (GROW) Act of 2017* (HR 23) – would help protect our vital agricultural interests by ensuring reliable and predictable water deliveries. Among other things, the *Grow Act* would restore water supply to the levels agreed upon in the 1994 Bay-Delta Accord. While we understand the desire of environmentalists to protect threatened fish species, we would argue that many current programs and policies improperly put the interests of fish over the fundamental needs of people.

The Honorable David G. Valadao  
US House of Representatives  
1728 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515  
GROW Act of 2017 (HR 23) Comment Letter  
Page 2 of 2

The legislation also would help streamline permitting and expedite construction of additional water storage facilities, including the proposed Temperance Flat dam along the San Joaquin River. The addition of Temperance Flat would create a new reservoir that nearly triples the storage of Millerton Lake to approximately 1.25 million acre feet. These types of strategic storage projects will help yield sustainable water resources, enhance flood protection, and recharge groundwater supplies.

For these reasons and more, the Kings County Board of Supervisors is pleased to endorse the *GROW Act*. Thank you again for your strong and sustained leadership on this critically important issue. We look forward to continuing to work with you on advancing the *GROW Act*. If you have any questions or need any additional information, please feel free to contact Hasan Sarsour, Kings County's federal representative, at 202-898-1444, or [hs@wafed.com](mailto:hs@wafed.com).

Sincerely,



Craig Pedersen, Chairman  
Kings County Board of Supervisors

cc: Senator Dianne Feinstein  
Senator Kamala Harris

COLD STORAGE PLANT  
PETERSON & BROWNING RDS.  
MCFARLAND, CALIFORNIA 93250

# Sunview Marketing International

1998 ROAD 152  
DELANO, CALIFORNIA 93215

TELEPHONE  
OFFICE: 661/792-3151  
FAX: Sales 661/792-2683  
Admin. 661/792-3995



January 13, 2017

The Honorable David G. Valadao  
1728 Longworth Building  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

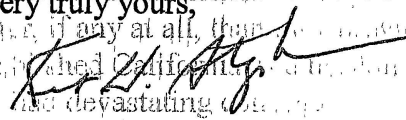
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Now is the time to enact long term, meaningful solutions to California's water supply issues and we are hopeful this legislation is the next step in addressing the challenges we face. We look forward to working with you on advancing H.R. 23, the GROW Act, this Congress.

Very truly yours,

  
Kent H. Stephens

Sec/CFO

Now is the time to enact long term, meaningful solutions to California's water supply issues and we are hopeful this legislation is the next step in addressing the challenges we face. We look forward to working with you on advancing H.R. 23, the GROW Act, this Congress.



# Sunview Vineyards Of California, Inc.

31381 POND ROAD, SUITE 4 • MCFARLAND, CALIFORNIA 93250-9795  
TELEPHONE 661 / 792-3151

January 13, 2017

The Honorable David G. Valadao  
1728 Longworth Building  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Valadao,

California's Central Valley, which provides the majority of fruits and vegetables for the country, has been suffering from a drought, which has been made worse by federal regulations. As a result, over 300 billion gallons of water have been diverted away from the region in an effort to protect the Delta Smelt. Today, citizens and farmers in the Central Valley are receiving less water, if any at all, than they previously contracted for and purchased. The water system that established California as a beacon of ingenuity has been pushed to the wayside for a bait fish and has had devastating consequences for farmers, as they now follow thousands of acres of farmland. In addition, many communities in the Central Valley have run completely dry, and have resorted to relying solely on trucks to deliver potable water to residents.

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Very truly yours,

Marko S. Zaninovich

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# CASA CRISTAL

NURSERY

**COPY**

1998 Road 152  
Delano, CA 93215  
(661) 792-6468  
Fax (661) 792-6891

January 13, 2017

The Honorable David G. Valadao  
1728 Longworth Building  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

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Very truly yours,

Andrew Th. Zaninovich

For years, you have fought to bring water back to the valley; this year is no different. We support your introduction of H.R. 23, the Gaining Responsibility On Water (GROW) Act of 2017. This legislation would ensure reliable water deliveries for our valley, secure private property and senior water rights, and save millions of dollars by ending wasteful protectionist plans. To ensure water reliability in the future, the bill obligates the federal government to complete feasibility studies for multiple water storage projects in California and increases the scope of investigation for dam safety throughout the West, including expansion.

COLD STORAGE PLANT  
PETERSON & BROWNING RDS.  
MCFARLAND, CALIFORNIA 93250

TELEPHONE: 661/792-3151  
FAX: ADMIN: 661/792-3995  
FAX: SALES: 661/792-2683



# Marko Zaninovich, Inc.

*Growers and Shippers*

1998 Road 152  
DELANO, CALIFORNIA 93215

January 13, 2017

The Honorable David G. Valadao  
1728 Longworth Building  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Valadao,

California's Central Valley, which provides the majority of fruits and vegetables for the country, has been suffering from a drought, which has been made worse by federal regulations. As a result, over 300 billion gallons of water have been diverted away from the region in an effort to protect the Delta Smelt. Today, citizens and farmers in the Central Valley are receiving less water, if any at all, than they previously contracted for and purchased. The water system that established California as a beacon of ingenuity has been pushed to the wayside for a bait fish and has had devastating consequences for farmers, as they now fallow thousands of acres of farmland. In addition, many communities in the Central Valley have run completely dry, and have resorted to relying solely on trucks to deliver potable water to residents.

For years, you have fought to bring water back to the valley; this year is no different. We support your introduction of H.R. 23, the Gaining Responsibility On Water (GROW) Act of 2017. This legislation would ensure reliable water deliveries for our valley, secure private property and senior water rights, and save millions of dollars by ending wasteful protectionist plans. To ensure water reliability in the future, the bill obligates the federal government to complete feasibility studies for multiple water storage projects in California and increases the scope of investigation for dam safety throughout the West, including expansion.

Now is the time to enact long term, meaningful solutions to California's water supply issues and we are hopeful this legislation is the next step in addressing the challenges we face. We look forward to working with you on advancing H.R. 23, the GROW Act, this Congress.

Very truly yours,

  
Marko B. Zaninovich  
President



# CALIFORNIA CATTLEMEN'S ASSOCIATION

1221 H STREET • SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA • 95814-1910

SERVING THE CATTLE  
INDUSTRY SINCE 1917



PHONE: (916) 444-0845  
FAX: (916) 444-2194  
www.calcattlemen.org

January 26, 2017

The Honorable David Valadao  
U.S. House of Representatives  
1004 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Congressman Valadao,

The California Cattlemen's Association (CCA) is pleased to support House Resolution 23 that will provide necessary drought relief to California's farmers and ranchers. CCA represents ranchers and beef producers that comprise California's \$3.5 billion beef cattle industry.

As you well know, California has experienced one of the worst droughts in recorded history. Although a wet winter has brought higher than expected levels of rainfall to certain parts of the state, many regions continue to face the effects of drought. Ongoing drought has negatively impacted forage production on California's vast rangelands. But more significantly, drought has left many ranchers without water which, even in the presence of adequate forage, has forced farmers and ranchers to liquidate their herds.

The lack of water deliveries to farmers and ranchers in California has not solely been the result of the drought but and has been compounded by restrictive federal and state laws that have chosen to elevate the priority of fish over farmers. California has also not taken the opportunity to build new surface water storage that will help offset the increasing pressure on the state's antiquated water supply and delivery systems.

H.R. 23 seeks to address many of the regulatory issues that constrain the delivery of water to farmers and ranchers that are not only producing food and fiber but also serve as the economic engine for jobs and employment for our rural communities. Specifically, your legislation will streamline regulations to build new surface water storage and ease restrictions on the delivery of water to farmers and ranchers in the San Joaquin Valley who are largely dependent on the Central Valley Project.

H.R. 23 also takes a proactive approach in balancing the needs of water for farmers with those of fish by addressing predation in the Sacramento and San Joaquin Delta. Predation is one of the most significant reasons for the decline in certain anadromous species like the Delta Smelt. Without addressing this issue, any attempt to recover fish species in the Delta will be futile.

**Dave Daley**  
President  
Oroville

**Rob von der Lieth**  
Treasurer  
Copperopolis

**Mike Williams**  
Second Vice President  
Acton

**Mike Miller**  
Second Vice President  
Mt. Hamilton

**Billy Gatlin**  
Executive Vice President  
Herald

**Mark Lacey**  
First Vice President  
Independence

**Pat Kirby**  
Second Vice President  
Wilton

**Mike Smith**  
Feeder Council Chair  
Selma

**Trevor Freitas**  
Feeder Council Vice Chair  
Tipton

Furthermore, CCA appreciates your inclusion of language that protects area of origin water rights. Maintaining and enforcing California's water rights system is paramount to ensure the protection of private property rights and provide certainty that those with pre-1914, riparian, adjudicated and other senior appropriative rights will be serviced first prior.

For these reasons, we strongly support H.R. 23.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Justin Oldfield". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial "J".

Justin Oldfield  
Vice President, Government Affairs



**CITY OF COALINGA**  
*The Sunny Side of the Valley*

January 25, 2017

The Honorable David G. Valadao  
1728 Longworth Building  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

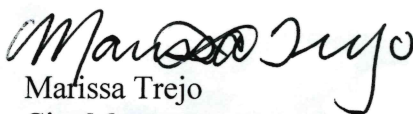
Dear Representative Valadao,

California's Central Valley, which provides the majority of fruits and vegetables for the country, has been suffering from a drought, which has been made worse by federal regulations. As a result, over 300 billion gallons of water have been diverted away from the region in an effort to protect the Delta Smelt. Today, citizens and farmers in the Central Valley are receiving less water, if any at all, than they previously contracted for and purchased. The water system that established California as a beacon of ingenuity has been pushed to the wayside for a bait fish and has had devastating consequences for farmers, as they now fallow thousands of acres of farmland. In addition, many communities in the Central Valley have run completely dry, and have resorted to relying solely on trucks to deliver potable water to residents.

For years, you have fought to bring water back to the valley; this year is no different. We support your introduction of H.R. 23, the Gaining Responsibility On Water (GROW) Act of 2017. This legislation would ensure reliable water deliveries for our valley, secure private property and senior water rights, and save millions of dollars by ending wasteful protectionist plans. To ensure water reliability in the future, the bill obligates the federal government to complete feasibility studies for multiple water storage projects in California and increases the scope of investigation for dam safety throughout the West, including expansion.

Now is the time to enact long term, meaningful solutions to California's water supply issues and we are hopeful this legislation is the next step in addressing the challenges we face. We look forward to working with you on advancing H.R. 23, the GROW Act, this Congress.

Sincerely,



Marissa Trejo  
City Manager  
City of Coalinga

January, 24 2017

The Honorable David G. Valadao  
1728 Longworth Building  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Valadao,

California's Central Valley, which provides the majority of fruits and vegetables for the country, has been suffering from a drought, which has been made worse by federal regulations. As a result, over 300 billion gallons of water have been diverted away from the region in an effort to protect the Delta Smelt. Today, citizens and farmers in the Central Valley are receiving less water, if any at all, than they previously contracted for and purchased. The water system that established California as a beacon of ingenuity has been pushed to the wayside for a bait fish and has had devastating consequences for farmers, as they now fallow thousands of acres of farmland. In addition, many communities in the Central Valley have run completely dry, and have resorted to relying solely on trucks to deliver potable water to residents.

For years, you have fought to bring water back to the valley; this year is no different. We support your introduction of H.R. 23, the Gaining Responsibility On Water (GROW) Act of 2017. This legislation would ensure reliable water deliveries for our valley, secure private property and senior water rights, and save millions of dollars by ending wasteful protectionist plans. To ensure water reliability in the future, the bill obligates the federal government to complete feasibility studies for multiple water storage projects in California and increases the scope of investigation for dam safety throughout the West, including expansion.

Now is the time to enact long term, meaningful solutions to California's water supply issues and we are hopeful this legislation is the next step in addressing the challenges we face. We look forward to working with you on advancing H.R. 23, the GROW Act, this Congress.

Sincerely,

  
Manuel Gantu,  
Mayor



January 27, 2017

The Honorable David G. Valadao  
1728 Longworth Building  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Valadao,

California's Central Valley, which provides the majority of fruits and vegetables for the country, has been suffering from a drought, which has been made worse by federal regulations. As a result, over 300 billion gallons of water have been diverted away from the region in an effort to protect the Delta Smelt. Today, citizens and farmers in the Central Valley are receiving less water, if any at all, than they previously contracted for and purchased. The water system that established California as a beacon of ingenuity has been pushed to the wayside for a bait fish and has had devastating consequences for farmers, as they now fallow thousands of acres of farmland. In addition, many communities in the Central Valley have run completely dry, and have resorted to relying solely on trucks to deliver potable water to residents.

For years, you have fought to bring water back to the valley; this year is no different. We support your introduction of H.R. 23, the Gaining Responsibility On Water (GROW) Act of 2017. This legislation would ensure reliable water deliveries for our valley, secure private property and senior water rights, and save millions of dollars by ending wasteful protectionist plans. To ensure water reliability in the future, the bill obligates the federal government to complete feasibility studies for multiple water storage projects in California and increases the scope of investigation for dam safety throughout the West, including expansion.

Now is the time to enact long term, meaningful solutions to California's water supply issues and we are hopeful this legislation is the next step in addressing the challenges we face. We look forward to working with you on advancing H.R. 23, the GROW Act, this Congress.

Sincerely,

Brian A. Domingos Jr.



*premiervalleyrealty.com*

5067 N Mariposa, Suite 104 | Fresno CA 93710

559-272-9676 Office | 866-847-9871 Fax | Lic: 01954692



January 30, 2017

The Honorable David G. Valadao  
1728 Longworth Building  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Valadao,

On behalf of the Agricultural Retailers Association (ARA) and our members, I am writing to voice our strong support for H.R. 23, the "Gaining Responsibility On Water (GROW) Act of 2017". ARA represents the interests of the nation's agricultural retailers and distributors in Washington, D.C. We have a large number of California members that provide essential products and services to the state's farmers and ranchers

California's Central Valley, which provides the majority of fruits and vegetables for the country, over the past several years has been suffering from a drought, which was made worse by federal regulations. As a result, over 300 billion gallons of water have been diverted away from the region in an effort to protect the Delta Smelt. Today, citizens and farmers in the Central Valley are receiving less water than they previously contracted for and purchased. The water system that established California as a beacon of ingenuity has been pushed to the curb and caused devastating consequences for farmers. While a series of recent rains has brought relief to some parts of the state, key parts of California remain in more serious drought conditions.

For years, you have fought to bring water back to the valley; this year is no different. We support your common-sense legislation that would ensure reliable water deliveries for our valley, secure private property and senior water rights, and save millions of dollars by ending wasteful protectionist plans. To ensure water reliability in the future, the bill obligates the federal government to complete feasibility studies for multiple water storage projects in California and increases the scope of investigation for dam safety throughout the West, including expansion.

Now is the time to enact long term, meaningful solutions to California's water supply issues and we are hopeful this legislation is the next step in addressing the challenges we face. We look forward to working with you on advancing H.R. 23, the GROW Act, this Congress.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Richard D. Gupton". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Richard D. Gupton  
Senior Vice President, Public Policy & Counsel



OFFICE OF  
**SHERIFF**  
COUNTY OF KINGS  
P.O. BOX 986  
1444 W. LACEY BLVD.  
HANFORD, CA 93232-0986  
PHONE 559-584-1431  
FAX 559-584-4738

DAVID ROBINSON  
SHERIFF-CORONER  
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATOR

---

January 27, 2017

The Honorable David G. Valadao  
1728 Longworth Building  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

RE: Support of the GROW Act

Dear Representative Valadao,

California's Central Valley, which provides the majority of fruits and vegetables for the country, has been suffering from a drought, which has been made worse by federal regulations. As a result, over 300 billion gallons of water have been diverted away from the region in an effort to protect the Delta Smelt. Today, citizens and farmers in the Central Valley are receiving less water, if any at all, than they previously contracted for and purchased. The water system that established California as a beacon of ingenuity has been pushed to the wayside for a bait fish and has had devastating consequences for farmers, as they now fallow thousands of acres of farmland. In addition, many communities in the Central Valley have run completely dry, and have resorted to relying solely on trucks to deliver potable water to residents.

For years, you have fought to bring water back to the valley; this year is no different. We support your introduction of H.R. 23, the Gaining Responsibility On Water (GROW) Act of 2017. This legislation would ensure reliable water deliveries for our valley, secure private property and senior water rights, and save millions of dollars by ending wasteful protectionist plans. To ensure water reliability in the future, the bill obligates the federal government to complete feasibility studies for multiple water storage projects in California and increases the scope of investigation for dam safety throughout the West, including expansion.

Now is the time to enact long term, meaningful solutions to California's water supply issues and we are hopeful this legislation is the next step in addressing the challenges we face. We look forward to working with you on advancing H.R. 23, the GROW Act, this Congress.

Respectfully,

David Robinson, Sheriff-Coroner, Public Administrator

# Merced County Farm Bureau



January 30, 2017

Honorable David Valadao  
U.S. House of Representatives  
1728 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Valadao,

California has long struggled with water problems and one needs to look no further than to the experiences and lack of water allocations to the Central Valley than over the last few years. This has caused a wide range of situations with many farms laying ground fallow, or ultimately and unfortunately, leaving the farming community and California agriculture. On behalf of the Merced County Farm Bureau Board of Directors and our membership of over 1,200 farming, ranching and dairy families, we support H.R. 23, the Guiding Responsibility on Water (GROW) Act.

Central Valley farms, businesses, and residents need water infrastructure and reliability now. The Grow Act provides working principles enabling families to continue working and residing here through the building of new storage reservoirs and structural improvements to those built years ago. Our growers rely on water rights to produce the foods that feed the world and this bill provides the security for these rights.

Agriculturalists are the true stewards of land and water, but have continually been hampered by regulatory guidelines set forth through the Endangered Species Act. While we understand the need to ensure the continuation of a species, we cannot stand by and allow more water to flow past some of the most disadvantaged communities, as has been the case for far too long. Consideration of other methods, such as removal of non-native predator species to protect those that are in danger, is in dire need.

Our valley economy rests on a safe and consistent water supply and action has never been more evident than now. We unwaveringly support the introduction of H.R. 23 and thank you for your efforts.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Joe Scoto'.

Joe Scoto  
President





870 Greenfield Ave. • Hanford, CA 93230  
Telephone: (559) 584-3557 • Fax: (559) 584-1614 • www.kcfb.org

January 20, 2017

The Honorable David G. Valadao  
1728 Longworth Building  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Valadao,

California's Central Valley, which provides the majority of fruits and vegetables for the country, has been suffering from historic drought conditions. These conditions have been made worse by inflexible federal regulations that divert much-needed water deliveries away from the Central Valley. As a result, farmers are fallowing thousands of acres of farmland, wells have gone completely dry, and communities have resorted to relying on trucks to deliver potable water to residents.

For years, you have fought to bring water back to the Central Valley and this year is no different. Kings County Farm Bureau supports your introduction of H.R. 23 the Gaining Responsibility On Water (GROW) Act of 2017. This legislation would ensure reliable water deliveries for our valley, secure private property and senior water rights, and save millions of dollars by ending wasteful protectionist plans. This bill obligates the federal government to complete feasibility studies for multiple water projects in California and increases the scope of investigation for dam safety throughout the West, including expansion, to ensure water reliability in the future.

Now is the time to enact long-term, meaningful solutions to California's water supply problems and we are hopeful this legislation is the next step in addressing the serious challenges faced by Californians. We look forward to working with you on advancing the GROW Act through Congress.

Sincerely,

Josh Bettencourt  
President



**KERN RIDGE GROWERS, LLC**

P.O. BOX 455 \* ARVIN, CA 93203

25429 BARBARA STREET

Phone No. 661-854-3141 \* Fax No. 661-854-7229

---

January 24, 2017

The Honorable David G. Valadao  
1728 Longworth Building  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Valadao,

California's Central Valley, which provides the majority of fruits and vegetables for the country, has been suffering from a drought, which has been made worse by federal regulations. As a result, over 300 billion gallons of water have been diverted away from the region in an effort to protect the Delta Smelt. Today, citizens and farmers in the Central Valley are receiving less water, if any at all, than they previously contracted for and purchased. The water system that established California as a beacon of ingenuity has been pushed to the wayside for a bait fish and has had devastating consequences for farmers, as they now fallow thousands of acres of farmland. In addition, many communities in the Central Valley have run completely dry, and have resorted to relying solely on trucks to deliver potable water to residents.

For years, you have fought to bring water back to the valley; this year is no different. We support your introduction of H.R. 23, the Gaining Responsibility On Water (GROW) Act of 2017. This legislation would ensure reliable water deliveries for our valley, secure private property and senior water rights, and save millions of dollars by ending wasteful protectionist plans. To ensure water reliability in the future, the bill obligates the federal government to complete feasibility studies for multiple water storage projects in California and increases the scope of investigation for dam safety throughout the West, including expansion.

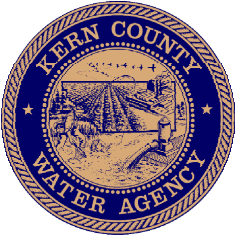
Now is the time to enact long term, meaningful solutions to California's water supply issues and we are hopeful this legislation is the next step in addressing the challenges we face. We look forward to working with you on advancing H.R. 23, the GROW Act, this Congress.

Sincerely,

KERN RIDGE GROWERS, LLC

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Bob Giragosian", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Bob Giragosian  
Managing Member



February 1, 2017

Directors:

Ted R. Page  
President  
Division 1

Bruce Hafenfeld  
Division 2

Martin Milobar  
Division 3

Philip Cerro  
Division 4

Charles (Bill) W. Wulff, Jr.  
Division 5

Royce Fast  
Vice President  
Division 6

Gene A. Lundquist  
Division 7

Curtis Creel  
General Manager

Amelia T. Minaberrigarai  
General Counsel

The Honorable David Valadao  
U.S. House of Representatives  
1728 Longworth HOB  
Washington, DC 20515

Re: Support of H.R. 23

Dear Representative Valadao:

The Kern County Water Agency (Agency) supports House Resolution 23, the "Gaining Responsibility on Water Act of 2017" (H.R. 23). The Agency reviewed H.R. 23 and believes its passage would present an opportunity to significantly improve water supplies in the San Joaquin Valley while maintaining environmental protections for endangered species in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta (Delta).

The Agency is particularly encouraged by the clear direction to operate the State Water Project (SWP) and the Central Valley Project (CVP) in conformance with the Principles for Agreement on the Bay-Delta Standards Between the State of California and the Federal Government (Bay-Delta Accord). The Bay-Delta Accord was the last point at which there was broad agreement between the regulatory agencies, water users and environmental groups regarding the best way to protect the Delta's ecosystem. Since that time, increasing regulations have significantly reduced water supplies for farmers and families and businesses, without any meaningful benefit for the Delta's endangered species.

The Agency is also strongly supportive of Section 113, which designates the SWP and CVP contractors as Applicants for the purposes of any consultation or reconsultation process under Section 7(a)(2) of the Endangered Species Act. The direct involvement of the local public water agencies that pay for and benefit from the SWP and CVP is critical to ensure the adequate protection of water supplies and the Delta's ecosystem.

The Agency supports H.R. 23 and looks forward to working with you as this important piece of legislation moves forward.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Ted R. Page", is written over a faint blue line.

Ted R. Page  
President

(661) 634-1400

Mailing Address

P.O. Box 58  
Bakersfield, CA 93302-0058

Street Address

3200 Rio Mirada Dr.  
Bakersfield, CA 93308

cc: The Honorable Kevin McCarthy  
The Honorable Devin Nunes



February 1, 2017

Congressman David G. Valadao  
1728 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Valadao,

*David*

Thank you for introducing H.R. 23, the Guiding Responsibility on Water Act (GROW). We are supportive of this legislation as a vehicle to further the important progress begun with enactment of the Water Infrastructure Improvement for the Nation Act (WIIN) late last year. Indeed, we are hopeful that not only California but the whole of the West will take water issues more seriously and move forward toward solutions.

There are many elements of the bill that could help address California's lack of long-term water planning. We are especially focused on ensuring that the federal monies authorized under the WIIN Act for water storage projects in the state are appropriated this year and believe this bill has many elements that will further and build upon that policy area. Appropriating those funds this year, coupled with the policy changes under the WIIN Act, plus enacting many of the policy changes proposed under the GROW Act, would mark an incredible era of achievement for California water policy.

We all know how much you have worked on this issue. Thank you again for your continued efforts to bring much-needed common sense to the management and use of our vital water resources in California.

Sincerely,

*Tom*

Tom Nassif  
President & CEO



## City of Avenal

919 Skyline Blvd.  
Avenal, CA 93204  
Phone (559) 386-5766  
Fax (559) 386-0629

January 26, 2017

The Honorable David G. Valadao  
1728 Longworth Building  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Valadao,

California's Central Valley provides the majority of fruits and vegetables for the country. The on-going drought felt up and down the state has been made worse by federal regulations. As a result, over 300 billion gallons of water have been diverted away from the region in an effort to protect the Delta Smelt. Today, citizens and farmers in the Central Valley are receiving less water, if any at all, than they previously contracted for and purchased. The water system that established California as a beacon of ingenuity has been pushed to the wayside for a bait fish and has had devastating consequences for farmers, as they now fallow thousands of acres of farmland. In addition, many communities in the Central Valley have run completely dry and have resorted to relying solely on trucks to deliver potable water to residents.

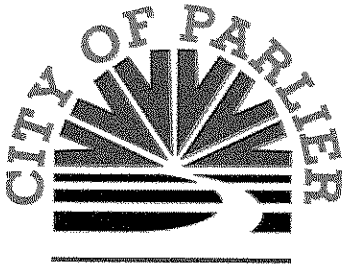
For years, you have fought to bring water back to the valley; this year is no different. We support your introduction of H.R. 23, the "Gaining Responsibility On Water" (GROW) Act of 2017. This legislation would ensure reliable water deliveries for our valley, secure private property and senior water rights and save millions of dollars by ending wasteful protectionist plans. To ensure water reliability in the future, the bill obligates the federal government to complete feasibility studies for multiple water storage projects in California and increases the scope of investigation for dam safety throughout the West, including expansion.

Now is the time to enact long-term, meaningful solutions to California's water supply issues. We are hopeful this legislation is the next step in addressing the challenges we have faced. We look forward to working with you on advancing H.R. 23, the GROW Act.

Sincerely,

CITY OF AVENAL

Alvaro Preciado, Mayor



January 31, 2017

The Honorable David G. Valadao  
1728 Longworth Building  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Valadao,

California's Central Valley, which provides the majority of fruits and vegetables for the country, has been suffering from a drought, which has been made worse by federal regulations. As a result, over 300 billion gallons of water have been diverted away from the region in an effort to protect the Delta Smelt. Today, citizens and farmers in the Central Valley are receiving less water, if any at all, than they previously contracted for and purchased. The water system that established California as a beacon of ingenuity has been pushed to the wayside for a bait fish and has had devastating consequences for farmers, as they now fallow thousands of acres of farmland. In addition, many communities in the Central Valley have run completely dry, and have resorted to relying solely on trucks to deliver potable water to residents.

For years, you have fought to bring water back to the valley; this year is no different. We support your introduction of H.R. 23, the Gaining Responsibility On Water (GROW) Act of 2017. This legislation would ensure reliable water deliveries for our valley, secure private property and senior water rights, and save millions of dollars by ending wasteful protectionist plans. To ensure water reliability in the future, the bill obligates the federal government to complete feasibility studies for multiple water storage projects in California and increases the scope of investigation for dam safety throughout the West, including expansion.

Now is the time to enact long term, meaningful solutions to California's water supply issues and we are hopeful this legislation is the next step in addressing the challenges we face. We look forward to working with you on advancing H.R. 23, the GROW Act, this Congress.

Sincerely,

Alma M. Beltran  
Mayor



January 17, 2017

The Honorable David G. Valadao  
1728 Longworth Building  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

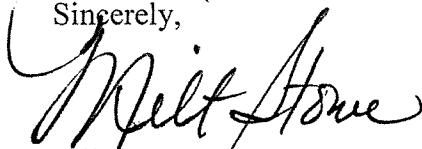
Dear Representative Valadao,

California's Central Valley, which provides the majority of fruits and vegetables for the United States, has been suffering from a drought, which has been made worse by Federal regulations. As a result, more than 300 billion gallons of water have been diverted away from the region in an effort to protect the Delta Smelt. Today, residents and farmers in the Central Valley are receiving less water, if any at all, than they previously contracted for and purchased. The water system that established California as a beacon of ingenuity has been pushed to the wayside and has had devastating consequences for farmers, as they now fallow thousands of acres of farmland. In addition, many communities in the Central Valley have run completely dry due to the lack of surface water, and have resorted to relying solely on trucks to deliver potable water to residents.

On behalf of the Porterville City Council, we support your introduction of H.R. 23, the Gaining Responsibility On Water (GROW) Act of 2017. This legislation would ensure reliable water deliveries for the Central Valley, secure private property and senior water rights, and save millions of dollars by ending wasteful special protectionist plans. To ensure water reliability in the future, the bill obligates the Federal government to complete feasibility studies for multiple water storage projects in California and increases the scope of investigation for dam safety throughout the West, including expansion.

Now is the time to enact long-term, meaningful solutions to California's water supply issues, and we are hopeful this legislation is the next step in addressing the challenges we face. We look forward to working with you on advancing H.R. 23, the GROW Act, this 115th Congress.

Sincerely,



Milt Stowe, Mayor  
City of Porterville



## Westlands Water District

3130 N. Fresno Street, P.O. Box 6056, Fresno, California 93703-6056, (559) 224-1523, FAX (559) 241-6277

February 2, 2017

The Honorable David Valadao  
U.S. House of Representatives  
1728 Longworth HOB  
Washington, DC 20515

RE: H.R. 23, Gaining Responsibility on Water Act of 2017

Dear Mr. <sup>David</sup>Valadao:

I am writing to follow up on my letter of January 3, 2017, regarding H.R. 23, the Gaining Responsibility on Water Act of 2017, because it has been reported to me that there is confusion regarding Westlands Water District's position on this legislation. Westlands supports the enactment of H.R. 23.

Over the last three decades, the ability of the Central Valley Project and the California State Water Project to supply the quantities of water required to satisfy demands in the San Joaquin Valley has been eroded by the implementation of various federal laws, including the Central Valley Project Improvement Act and the Endangered Species Act. Today, there exists in the San Joaquin Valley a shortage of more than 2.2 million acre-feet. The enactment of H.R. 23 would address that shortage by providing congressional direction on how those federal laws are implemented. Without the enactment of H.R. 23 or similar legislation, the San Joaquin Valley will continue to suffer the human and environmental harm caused by chronic water supply shortages.

It is Westlands' policy, as stated in my January 3, letter, to support the enactment of any legislation intended to restore the ability of the CVP and SWP to deliver a reliable supply of water, sufficient to meet reasonable demands around the state. Westlands, in accordance with that policy, supports H.R. 23. As H.R. 23 moves forward, we are eager to work with you and other Members of Congress to enact meaningful legislation to provide a secure long-term water supply for California.

If you have any questions or if I may be of any assistance, please contact me at your convenience.

Very truly yours,

  
Thomas W. Birmingham  
General Manager



January, 23 2017

The Honorable David G. Valadao  
1728 Longworth Building  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Valadao,

California's Central Valley, which provides the majority of fruits and vegetables for the country, has been suffering from a drought, which has been made worse by federal regulations. As a result, over 300 billion gallons of water have been diverted away from the region in an effort to protect the Delta Smelt. Today, citizens and farmers in the Central Valley are receiving less water, if any at all, than they previously contracted for and purchased. The water system that established California as a beacon of ingenuity has been pushed to the wayside for a bait fish and has had devastating consequences for farmers, as they now fallow thousands of acres of farmland. In addition, many communities in the Central Valley have run completely dry, and have resorted to relying solely on trucks to deliver potable water to residents.

For years, you have fought to bring water back to the valley; this year is no different. We support your introduction of H.R. 23, the Gaining Responsibility On Water (GROW) Act of 2017. This legislation would ensure reliable water deliveries for our valley, secure private property and senior water rights, and save millions of dollars by ending wasteful protectionist plans. To ensure water reliability in the future, the bill obligates the federal government to complete feasibility studies for multiple water storage projects in California and increases the scope of investigation for dam safety throughout the West, including expansion.

Now is the time to enact long term, meaningful solutions to California's water supply issues and we are hopeful this legislation is the next step in addressing the challenges we face. We look forward to working with you on advancing H.R. 23, the GROW Act, this Congress.

Sincerely,



Mike Ennis  
TCAG Chair



---

36311 LASSEN AVENUE / P.O. Box 339 HURON, CALIFORNIA 93234 • (559) 945-2241 • FAX (559) 945-2609  
January 31, 2017

The Honorable David G. Valadao  
1728 Longworth Building  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Valadao,

California's Central Valley, which provides the majority of fruits and vegetables for the country, has been suffering from a drought, which has been made worse by federal regulations. As a result, over 300 billion gallons of water have been diverted away from the region in an effort to protect the Delta Smelt. Today, citizens and farmers in the Central Valley are receiving less water, if any at all, than they previously contracted for and purchased. The water system that established California as a beacon of ingenuity has been pushed to the wayside for a bait fish and has had devastating consequences for farmers, as they now fallow thousands of acres of farmland. In addition, many communities in the Central Valley have run completely dry, and have resorted to relying solely on trucks to deliver potable water to residents.

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Now is the time to enact long term, meaningful solutions to California's water supply issues and we are hopeful this legislation is the next step in addressing the challenges we face. We look forward to working with you on advancing H.R. 23, the GROW Act, this Congress.

Sincerely,

REY LEÓN  
Mayor of City of Huron  
PO Box 339  
Huron, CA 93234  
(559) 945-2241 x 3

***" Together We Can "***



# City of Kingsburg

1401 Draper Street, Kingsburg, CA 93631-1908  
(559) 897-5821 (559) 897-5568

Michelle Roman  
Mayor

Bruce Blayney  
Mayor Pro Tem

COUNCIL MEMBERS  
Staci Smith  
Sherman Dix  
Laura North

Alexander J. Henderson  
City Manager

January 26, 2017

The Honorable David G. Valadao  
1728 Longworth Building  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Valadao,

California's Central Valley, which provides the majority of fruits and vegetables for the country, has been suffering from a drought, which has been made worse by federal regulations. As a result, over 300 billion gallons of water have been diverted away from the region in an effort to protect the Delta Smelt. Today, citizens and farmers in the Central Valley are receiving less water, if any at all, than they previously contracted for and purchased. The water system that established California as a beacon of ingenuity has been pushed to the wayside for a bait fish and has had devastating consequences for farmers, as they now fallow thousands of acres of farmland. In addition, many communities in the Central Valley have run completely dry, and have resorted to relying solely on trucks to deliver potable water to residents.

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Now is the time to enact long term, meaningful solutions to California's water supply issues and we are hopeful this legislation is the next step in addressing the challenges we face. We look forward to working with you on advancing H.R. 23, the GROW Act, this Congress.

Respectfully,

Michelle Roman, Mayor



## MAYOR LEE BRAND

February 6, 2017

The Honorable David Valadao  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Valadao,

As Mayor of the City of Fresno, I whole-heartedly support your introduction of H.R. 23, the Gaining Responsibility on Water Act of 2017.

I appreciate the perseverance of you and your colleagues from the Central Valley in taking on the difficult issues of ensuring reliable water supplies for our valley while preserving water rights and private property, developing long-term solutions and advancing the process of building much-needed water storage.

The current drought and regulatory constraints have been catastrophic for the San Joaquin Valley's communities and businesses. H.R. 23 is a timely and comprehensive approach to eliminating a major portion of our water supply shortfall issues. H.R. 23 includes many common-sense provisions that the City of Fresno supports. Title IV of the bill includes specific provisions related to the 2009 San Joaquin River Settlement Act. As you know, the City of Fresno has a number of concerns regarding the viability of the San Joaquin River Restoration Program (SJRRP) as contemplated by the Settlement and the Settlement Act. Through our membership in the Friant Water Authority (FWA), we have formally requested that the other Settlement Parties join FWA in a process to examine the Settlement and realize implementation of a SJRRP in a manner that is reasonable, prudent and feasible.

Now is the time to enact long term, meaningful solutions to our water supply issues and I am hopeful this legislation is the next step in addressing the challenges we face. I look forward to working with you on advancing this effort in this Congress.

Sincerely,

Lee Brand  
Mayor, City of Fresno



January 23, 2017

The Honorable David G. Valadao  
1728 Longworth Building  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Valadao,

California's Central Valley, which provides the majority of fruits and vegetables for the country, has been suffering from a drought, which has been made worse by federal regulations. As a result, over 300 billion gallons of water have been diverted away from the region in an effort to protect the Delta Smelt. Today, citizens and farmers in the Central Valley are receiving less water, if any at all, than they previously contracted for and purchased. The water system that established California as a beacon of ingenuity has been pushed to the wayside for a bait fish and has had devastating consequences for farmers, as they now fallow thousands of acres of farmland. In addition, many communities in the Central Valley have run completely dry, and have resorted to relying solely on trucks to deliver potable water to residents.

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Now is the time to enact long term, meaningful solutions to California's water supply issues and we are hopeful this legislation is the next step in addressing the challenges we face. We look forward to working with you on advancing H.R. 23, the GROW Act, this Congress.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey Giumarra, CFO  
Giumarra Vineyards Corporation  
P.O. Bin 1969  
Bakersfield, CA 93303  
(661) 395-7000

# BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

## SUPERVISORS

Mick Gleason ..... District 1  
Zack Scrivner..... District 2  
Mike Maggard ..... District 3  
David R. Couch..... District 4  
Leticia Perez..... District 5



KATHLEEN KRAUSE  
CLERK OF BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
Kern County Administrative Center  
1115 Truxtun Avenue, 5th Floor  
Bakersfield, California 93301  
Telephone (661) 868-3585  
TTY Relay 800-735-2929

January 31, 2017

The Honorable David Valadao  
U.S. House of Representatives  
1728 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

HR 23: SUPPORT

Dear Congressman Valadao:

The Kern County Board of Supervisors strongly supports HR 23, the Gaining Responsibility On Water (Grow) Act, your legislation to modernize water policies throughout the Western United States and particularly in California to help increase water supplies depleted by drought and environmental regulations.

Securing a reliable water supply continues to be one of the greatest challenges facing the Central Valley. Besides cutbacks to farmers, reductions to municipalities, and the threat of heavy fines for groundwater use, the Valley has been hit especially hard by the lack of rainfall and burdensome federal regulations that have severely limited water deliveries.

HR 23 would restore water deliveries that have been drastically reduced over the last two decades as a result of numerous environmental lawsuits and state and federal regulations. By codifying the bipartisan Bay-Delta Accord as a federal law, the GROW Act would require regulators to restore water deliveries to Central California users consistent with Endangered Species Act requirements. The bill would also eliminate a number of regulatory hurdles that are delaying construction of major water storage projects that have been authorized by Congress for over a decade, and it would impose deadlines to finish feasibility studies on proposals for the Sites Dam along the Sacramento River and the Temperance Flat Dam along the San Joaquin River.

For these reasons, our Board applauds your introduction of HR 23 and urges its swift enactment by Congress.

Sincerely,

Zack Scrivner, Chairman  
Kern County Board of Supervisors

ZS:ADK\LEGGEN HR23 GROW Act McCarthy B.docx  
CF 1000.20

Attachment

cc: Kern County Farm Bureau  
Kern County Water Agency



January 26, 2017

The Honorable David G. Valadao  
1728 Longworth Building  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Valadao:

California's Central Valley, which provides the majority of fruits and vegetables for the country, has been suffering from a drought, which has been made worse by federal regulations. As a result, over 300 billion gallons of water have been diverted away from the region in an effort to protect the Delta Smelt. Today, citizens and farmers in the Central Valley are receiving less water, if any at all, than they previously contracted for and purchased. The water system that established California as a beacon of ingenuity has been pushed to the wayside for a bait fish and has had devastating consequences for farmers, as they now fallow thousands of acres of farmland. In addition, many communities in the Central Valley have run completely dry, and have resorted to relying solely on trucks to deliver potable water to residents.

For years, you have fought to bring water back to the valley; this year is no different. We support your introduction of H.R. 23, the Gaining Responsibility On Water (GROW) Act of 2017. This legislation would ensure reliable water deliveries for our valley, secure private property and senior water rights, and save millions of dollars by ending wasteful protectionist plans. To ensure water reliability in the future, the bill obligates the federal government to complete feasibility studies for multiple water storage projects in California and increases the scope of investigation for dam safety throughout the West, including expansion.

Now is the time to enact long term, meaningful solutions to California's water supply issues and we are hopeful this legislation is the next step in addressing the challenges we face. We look forward to working with you on advancing H.R. 23, the GROW Act, this Congress.

Sincerely,

Donnette Silva Carter, IOM  
Chief Executive Officer

Cc: Congressman Devin Nunes



119 Fox Street • Lemoore, California 93245 • (559) 924-6700 • Fax (559) 924-9003

February 7, 2017

The Honorable David G. Valadao  
1728 Longworth Building  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Valadao,

California's Central Valley, which provides the majority of fruits and vegetables for the country, has been suffering from a drought, which has been made worse by federal regulations. As a result, over 300 billion gallons of water have been diverted away from the region in an effort to protect the Delta Smelt. Today, citizens and farmers in the Central Valley are receiving less water, if any at all, than they previously contracted for and purchased. The water system that established California as a beacon of ingenuity has been pushed to the wayside for a baitfish and has had devastating consequences for farmers, as they now fallow thousands of acres of farmland. In addition, many communities in the Central Valley have run completely dry, and have resorted to relying solely on trucks to deliver potable water to residents.

For years, you have fought to bring water back to the valley; this year is no different. We support your introduction of H.R. 23, the Gaining Responsibility On Water (GROW) Act of 2017. This legislation would ensure reliable water deliveries for our valley, secure private property and senior water rights, and save millions of dollars by ending wasteful protectionist plans. To ensure water reliability in the future, the bill obligates the federal government to complete feasibility studies for multiple water storage projects in California and increases the scope of investigation for dam safety throughout the West, including expansion.

Now is the time to enact long term, meaningful solutions to California's water supply issues and we are hopeful this legislation is the next step in addressing the challenges we face. We look forward to working with you on advancing H.R. 23, the GROW Act, this Congress.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Ray Madrigal", is positioned above the printed name and title.

Ray Madrigal  
Mayor





CALIFORNIA  
STATE  
UNIVERSITY,  
FRESNO

February 09, 2017

The Honorable David Valadao  
U.S. House of Representatives  
California, District 21  
1728 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Valadao:

Thank you for your leadership in introducing H.R. 23, the Guiding Responsibility on Water (GROW) Act. California State University, Fresno shares your commitment to providing relief and finds itself in a critical role for communities severely impacted by the effects from the ongoing drought. We are hopeful that proposals such as H.R. 23 along with other state and federal legislation will provide needed direction and financial assistance to improve the economy and health of our region.

The San Joaquin Valley and the state is dependent on reliable water supplies to serve the most productive agricultural region in the United States. Reducing uncertainty in supplies will strengthen the economic base, create jobs and allow the region to continue providing the majority of fruits and vegetables for the country.

Fresno State, through its California Water Institute, is committed to providing scientific data to support the development and implementation of legislation designed to reduce the negative impacts of the ongoing drought. Fresno State is uniquely qualified to provide many of the educational and outreach components necessary for success.

In closing, I again thank you for your leadership in moving this important legislation forward. We understand there is more work to be done and hope that bipartisan efforts going forward will address any gaps. In the meantime, please consider Fresno State a valuable resource as we work together to address California's water challenges.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Joseph I. Castro".

Joseph I. Castro, Ph.D., M.P.P.  
President

**Office of the President**

Harold H. Haak Administrative Center  
Henry Madden Library, Suite 4104  
5200 North Barton Ave. M/S ML48  
Fresno, CA 93740-8014

559.278.2324

Fax 559.278.4715

Tipton Community Council  
P.O. Box 355  
Tipton, CA 93272

February 9, 2017

The Honorable David G. Valadao  
1728 Longworth Building  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Valadao,

California's Central Valley, which provides the majority of fruits and vegetables for the country, has been suffering from a drought, which has been made worse by federal regulations. As a result, over 300 billion gallons of water have been diverted away from the region in an effort to protect the Delta Smelt. Today, citizens and farmers in the Central Valley are receiving less water, if any at all, than they previously contracted for and purchased. The water system that established California as a beacon of ingenuity has been pushed to the wayside for a bait fish and has had devastating consequences for farmers, as they now fallow thousands of acres of farmland. In addition, many communities in the Central Valley have run completely dry, and have resorted to relying solely on trucks to deliver potable water to residents.

For years, you have fought to bring water back to the valley; this year is no different. We support your introduction of H.R. 23. The Gaining Responsibility On Water (GROW) Act of 2017. This legislation would ensure reliable water deliveries for our valley, secure private property and senior water rights, and save millions of dollars by ending wasteful protectionist plans. To ensure water reliability in the future, the bill obligates the federal government to complete feasibility studies for multiple water storage projects in California and increase the scope of investigation for dam safety throughout the West, including expansion.

Now is the time to enact long term, meaningful solutions to California's water supply issues and we are hopeful this legislation is the next step in addressing the challenges we face. We look forward to working with you on advancing H.R. 23, the GROW Act, this Congress.

William VanBeek  
Pres tipton  
Community Council





# CITY *of* CLOVIS

1033 FIFTH STREET • CLOVIS, CA 93612

February 10, 2017

The Honorable David G. Valadao  
1728 Longworth Building  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Valadao:

California's Central Valley, which provides the majority of fruits and vegetables for the country, has been suffering from a drought, which has been made worse by federal regulations. As a result, over 300 billion gallons of water have been diverted away from the region in an effort to protect the Delta Smelt. Today, citizens and farmers in the Central Valley are receiving less water, if any at all, than they previously contracted for and purchased. The water system that established California as a beacon of ingenuity has been pushed to the wayside for a bait fish and has had devastating consequences for farmers, as they now fallow thousands of acres of farmland. In addition, many communities in the Central Valley have run completely dry, and have resorted to relying solely on trucks to deliver potable water to residents.

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Now is the time to enact long term, meaningful solutions to California's water supply issues and we are hopeful this legislation is the next step in addressing the challenges we face. We look forward to working with you on advancing H.R. 23, the GROW Act, with this Congress.

Very truly yours,

Luke Serpa  
Clovis Interim City Manager



February 9, 2017

The Honorable David G. Valadao  
1728 Longworth Building  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Valadao,

On behalf of the Greater Bakersfield Chamber of Commerce, a business association representing over 1,100 members who collectively employ over 60,000 Californians, I am writing to support your bill, H.R. 23 the Gaining Responsibility On Water (GROW) Act of 2017. California's Central Valley, which is home to the top producing agricultural counties in the nation, has been suffering from a chronic drought, which has been exacerbated by federal regulations. This historic drought has already cost our great state \$2.2 billion in economic activity and at least 15,000 jobs.

Making matters worse, the drought's effects on the San Joaquin Valley and Kern County have been amplified given that surface water deliveries through both the State Water Project and Central Valley Project have been constrained for years. Though the state continues to evaluate alternative conveyance through the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta to ensure the safety and sustainability of the State Water Project; the chief impediment to consistent surface water deliveries are Endangered Species Act rulings/findings regarding the smelt and salmon populations in the Delta and along the San Joaquin River. Furthermore, the lack of the development of any recent and significant surface water storage projects, along with the immense amount of environmental review required to build such projects, have conspired to place the San Joaquin Valley in a precarious position of over reliance on diminishing supplies of water. At the same time, ratepayers and contractors throughout California are paying for water that is simply not being delivered.

For years, you have fought to bring water back to the valley; this year is no different. We support your introduction of H.R. 23, which we believe would ensure reliable water deliveries for our valley, secure private property and senior water rights, and save millions of dollars by ending wasteful protectionist plans. To ensure water reliability in the future, the bill obligates the federal government to complete feasibility studies for multiple water storage projects in California and increases the scope of investigation for dam safety throughout the West, including expansion. We have been blessed with a significant amount of precipitation over the last three months; however we should not lose sight of the need for meaningful regulatory reform and a pathway to build more surface water storage. Our ability to secure California's water supply would have been

**Greater Bakersfield Chamber of Commerce**

*Your Partner in Business*

1725 Eye Street P.O. Box 1947, Bakersfield, CA 93303 Tel 661.327.4421 FAX 661.327.8751 [www.bakersfieldchamber.org](http://www.bakersfieldchamber.org)

dramatically increased if efforts to approve and streamline water storage projects had not languished in Sacramento and Washington D.C. for decades.

Now is the time to enact long term, meaningful solutions to California's water supply issues and we are hopeful this legislation is the next step in addressing the challenges we face. We look forward to working with you on advancing H.R. 23, the GROW Act, in this Congress.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'NO', is written over the word 'Sincerely'.

Nicholas Ortiz  
President & CEO  
Greater Bakersfield Chamber of Commerce

# City of Atwater



CITY CLERK/HUMAN RESOURCES  
750 BELLEVUE ROAD  
ATWATER, CALIFORNIA 95301

## OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

February 13, 2017

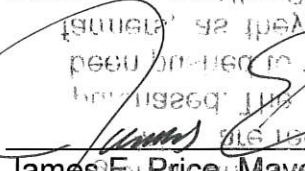
The Honorable David G. Valadao  
1728 Longworth Building  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Representative Valadao,

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Now is the time to enact long term meaningful solutions to California's water supply issues and we are hopeful this legislation is the next step in addressing the challenges we face. The City of Atwater looks forward to working with you on advancing H.R. 23, the GROW Act, this Congress.

  
James E. Price, Mayor

**RESOLUTION NO. 2507**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SHAFTER  
SUPPORTING H.R. 23 THE GAINING RESPONSIBILITY ON WATER (GROW) ACT**

**WHEREAS**, H.R. 23 the Gaining Responsibility on Water (GROW) Act of 2017 would enact long term, meaningful solutions by modernizing water policies throughout the entire Western United States, including in the State of California; and

**WHEREAS**, the GROW Act would address the underlying policy failures that continue to contribute to increasingly severe drought conditions in communities across the West to provide drought relief in the State of California.

**WHEREAS**, the GROW Act would ensure water reliability in the future, and obligates the federal government to complete feasibility studies for multiple water storage projects in California and increases the scope of investigation for dam safety throughout the West, including expansion. It would eliminate a number of regulatory hurdles that have delayed construction authorized by Congress for over a decade, and it would impose deadlines to finish feasibility studies on proposals for the Sites Dam along the Sacramento River and the Temperance Flat Dam along the San Joaquin River; and

**WHEREAS**, by codifying the bipartisan Bay-Delta Accord as a federal law, the GROW Act would require regulators to restore water deliveries to Central California users consistent with Endangered Species Act requirements.

**WHEREAS**, the GROW Act would include provisions that update the Central Valley Project Improvement Act to ensure water resources are reliable, predictable, and available to fulfill water supply promises.

**WHEREAS**, the GROW Act would also enact “one-stop-shop” permitting reforms aimed at building infrastructure to capture more water.

**WHEREAS**, the GROW Act would prevent federal agencies from requiring certain entities to relinquish their water rights to the United States in order to use public lands.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the City Council of the City of Shafter supports H.R. 23 the Gaining Responsibility on Water (GROW) Act of 2017.

**PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 7<sup>th</sup> OF FEBRUARY, 2017.**

  
Cathy L. Prout, Mayor

ATTEST:

  
Yazmina Pallares, Deputy City Clerk

CERTIFICATE OF GOVERNING BODY'S ACTION

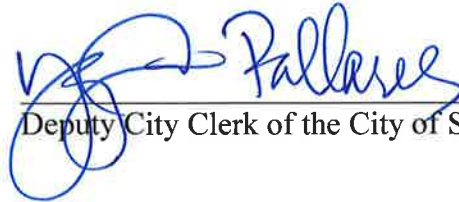
STATE OF CALIFORNIA    )  
                                          ) ss.  
COUNTY OF KERN         )

I, Yazmina Pallares, Deputy City Clerk of the City of Shafter, California, DO HEREBY CERTIFY that the above Resolution 2507, a Resolution of the City Council of the City of Shafter, was duly passed and adopted at a Regular Meeting held on the 7<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2017, by the following vote:

AYES:                    Alvarado, Espericueta, Garcia, Givens, and Prout.  
NOES:                   None.  
ABSENT:                 None.  
ABSTAINING:           None.

DATED:                 February 7, 2017

(SEAL)

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Deputy City Clerk of the City of Shafter





SECRETARY-WATERMASTER:  
RICHARD L. SCHAFER  
ASSISTANT WATERMASTER:  
DAVID DE GROOT  
MEMBER AGENCIES:  
PIONEER WATER COMPANY  
VANDALIA WATER DISTRICT  
PORTERVILLE IRRIGATION DISTRICT  
LOWER TULE RIVER IRRIGATION DISTRICT  
DOWNSTREAM KAWEAH & TULE RIVERS ASSOCIATION

February 13, 2017

The Honorable Devon Nunes  
The Honorable Ed Royce  
The Honorable David Valadao  
The Honorable Dana Rohrabacher  
The Honorable Paul Cook  
The Honorable Darrell Issa  
The Honorable Mimi Walters

The Honorable Ken Calvert  
The Honorable Steve Knight  
The Honorable Kevin McCarthy  
The Honorable Duncan D. Hunter  
The Honorable Doug LaMalfa  
The Honorable Tom McClintock

Re: H. R. 23

Dear Members of Congress,

After reviewing H.R. 23, 124 pages, I commend each of you for the specific and detailed proposed amendments and cessation of existing acts, particularly the Central Valley Improvement Act of 1992 (Public Law 102-575) and the San Joaquin River Restoration Settlement (Public Law 111-11). The provisions on page 19, Failure of the Plan, should have been the basis for the original allocation of the 800,000 a.f. of CVP yield to Fish and Wildlife and on page 26 directing the Secretary of Interior to cease any action to implement the San Joaquin River Settlement Act are prime examples.

We realize the legislation has a long way to go before it becomes law, but you should be reassured that those of us who manage water in the Central Valley, and particularly Tulare County California, unanimously support H. R. 23 and with the pending State Sustainable Groundwater Management Act, the importance of additional supplemental water for the Friant-Kern Canal service area is even more important. The Tulare County Water Commission and the Tulare County Board of Supervisors have enacted support positions for H.R. 23.

With respect to additional storage in California, the Bureau of Reclamation has been paralyzed by the environmentalists and done nothing toward their responsibility established by the CVPIA under Section 3408(j).

Having been active in water resources of California for nearly 60 years, it is my opinion the enlargement of Shasta Lake would be the most important additional storage project that could be created for California. History has shown that storms track more

frequently through and the precipitation is greater in quantity in Northern California for the watersheds of the streams that are tributary to Shasta Dam, namely the Sacramento River, the Pit River and the McCloud River. The Bureau of Reclamation prepared a report entitled Enlarging Shasta Lake, Central Valley Basin California, Working Document No. 13, November 1978 that proposed the raising of the dam 133 feet, creating a total storage of 10-million a.f. and providing an additional yield for the CVP of 1-million a.f. At that time, 1978 price level, the cost would have been \$1.2-billion. Enclosed is a copy of the United States Department of the Interior, Bureau of Reclamation, Working Document No. 13 for your review and realization of what should have been, had it not been for the continued environmental activities in the State of California.

Again, thank you for H. R. 23 and you can be reassured that Central Valley agriculture unanimously supports the Bill, and should there be actions that we can perform to help pass the H.R. 23, please advise.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "R. L. Schafer".

R. L. Schafer, P.E., R.C.E., R.A.E.  
Watermaster

enclosure

City of

# CORCORAN

A MUNICIPAL CORPORATION

FOUNDED 1914

February 8, 2017

The Honorable David G. Valadao  
1728 Longworth Building  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Valadao,

California's Central Valley, which provides the majority of fruits and vegetables for the country, has been suffering from a drought, which has been made worse by federal regulations. As a result, over 300 billion gallons of water have been diverted away from the region in an effort to protect the Delta Smelt. The drought was particularly devastating for Corcoran in that local farmers were required to reduce crop production which in turn led to higher unemployment rates in the community and reduced sales tax revenues necessary to operate the City.

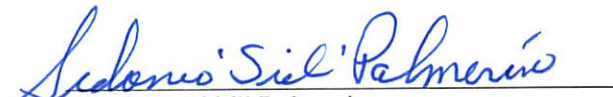
Today, communities and farmers in the Central Valley are receiving less water, if any at all, than they previously contracted for and purchased. The water system that established California as a beacon of ingenuity has been pushed to the wayside for a bait fish and has had devastating consequences for farmers, as they now fallow thousands of acres of farmland. In addition, many communities in the Central Valley have run completely dry, and have resorted to relying solely on trucks to deliver potable water to residents.

The City Council of the City of Corcoran supports your introduction of H.R. 23, the Gaining Responsibility On Water (GROW) Act of 2017. This legislation would ensure reliable water deliveries for our valley, secure private property and senior water rights, and save millions of dollars by ending wasteful protectionist plans. To ensure water reliability in the future, the bill obligates the federal government to complete feasibility studies for multiple water storage projects in California and increases the scope of investigation for dam safety throughout the West, including expansion.

Now is the time to enact long term, meaningful solutions to California's water supply issues and we are hopeful this legislation is the next step in addressing the challenges we face. We look forward to working with you on advancing H.R. 23, the GROW Act, this Congress.

Sincerely,

  
Raymond Lerma  
Mayor

  
Sidonio "Sid" Palmerin  
Vice Mayor

CITY OFFICES:

832 Whitley Avenue • Corcoran, CA 93212 • Phone 559/992-2151 • [www.cityofcorcoran.com](http://www.cityofcorcoran.com)



**CITY OF SANGER**  
1700 7<sup>TH</sup> STREET  
SANGER, CALIFORNIA 93657-2804  
TELEPHONE: (559) 875-6300 Ext. 1700  
FAX: (559) 876-8956

**CITY MANAGER'S OFFICE**

TIM CHAPA, CITY MANAGER

February 2, 2017

The Honorable David G. Valadao  
1728 Longworth Building  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Valadao,

California's Central Valley, which provides the majority of fruits and vegetables for the country, has been suffering from a drought, which has been made worse by federal regulations. As a result, over 300 billion gallons of water have been diverted away from the region in an effort to protect the Delta Smelt. Today, citizens and farmers in the Central Valley are receiving less water, if any at all, than they previously contracted for and purchased. The water system that established California as a beacon of ingenuity has been pushed to the wayside for a bait fish and has had devastating consequences for farmers, as they now fallow thousands of acres of farmland. In addition, many communities in the Central Valley have run completely dry, and have resorted to relying solely on trucks to deliver potable water to residents.

For years, you have fought to bring water back to the valley; this year is no different. We support your introduction of H.R. 23, the Gaining Responsibility On Water (GROW) Act of 2017. This legislation would ensure reliable water deliveries for our valley, secure private property and senior water rights, and save millions of dollars by ending wasteful protectionist plans. To ensure water reliability in the future, the bill obligates the federal government to complete feasibility studies for multiple water storage projects in California and increases the scope of investigation for dam safety throughout the West, including expansion.

Now is the time to enact long term, meaningful solutions to California's water supply issues and we are hopeful this legislation is the next step in addressing the challenges we face. The City Council of the City of Sanger looks forward to working with you on advancing H.R. 23, the GROW Act, this Congress.

Sincerely,

Frank Gonzalez  
Mayor

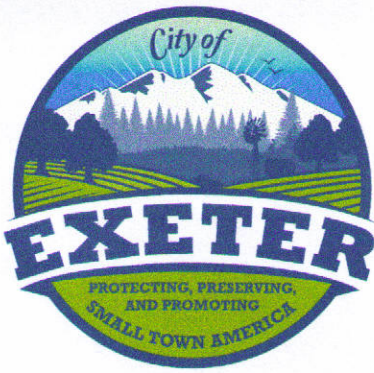
Tim Chapa  
City Manager

# Office of the City Administrator

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100 North C Street – PO Box 237 Exeter, CA 93221

Ph. #559-592-4539 Fax # 559-592-3556



February 16, 2017

The Honorable David G. Valadao  
1728 Longworth Building  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Valadao:

On behalf of the Exeter City Council and the community of Exeter, I would like to communicate our support of your introduction of H.R. 23, the Gaining Responsibility on Water Act of 2017. At their regularly scheduled meeting of February 14, 2017, the Exeter City Council discussed and considered this bill and its ramifications and unanimously took action to direct me to communicate our support of the Bill.

California's Central Valley, which provides a substantial proportion of grown food for the nation, has been suffering from a drought, which has been made worse by federal and state regulations. As a result, over 300 billion gallons of water have been diverted away from the region in an effort to protect the Delta Smelt, and for similar environmental concerns. Today, citizens and farmers in the Central Valley are receiving less water, if any at all, than they previously contracted for and purchased. The water system that established California as a beacon of ingenuity has been pushed aside in favor of a bait fish, and has had devastating consequences for farmers, as they now fallow thousands of acres of farmland. In addition, many communities in the Central Valley have run completely dry, and have resorted to relying solely on trucks to deliver potable water to residents.

For years, you have fought to bring water back to the valley. The need is greater now than ever. We support your introduction of H.R. 23 as an important and positive step. This legislation would ensure reliable water deliveries for our valley, secure private property and senior water rights, and save millions of dollars by ending wasteful protectionist plans. To ensure water reliability in the future, the bill obligates the federal government to complete feasibility studies for multiple water storage projects in California and increases the scope of investigation for dam safety throughout the West, including expansion. Now is the time to enact long term, meaningful solutions to California's water supply issues and we are hopeful this legislation is the next step in addressing the challenges we face. We look forward to working with you on advancing H.R. 23, the GROW Act, this Congress.

Respectfully yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Randy Groom".

Randy Groom  
City Administrator



**Kings County Board of Realtors®, Inc.**  
880 N. Irwin St.  
Hanford, CA 93230  
Phone (559) 582-2591 Fax (559) 582-2007  
Email: [admin@kcbor.com](mailto:admin@kcbor.com)

---

February 17, 2017

The Honorable David G. Valadao  
1728 Longworth Building  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Valadao,

Today, citizens and farmers in the Central Valley are receiving less water, if any at all, than they previously contracted for and purchased. The water system that established California as a beacon of ingenuity has been pushed to the wayside for a bait fish and has had devastating consequences for farmers, as they now fallow thousands of acres of farmland. California's Central Valley, which provides the majority of fruits and vegetables for the country, has been suffering from a drought, which has been made worse by federal regulations. As a result, over 300 billion gallons of water have been diverted away from the region in an effort to protect the Delta Smelt. In addition, many communities in the Central Valley have run completely dry, and have resorted to relying solely on trucks to deliver potable water to residents.

We support your continuing fight to bring water back to the valley and your introduction of H.R. 23, the Gaining Responsibility On Water (GROW) Act of 2017. This legislation would ensure reliable water deliveries for our valley, secure private property, and senior water rights, and save millions of dollars by ending wasteful protectionist plans. To ensure water reliability in the future, the bill obligates the federal government to complete feasibility studies for multiple water storage projects in California and increases the scope of investigation for dam safety throughout the West, including expansion.

Now is the time to enact long term, meaningful solutions to California's water supply issues and we are hopeful this legislation is the next step in addressing the challenges we face. We look forward to working with you on advancing H.R. 23, the GROW Act, this Congress.

Warm regards,

Carolyn Collins 2017 President  
Kings County Board of Realtors

Realtor®- is a registered mark which identifies a professional in  
Real Estate who subscribes to a strict Cod of Ethics as a member of -  
The NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS®



**FRESNO ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS®**  
**FRESNO MULTIPLE LISTING SERVICE**

February 17, 2017

The Honorable David G. Valadao  
1728 Longworth Building  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Valadao,

The Fresno Association of REALTORS® supports your introduction of H.R. 23, the Gaining Responsibility On Water (GROW) Act of 2017.

Now is the time to enact long term, meaningful solutions to California's water supply issues and we are hopeful this legislation is the next step in addressing the challenges we face.

We look forward to working with you on advancing H.R. 23, the GROW Act, this Congress.

Sincerely,

Kristy Henry  
President



January 31, 2017

# County of Fresno

**CHAIRMAN  
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
SUPERVISOR BRIAN PACHECO – DISTRICT ONE**

The Honorable David G. Valadao  
1728 Longworth Building  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Valadao:

California's Central Valley, which provides the majority of fruits and vegetables for the country, has been suffering from a drought, which has been made worse by federal regulations. As a result, over 300 billion gallons of water have been diverted away from the region in an effort to protect the Delta Smelt. Today, citizens and farmers in the Central Valley are receiving less water, if any at all, than they previously contracted for and purchased. The water system that established California as a beacon of ingenuity has been pushed to the wayside resulting in devastating consequences for farmers, as they now fallow thousands of acres of farmland. In addition, many communities in the Central Valley have run completely dry, and have resorted to relying solely on trucks to deliver potable water to residents.

We support your introduction of H.R. 23, the Gaining Responsibility On Water (GROW) Act of 2017. This legislation would ensure reliable water deliveries for our valley. To ensure water reliability in the future, the bill obligates the federal government to complete feasibility studies for multiple water storage projects in California and increases the scope of investigation for dam safety throughout the West, including expansion.

Now is the time to enact long-term, meaningful solutions to California's water supply issues and we are hopeful this legislation is the next step in addressing the challenges we face. We look forward to working with you on advancing H.R. 23, the GROW Act.

Sincerely,

Brian Pacheco, Chairman-District 1

Sal Quintero, Vice Chairman-District 3

Andreas Borgeas-District 2

Buddy Mendes-District 4

Nathan Magsig-District 5





February 24, 2017

The Honorable David G. Valadao  
1728 Longworth Building  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Valadao,

California's Central Valley, which provides the majority of fruits and vegetables for the country, has been suffering from a drought, which has been made worse by federal regulations. As a result, over 300 billion gallons of water have been diverted away from the region in an effort to protect the Delta Smelt. Today, citizens and farmers in the Central Valley are receiving less water, if any at all, than they previously contracted for and purchased. The water system that established California as a beacon of ingenuity has been pushed to the wayside for a bait fish and has had devastating consequences for farmers, as they now fallow thousands of acres of farmland. In addition, many communities in the Central Valley have run completely dry, and have resorted to relying solely on trucks to deliver potable water to residents.

For years, you have fought to bring water back to the valley; this year is no different. We support your introduction of H.R. 23, the Gaining Responsibility On Water (GROW) Act of 2017. This legislation would ensure reliable water deliveries for our valley, secure private property and senior water rights, and save millions of dollars by ending wasteful protectionist plans. To ensure water reliability in the future, the bill obligates the federal government to complete feasibility studies for multiple water storage projects in California and increases the scope of investigation for dam safety throughout the West, including expansion.

Now is the time to enact long term, meaningful solutions to California's water supply issues and we are hopeful this legislation is the next step in addressing the challenges we face. We look forward to working with you on advancing H.R. 23, the GROW Act, this Congress.

  
David Cardenas  
Mayor of Fowler

RESOLUTION NO. 2017-48

A RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF  
FRESNO, CALIFORNIA, SUPPORTING THE GUIDING  
RESPONSIBILITY ON WATER ACT

WHEREAS, California communities suffer from lack of water reliability; and

WHEREAS, federal laws such as the Central Valley Project Improvement Act (CVPIA) and San Joaquin River Restoration Settlement Act (SJRRSA) have curtailed water deliveries to California communities; and

WHEREAS, restrictions under the Endangered Species Act and court decisions have dramatically curtailed the amount of water made available through the Central Valley Project (CVP); and

WHEREAS, the SJRRSA requires increased diversion of surface water from the Friant Division of the CVP for environmental purposes, resulting in significant water resources flowing to the ocean; and

WHEREAS, a complex and inconsistent system of laws, court decisions, and regulations at state and federal levels is resulting in mismanagement of critical water resources throughout California; and

WHEREAS, more than a half-million acres of Central Valley farmland have been fallowed as a result of such mismanagement, causing unemployment of thousands in the Central Valley; and

WHEREAS, the City of Fresno is the largest city in the Central Valley, and the fifth largest city in California, with an economy rooted in the agricultural industry and an unemployment rate consistently higher than the state and national average; and

fifth largest city in California, with a regional economy rooted in the agricultural industry and an unemployment rate consistently higher than the state and national average; and

WHEREAS, reliable water supplies would allow restoration of fallowed Central Valley farmland, generating immense economic opportunities for farmers, farm laborers and related businesses in Fresno and surrounding communities; and

WHEREAS, the Gaining Responsibility on Water (GROW) Act has been introduced to the House of Representatives by Representative Valadao as House Resolution 23; and

WHEREAS, the GROW Act contains provisions to restore water deliveries to the Central Valley communities by codifying the Bay-Delta Accord, and affirming that if the State Water Project and the Central Valley Project are operated consistent with the Bay-Delta Accord, they are in compliance with the requirements of the Endangered Species Act; and

WHEREAS, the GROW Act improves water reliability by updating the CVPIA to ensure water resources are reliable, predictable and available to fulfill supply promises; and

WHEREAS, the GROW Act streamlines permitting reforms aimed at building infrastructure to capture more water; and

WHEREAS, the GROW Act requires the federal government to expedite and complete consideration of feasibility studies for water storage projects that have been languishing in bureaucratic purgatory for over ten years; and

WHEREAS, the GROW Act prevents federal agencies from requiring certain entities to relinquish their water rights to the United States in order to use public lands;

and

WHEREAS, the GROW Act will correct the underlying policies which have led to the current lack of water reliability in the Central Valley;.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Fresno as follows:

1. The Council of the City of Fresno supports the introduction of H.R. 23 and calls upon the United States House of Representatives and Congress to enact long term, meaningful solutions to our water supply issues and utilize the introduction of the GROW Act as a vehicle to advance those solutions.

\* \* \* \* \*

STATE OF CALIFORNIA )  
COUNTY OF FRESNO ) ss.  
CITY OF FRESNO )

I, YVONNE SPENCE, City Clerk of the City of Fresno, certify that the foregoing resolution was adopted by the Council of the City of Fresno, at a regular meeting held on the 16th day of February, 2017.

AYES : Baines, Brandau, Bredefeld, Caprioglio, Chavez, Soria, Olivier  
NOES : None  
ABSENT : None  
ABSTAIN : None

YVONNE SPENCE, CMC  
City Clerk

By: *Yvonne Spence*  
Deputy

APPROVED AS TO FORM:  
DOUGLAS T. SLOAN  
City Attorney

By: *Amanda Freeman* *2/22/17*  
Amanda Freeman [Date]  
Deputy City Attorney

# South Valley Water Association



February 22, 2017

The Honorable David Valadao  
U.S. House of Representatives  
1728 Longworth HOB  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Valadao:

South Valley Water Association (SVWA) appreciates the opportunity to review H.R. 23, the Guiding Responsibility on Water Act of 2017. We also want to express our continued appreciation for the work you and your colleagues did in getting S. 612, the Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation Act passed by both the House and Senate and signed by the President. The work that went into getting S. 612 enacted provides a good example of how bipartisan and constructive collaboration can produce tangible results. Better decisions are already being made regarding the operations of the water projects in California while still protecting the environment.

S. 612 must however be the first step and not the final step forward as much more needs to be done to bring balance to the water systems in California. To that end, we applaud your willingness to introduce H.R. 23 as a way to expand the discussion and continue to make progress. The current drought and regulatory constraints have been catastrophic for the San Joaquin Valley's communities and businesses. H.R. 23 is a timely and comprehensive approach to eliminating a major portion of that water supply shortfall.

H.R. 23 includes many common-sense provisions SVWA supports and has supported previously in very similar legislation. H.R. 23 also addresses the San Joaquin River Restoration Program (SJRRP). The SVWA has been at the forefront in requesting a

357 E. Olive Avenue, Tipton, CA 93272  
Tel: 559-686-4716 Fax: 559-686-0151

Rep Valadao  
February 22, 2017  
Page 2

comprehensive review of the Settlement and the Settlement Act against the backdrop of current conditions. Implementation of a restoration program on the San Joaquin River must happen in a manner that is reasonable, prudent, and feasible. Your efforts to initiate that discussion are appreciated.

We recognize that H.R. 23 represents an effort to meld previously proposed legislation and is a work in progress. Comprehensive protections against adverse impacts to water contractors and water rights holders, which have been essential to Friant Division contractors specifically, were included in S. 612. We support their inclusion in H.R. 23.

We look forward to working with you and your colleagues in the Senate and across the aisle in the House to achieve a long-term and sustainable solution to California's water needs.

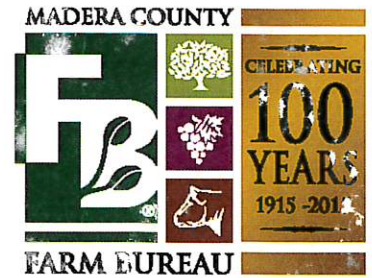
Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Dan Vink', is written over a light blue circular stamp.

Dan Vink  
Executive Director

## Madera County Farm Bureau

1102 South Pine Street  
Madera, CA 93637  
Tel (559)674-8871  
Fax (559)674-0529  
www.maderafb.com



February 27, 2017

Honorable David G. Valadao  
1728 Longworth Building  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Valadao,

On behalf of the Madera County Farm Bureau's (MCFB) membership, MCFB Past Presidents, and MCFB Board, we support your introduction of H.R. 23, the Gaining Responsibility On Water (GROW) Act of 2017. Thank you for your important and critical work in developing a new water bill for Congress to address.

California's Central Valley, which provides the majority of fruits and vegetables for the country, has been suffering from a drought, which has only been made worse by federal regulations. As a result, over 300 billion gallons of water have been diverted away from the region in an effort to protect the Delta Smelt. Today, citizens and farmers in the Central Valley are receiving less water, if any at all, than they previously contracted for and purchased. The water system that established California as a beacon of ingenuity has been pushed to the wayside for a bait fish and has had devastating consequences for farmers, as they now fallow thousands of acres of farmland. Cities in the Central Valley have run dry, relying solely on trucks to deliver potable water.

For years, there has been a fight to bring water back to the valley; this year is no different. This bill would ensure reliable water deliveries for our valley, secure private property and senior water rights, and save millions of dollars by ending wasteful protectionist plans. The bill also requires regulators to substantiate claims with scientific evidence. To ensure water reliability in the future, the bill obligates the federal government to complete feasibility studies for multiple water storage projects in California and increases the scope of investigation for dam safety throughout the West, including expansion.

Now is the time to enact long term, meaningful solutions to California's water supply issues and we are hopeful this legislation is the next step in addressing the challenges we face. We look forward to working with you and your colleagues in the Senate on advancing H.R. 23, the GROW Act, to ensure



this will be a successful, bipartisan effort to secure long-term water supply reliability. MCFB continues to remain very concerned about water reliability in the San Joaquin Valley and throughout California, and supports the efforts of our members of Congress to address immediate concerns for water reliability and develop a solution that can respond to our urgent and dire situation and develop comprehensive long term solutions. We thank Congressman Valadao for introducing H.R. 23.

Again, thank you for your continuing efforts to fight for San Joaquin Valley water issues. We appreciate and support your leadership in introducing this bill.

Sincerely,



Jay Mahil,  
President



# CITY OF ARVIN

**MAYOR**

Jose Gurrola

**MAYOR PRO TEM**

Jazmin Robles

**COUNCIL MEMBERS**

Erika Madrigal

Gabriela Martinez

Jess Ortiz

**CITY MANAGER**

Alfonso Noyola, ICMA-CM

February 22, 2017

The Honorable David G. Valadao  
1728 Longworth Building  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Valadao,

California's Central Valley, which provides the majority of fruits and vegetables for the country, has been suffering from a drought, which has been made worse by federal regulations. As a result, over 300 billion gallons of water have been diverted away from the region in an effort to protect the Delta Smelt. Today, citizens and farmers in the Central Valley are receiving less water, if any at all, than they previously contracted for and purchased. The water system that established California as a beacon of ingenuity has been pushed to the wayside for a bait fish and has had devastating consequences for farmers, as they now fallow thousands of acres of farmland. In addition, many communities in the Central Valley have run completely dry, and have resorted to relying solely on trucks to deliver potable water to residents.

For years, you have fought to bring water back to the valley; this year is no different. We support your introduction of H.R. 23, the Gaining Responsibility On Water (GROW) Act of 2017. This legislation would ensure reliable water deliveries for our valley, secure private property and senior water rights, and save millions of dollars by ending wasteful protectionist plans. To ensure water reliability in the future, the bill obligates the federal government to complete feasibility studies for multiple water storage projects in California and increases the scope of investigation for dam safety throughout the West, including expansion.

Now is the time to enact long term, meaningful solutions to California's water supply issues and we are hopeful this legislation is the next step in addressing the challenges we face. We look forward to working with you on advancing H.R. 23, the GROW Act, this Congress.

Sincerely,

Jose Gurrola, Mayor  
City of Arvin

Phone (661) 854-3134  
Fax (661) 854-0817

200 Campus Drive  
P.O. Box 548  
Arvin, California 93203

March 2, 2017

The Honorable David Valadao  
1728 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

*Re: H.R. 23, the Gaining Responsibility on Water Act (Support)*

Dear Congressman Valadao,

On behalf of our membership I write to communicate support for H.R. 23, the GROW Act, which we believe, if passed and signed into law, would make more water available to California's farmers, families, and the numerous communities who've been ravaged by water cutbacks due to drought conditions and water management decisions influenced by regulatory factors. As you are aware, the California Fresh Fruit Association represents growers, shippers, marketers and companies that provide support services to the permanent crop, fresh fruit industry. On their behalf, we recognize addressing water supply deficits through responsible management requires clear Congressional direction in order to best ensure our state's system of engineered reservoirs and conveyance systems are maximally operated to meet water delivery obligations made to farmers and communities.

We are encouraged by many elements of this legislation, including the expediting of federal feasibility studies for surface water storage projects. Without the ability to move these studies forward we cannot responsibly manage supply to meet current and future consumptive needs while providing the conjunctive benefits that will help relieve aquifers and enhance the likelihood of compliance with state requirements on groundwater sustainability. Our members will soon face significant pressure to curtail groundwater use yet expecting a dramatic reduction in use is not a reasonable option without being able to depend upon recharge via a captured supply.

Additionally, we recognize that successful passage will require a significant effort in the House and Senate to ensure that, when taken together with enhanced flexibility to operate state and federal projects (as contained in the WIIN Act of 2016), real obligated water is delivered to enable a vibrant agricultural sector. We encourage your continued efforts to work with colleagues, in a bipartisan manner, and ask that you explore all opportunities that exist politically and policy-wise to deliver tangible solutions.

Please feel free to reach out for any further discussion.

Regards,



Christopher Valadez  
Director, Environmental &  
Regulatory Affairs  
California Fresh Fruit Association



## Chamber of Commerce & Agriculture

February 16, 2017

The Honorable David G. Valadao  
1728 Longworth Building  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Valadao,

California's Central Valley, which provides the majority of fruits and vegetables for the country, has been suffering from a drought, which has been made worse by federal regulations. As a result, over 300 billion gallons of water have been diverted away from the region in an effort to protect the Delta Smelt. Today, citizens and farmers in the Central Valley are receiving less water, if any at all, than they previously contracted for and purchased. The water system that established California as a beacon of ingenuity has been pushed to the wayside for a bait fish and has had devastating consequences for farmers, as they now fallow thousands of acres of farmland. In addition, many communities in the Central Valley have run completely dry, and have resorted to relying solely on trucks to deliver potable water to residents.

For years, you have fought to bring water back to the valley; this year is no different. We support your introduction of H.R. 23, the Gaining Responsibility On Water (GROW) Act of 2017. This legislation would ensure reliable water deliveries for our valley, secure private property and senior water rights, and save millions of dollars by ending wasteful protectionist plans. To ensure water reliability in the future, the bill obligates the federal government to complete feasibility studies for multiple water storage projects in California and increases the scope of investigation for dam safety throughout the West, including expansion.

Now is the time to enact long term, meaningful solutions to California's water supply issues and we are hopeful this legislation is the next step in addressing the challenges we face. We look forward to working with you on advancing H.R. 23, the GROW Act, this Congress.

Sincerely,

Rachel Zermeno  
Director, Shafter Chamber of Commerce

# CITY OF FIREBAUGH



FRESNO COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

1133 "P" STREET  
FIREBAUGH, CALIFORNIA 93622-2547  
(559) 659-2043  
FAX (559) 659-3412

March 6, 2017

The Honorable David G. Valadao  
1728 Longworth Building  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Valadao,

California's Central Valley, which provides the majority of fruits and vegetables for the country, has been suffering from a drought, which has been made worse by federal regulations. As a result, over 300 billion gallons of water have been diverted away from the region in an effort to protect the Delta Smelt. Today, citizens and farmers in the Central Valley are receiving less water, if any at all, than they previously contracted for and purchased. The water system that established California as a beacon of ingenuity has been pushed to the wayside for a bait fish and has had devastating consequences for farmers, as they now fallow thousands of acres of farmland. In addition, many communities in the Central Valley have run completely dry, and have resorted to relying solely on trucks to deliver potable water to residents.

For years, you have fought to bring water back to the valley; this year is no different. We support your introduction of H.R. 23, the Gaining Responsibility On Water (GROW) Act of 2017. This legislation would ensure reliable water deliveries for our valley, secure private property and senior water rights, and save millions of dollars by ending wasteful protectionist plans. To ensure water reliability in the future, the bill obligates the federal government to complete feasibility studies for multiple water storage projects in California and increases the scope of investigation for dam safety throughout the West, including expansion.

Now is the time to enact long term, meaningful solutions to California's water supply issues and we are hopeful this legislation is the next step in addressing the challenges we face. We look forward to working with you on advancing H.R. 23, the GROW Act, this Congress.

Sincerely,

Brady Jenkins, Mayor  
City of Firebaugh



Mach 6, 2017

*E. Warren Gubler*  
Mayor

*Bob Link*  
Vice Mayor

*Gregory F. Collins*  
Councilmember

*Phillip Cox*  
Councilmember

*Steve Nelsen*  
Councilmember

The Honorable David Valadao  
1728 Longworth Building  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Valadao,

As you know well, California's Central Valley, which provides the majority of fruits and vegetables for the country, has been suffering from a significant drought. While recent rains this winter have provided a reprieve from the past several years of crippling drought, it is imperative that we still act to ensure our water infrastructure is appropriate to mitigate against future dry periods.

With that in mind, we appreciate your introduction of H.R. 23, the Gaining Responsibility On Water (GROW) Act of 2017. This legislation would help develop new necessary water infrastructure to support people and farms in the Central Valley, ensure more reliable water deliveries, and secure private property and senior water rights. To ensure water reliability in the future, the bill obligates the federal government to complete feasibility studies for multiple water storage projects in California and increases the scope of investigation for dam safety throughout the West, including expansion.

Even with the recent rains, now is the time to enact long-term, meaningful solutions to our water supply issues. We are hopeful this legislation a step in the right direction to help address the ongoing challenges we face. Thank you again for your introduction of the bill and ongoing work on drought issues in California.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "W. Gubler", is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Warren Gubler  
Mayor



February 27, 2017

The Honorable David G. Valadao  
1728 Longworth Building  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Valadao,

California's Central Valley, which provides the majority of fruits and vegetables for the country, has been suffering from a drought, which has been made worse by federal regulations. As a result, over 300 billion gallons of water have been diverted away from the region in an effort to protect the Delta Smelt. Today, citizens and farmers in the Central Valley are receiving less water, if any at all, than they previously contracted for and purchased. The water system that established California as a beacon of ingenuity has been pushed to the wayside for a bait fish and has had devastating consequences for farmers, as they now fallow thousands of acres of farmland. In addition, many communities in the Central Valley have run completely dry, and have resorted to relying solely on trucks to deliver potable water to residents.

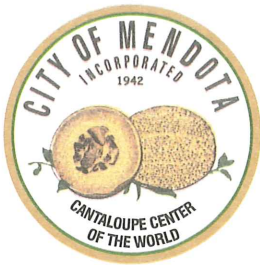
For years, you have fought to bring water back to the valley; this year is no different. We support your introduction of H.R. 23, the Gaining Responsibility On Water (GROW) Act of 2017. This legislation would ensure reliable water deliveries for our valley, secure private property and senior water rights, and save millions of dollars by ending wasteful protectionist plans. To ensure water reliability in the future, the bill obligates the federal government to complete feasibility studies for multiple water storage projects in California and increases the scope of investigation for dam safety throughout the West, including expansion.

Now is the time to enact long term, meaningful solutions to California's water supply issues and we are hopeful this legislation is the next step in addressing the challenges we face. We look forward to working with you on advancing H.R. 23, the GROW Act, this Congress.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Janet L. Rabanal", is written over a circular stamp or seal.

Janet L. Rabanal  
President/CEO  
Delano Chamber of Commerce



# CITY OF MENDOTA

*"Cantaloupe Center Of The World"*

February 16, 2017

The Honorable David G. Valadao  
1728 Longworth Building  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Valadao,

California's Central Valley, which provides the majority of fruits and vegetables for the country, has been suffering from a drought, which has been made worse by federal regulations. As a result, over 300 billion gallons of water have been diverted away from the region in an effort to protect the Delta Smelt. Today, citizens and farmers in the Central Valley are receiving less water, if any at all, than they previously contracted for and purchased. The water system that established California as a beacon of ingenuity has been pushed to the wayside for a bait fish and has had devastating consequences for farmers, as they now fallow thousands of acres of farmland. In addition, many communities in the Central Valley have run completely dry, and have resorted to relying solely on trucks to deliver potable water to residents.

For years, you have fought to bring water back to the valley; this year is no different. We support your introduction of H.R. 23, the Gaining Responsibility On Water (GROW) Act of 2017. This legislation would ensure reliable water deliveries for our valley, secure private property and senior water rights, and save millions of dollars by ending wasteful protectionist plans. To ensure water reliability in the future, the bill obligates the federal government to complete feasibility studies for multiple water storage projects in California, including the much-needed Temperance Flat Dam, and increases the scope of investigation for dam safety throughout the West, including expansion.

Now is the time to enact long term, meaningful solutions to California's water supply issues and we are hopeful this legislation is the next step in addressing the challenges we face. We look forward to working with you on advancing H.R. 23, the GROW Act, this Congress.

Sincerely,

Rolando Castro  
Mayor





21900 Colorado Avenue • P.O. Box 758 • San Joaquin, CA 93660  
[559] 693.4311 • [559] 693.2193 (fax) • [www.cityofsanjoaquin.org](http://www.cityofsanjoaquin.org)

February 15, 2017

The Honorable David G. Valadao  
1728 Longworth Building  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Valadao:

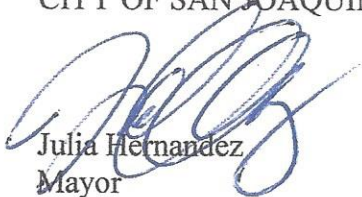
California's Central Valley, which provides the majority of fruits and vegetables for the country, has been suffering from a drought, which has been made worse by federal regulations. As a result, over 300 billion gallons of water have been diverted away from the region in an effort to protect the Delta smelt. Today, citizens and farmers in the Central Valley are receiving less water, if any at all, than they previously contracted for and purchased. The water system that established California as a beacon of ingenuity has been pushed to the wayside for a bait fish and has had devastating consequences for farmers, as they now fallow thousands of acres of farmland. In addition, many communities in the Central Valley have run completely dry, and have resorted to relying solely on trucks to deliver potable water to residents.

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Now is the time to enact long term, meaningful solutions to California's water supply issues and we are hopeful this legislation is the next step in addressing the challenges we face. We look forward to working with you on advancing H.R. 23, the GROW Act, this Congress.

Sincerely,

CITY OF SAN JOAQUIN



Julia Hernandez  
Mayor

JH/dlb



# County of Tulare

February 7, 2017

The Honorable David G. Valadao  
1728 Longworth Building  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

## BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

**Kuyler Crocker**  
District One

**Pete Vander Poel**  
District Two

**Amy Shuklian**  
District Three

**J. Steven Worthley**  
District Four

**Mike Ennis**  
District Five

\*

## BOARD STAFF

*Julietta Martinez*  
*Melinda Benton*  
*Carrie Crane*  
*Samantha Ferrero*

\*

## CLERK OF THE BOARD

*Michelle Baldwin*  
Chief Clerk

\*

Administration Bldg.  
2800 West Burrel  
Visalia, CA 93291

TEL: (559) 636-5000  
FAX: (559) 733-6898

Dear Representative Valadao,

California's Central Valley, which provides the majority of fruits and vegetables for the country, has been suffering from a drought, which has been made worse by federal regulations. As a result, over 300 billion gallons of water have been diverted away from the region in an effort to protect the Delta Smelt. Today, citizens and farmers in the Central Valley are receiving less water, if any at all, than they previously contracted for and purchased. The water system that established California as a beacon of ingenuity has been pushed to the wayside for a bait fish and has had devastating consequences for farmers, as they now fallow thousands of acres of farmland. In addition, many communities in the Central Valley have run completely dry, and have resorted to relying solely on trucks to deliver potable water to residents.

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Now is the time to enact long term, meaningful solutions to California's water supply issues and we are hopeful this legislation is the next step in addressing the challenges we face. We look forward to working with you on advancing H.R. 23, the GROW Act, this Congress.

Sincerely,

**Kuyler Crocker, District One**  
Tulare County Board of Supervisors

**Pete Vander Poel, District Two**  
Tulare County Board of Supervisors

**Amy Shuklian, District Three**  
Tulare County Board of Supervisors

**J. Steven Worthley, District Four**  
Tulare County Board of Supervisors

**Michael Ennis, District Five**  
Tulare County Board of Supervisors



# City of Lindsay



P.O. Box 369 — Lindsay, California 93247 — 251 Honolulu Street

January 10, 2017

The Honorable David G. Valadao  
1728 Longworth Building  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Valadao,

California's Central Valley, which provides the majority of fruits and vegetables for the country, has been suffering from a drought, which has been made worse by federal regulations. As a result, over 300 billion gallons of water have been diverted away from the region in an effort to protect the Delta Smelt. Today, citizens and farmers in the Central Valley are receiving less water, if any at all, than they previously contracted for and purchased. The water system that established California as a beacon of ingenuity has been pushed to the wayside for a bait fish and has had devastating consequences for farmers, as they now fallow thousands of acres of farmland. In addition, many communities in the Central Valley have run completely dry, and have resorted to relying solely on trucks to deliver potable water to residents.

For years, you have fought to bring water back to the valley; this year is no different. We support your introduction of H.R. 23, the Gaining Responsibility On Water (GROW) Act of 2017. This legislation would ensure reliable water deliveries for our valley, secure private property and senior water rights, and save millions of dollars by ending wasteful protectionist plans. To ensure water reliability in the future, the bill obligates the federal government to complete feasibility studies for multiple water storage projects in California and increases the scope of investigation for dam safety throughout the West, including expansion.

Now is the time to enact long term, meaningful solutions to California's water supply issues and we are hopeful this legislation is the next step in addressing the challenges we face. We look forward to working with you on advancing H.R. 23, the GROW Act, this Congress.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Pamela Kimball".

**Pamela Kimball, Lindsay City Mayor**





February 23, 2017

The Honorable David G. Valadao  
1728 Longworth Building  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

**Re: H.R. 23, Gaining Responsibility on Water (GROW) Act**

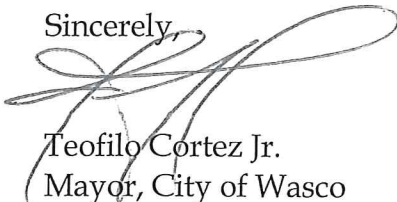
Dear Representative Valadao,

California's Central Valley, which provides the majority of fruits and vegetables for the country, has been suffering from a drought, which has been made worse by federal regulations. As a result, over 300 billion gallons of water have been diverted away from the region in an effort to protect the Delta Smelt. Today, citizens and farmers in the Central Valley are receiving less water, if any at all, than they previously contracted for and purchased. The water system that established California as a beacon of ingenuity has been pushed to the wayside for a bait fish and has had devastating consequences for farmers, as they now fallow thousands of acres of farmland. In addition, many communities in the Central Valley have run completely dry, and have resorted to relying solely on trucks to deliver potable water to residents.

For years, you have fought to bring water back to the valley; this year is no different. We support your introduction of H.R. 23, the Gaining Responsibility On Water (GROW) Act of 2017. This legislation would ensure reliable water deliveries for our valley, secure private property and senior water rights, and save millions of dollars by ending wasteful protectionist plans. To ensure water reliability in the future, the bill obligates the federal government to complete feasibility studies for multiple water storage projects in California and increases the scope of investigation for dam safety throughout the West, including expansion.

Now is the time to enact long term, meaningful solutions to California's water supply issues and we are hopeful this legislation is the next step in addressing the challenges we face. We look forward to working with you on advancing H.R. 23, the GROW Act, this Congress.

Sincerely,



Teofilo Cortez Jr.  
Mayor, City of Wasco

MAILED 2/24/17



*Street Address:*

18700 Ward Street  
Fountain Valley, California 92708

*Mailing Address:*

P.O. Box 20895  
Fountain Valley, CA 92728-0895

(714) 963-3058

Fax: (714) 964-9389

[www.mwdoc.com](http://www.mwdoc.com)

Wayne S. Osborne  
*President*

Brett R. Barbre  
*Vice President*

Larry D. Dick  
*Director*

Joan C. Finnegan  
*Director*

Megan Yoo Schneider  
*Director*

Sat Tamaribuchi  
*Director*

Jeffery M. Thomas  
*Director*

Robert J. Hunter  
*General Manager*

MEMBER AGENCIES

City of Brea  
City of Buena Park  
East Orange County Water District  
El Toro Water District  
Emerald Bay Service District  
City of Fountain Valley  
City of Garden Grove  
Golden State Water Co.  
City of Huntington Beach  
Irvine Ranch Water District  
Laguna Beach County Water District  
City of La Habra  
City of La Palma  
Mesa Water District  
Moulton Niguel Water District  
City of Newport Beach  
City of Orange  
Orange County Water District  
City of San Clemente  
City of San Juan Capistrano  
Santa Margarita Water District  
City of Seal Beach  
Serrano Water District  
South Coast Water District  
Trabuco Canyon Water District  
City of Tustin  
City of Westminster  
Yorba Linda Water District

March 17, 2017

The Honorable David Valadao  
1728 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Valadao:

The Municipal Water District of Orange County (MWDOC) is pleased to support your measure, H.R. 23 - "*Gaining Responsibility on Water Act of 2017*" or *GROW Act*. We applaud your efforts to seek an achievable, long term federal solution to our statewide drought.

We recognize the difficulties in crafting such legislation and balancing the needs of the various stakeholders throughout California as well as other western states who have suffered devastating consequences as a result of the current drought.

The Municipal Water District of Orange County (MWDOC), a water agency serving the needs of more than two million residents and 28 retail water agencies, voted unanimously to support your legislation and to assist with its passage.

On behalf of MWDOC Board of Directors, we are pleased to support H.R. 23 and sincerely thank you for your efforts to address the ongoing drought in California. Working together towards the goals outlined in H.R. 23 will enact policies that expand our state's water infrastructure and allow for additional conveyance when it's needed most.

Should you have any questions regarding this matter, please feel free to contact either Jim Barker at (202) 413-2986 our advocate in Washington, or MWDOC General Manager, Rob Hunter at (714) 593-5026.

Sincerely,

Wayne S. Osborne  
Board President

cc: Orange County Congressional Delegation



February 24, 2017

The Honorable David Valadao  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Valadao:

California faces what seem to be insurmountable problems due to water supply issues; issues that threaten the livelihood and commerce of California families, farmers, and communities statewide. More specifically, the Southern San Joaquin Valley area is suffering greatly from water restrictions mostly due to various environmental policy decisions and lawsuits that have slowly chipped away the water supplies critical to this area. Your introduction of H.R.23, the Gaining Responsibility in Water (GROW) Act of 2017, targets these concerns directly.

The Kaweah Delta Water Conservation District helps to manage water resources in this area, representing 340,000 acres of communities and farmland, and has seen firsthand the impacts of the San Joaquin River Settlement and the reduction of San Joaquin River water supplies delivered through the Central Valley Project to farming operations in the Valley. This area's groundwater supplies have been impacted the most by these surface water reductions, and it is questionable as to how long the aquifers in this area can provide substitute groundwater for this reduction in surface water.

It is with these concerns that the Kaweah Delta Water Conservation District wholly supports H.R.23. This legislation would help bring water back to the valley, improving the reliability of water deliveries to an area that supports a thriving agricultural economy. The legislation contains many provisions that get right to the heart of water supply issues we face.

Thank you for your continued support and dedication to resolving water reliability issue, and introducing H.R.23 as a reasonable, common-sense approach to returning water to the Valley.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Don Mills". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Don Mills  
President



## Lakeside Irrigation Water District

9304 Houston Avenue ÷ Hanford, California 93230 ÷ Phone (559)584-3396 ÷ Fax (559)584-3398

"WATER IS EVERYBODYS BUSINESS"

March 1, 2017

The Honorable David Valadao  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D. C. 20515

Dear Representative Valadao:

California faces what seem to be insurmountable problems due to water supply issues; issues that threaten the livelihood and commerce of California families, farmers, and communities statewide. More specifically, the Southern San Joaquin Valley area is suffering greatly from water restrictions mostly due to various environmental policy decisions and lawsuits that have slowly chipped away the water supplies critical to this area. Your introduction of H.R. 23, the Gaining Responsibility in Water (GROW) Act of 2017, targets these concerns directly.

The Lakeside Irrigation Water District helps to manage water resources in this area, representing almost 33,000 acres of communities and farmland, and has seen firsthand the impacts of the San Joaquin River Settlement and the reduction of the San Joaquin River water supplies delivered through the Central Valley Project to farming operations in the valley. This areas' groundwater supplies have been impacted the most by these surface water reductions, and it is questionable as to how long the aquifers in this area can provide substitute groundwater for this reduction in surface water.

It is with these concerns that the Lakeside Irrigation Water District wholly supports H.R. 23. This legislation would help bring water back to the valley, improving the reliability of water deliveries to an area that supports a thriving agricultural economy. The legislation contains many provisions that get right to the heart of water supply issues we face.

Thank you for your continued support and dedication to resolving water reliability issue, and introducing H.R. 23 as a reasonable, common-sense approach to returning water to the Valley.

Sincerely,

Donald Mills  
President



April 3, 2017

The Honorable David Valadao  
U.S. House Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Valadao:

The Kings River Conservation District (KRC D) and the Kings River Water Association (KRWA) appreciate your continued dedication to Valley water issues. In that regard, KRC D and KRWA commend you for introducing H.R. 23, the Gaining Responsibility on Water Act of 2017, which promotes a comprehensive approach to solving the California water crisis focusing on critical San Joaquin Valley concerns.

California's recent drought compounded with excessive regulatory requirements and constraints have been catastrophic for the Valley's communities, businesses, and population. These pressures contribute greatly to the Valley's approximate average annual water resource shortfall of 2.5 million acre-feet and are thus directly related to a reduced water supply and associated groundwater overdrafting.

H.R. 23 is intended to increase the availability and reliability of water for the benefit of all users in the in the San Joaquin Valley. The legislation provides for rational regulation of the Delta and updates the Central Valley Project Improvement Act to ensure that water supplies for users on the Central Valley Project (CVP) and State Water Project (SWP) are adequate, reliable and predictable. H.R. 23 also protects the water rights and supplies of users who are not on the CVP and SWP, including water-rights holders on the Kings River.

Thank you for your efforts in striving toward a fair and balanced approach to water resource issues for the benefit of California's population. We look forward to working with you.

Sincerely,

Paul Peschel, General Manager  
Kings River Conservation District

Steve Haugen, Watermaster  
Kings River Water Association

Cc: The Ferguson Group

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*Kings River Conservation District*  
4886 E. Jensen Avenue  
Fresno, CA 93725 (559) 237-5567

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*Kings River Water Association*  
4888 E. Jensen Avenue  
Fresno, CA 93725 (559) 266-0767



# GRAVELLY FORD WATER DISTRICT



18811 Road 27 · Madera, CA 93638 (559)·474·1000 Fax: (559) 673· 1086  
email: [donroberts717@gmail.com](mailto:donroberts717@gmail.com)

February 24,, 2017

## **Board of Directors**

Steven Emmert, Pres.  
Seth Kirk, V. Pres.  
Kenneth Basila  
Diane Kirk  
Paul Stewart

## **Manager**

Don Roberts

The Honorable David Valadao  
U.S. House Representatives  
1728 Longworth HOB  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Valadao:

Gravelly Ford Water District (GFWD) appreciates the continued dedication you and the other Valley Congressman have brought to Valley water issues for many years. GFWD commends you for introducing H.R. 23, the guiding Responsibility on Water Act of 2017, which promotes a comprehensive approach to solving the California water crisis especially for the San Joaquin Valley.

The current drought and regulatory constraints have been catastrophic for the Valley's communities, businesses, and population. The approximate annual shortfall is 2.5 million acre-feet and, H.R. 23 is a timely and comprehensive approach to eliminating this shortfall.

H.R. 23 includes many common-sense provisions that were included in similar proposed legislation in the past. Title IV of the bill includes specific provisions related to the 2009 San Joaquin River Settlement Act. As you know, Friant Water Authority (FWA) has formally expressed a number of concerns regarding the viability of the San Joaquin River Restoration Program (SJRRP) as contemplated by the Settlement and the Settlement Act. GFWD supports FWA's request that the Settlement Parties join in a process to examine the Settlement and realize implementation of a SJRRP in a manner that is reasonable, prudent, and feasible.

Thank you for your efforts to bring a fair and balanced approach to water issues for the benefit of the entire population. We look forward to working with you and your colleagues in trying to achieve success.

Sincerely,

Steven Emmert  
President