

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
14th 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

Wendell AD73

Jeff Stone SD28

Jim Nelson SD4

Tom AD72

Andy AD21

Paul SD1

Frank Bigelow AD5

Tommy Vogel AD71

Steve Choi AD68

F. S. Star AD32

Samuel Baker SD36

Pat SD34

Cathleen Galgiani SD05

Chris AD42

