



February 1, 2017

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General Manager

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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".

Ted R. Page  
President

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cc: The Honorable Kevin McCarthy  
The Honorable Devin Nunes