



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