



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

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