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.

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,

Scott Hurlbert
City Manager