



February 24, 2017

The Honorable David Valadao
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Valadao:

California faces what seem to be insurmountable problems due to water supply issues; issues that threaten the livelihood and commerce of California families, farmers, and communities statewide. More specifically, the Southern San Joaquin Valley area is suffering greatly from water restrictions mostly due to various environmental policy decisions and lawsuits that have slowly chipped away the water supplies critical to this area. Your introduction of H.R.23, the Gaining Responsibility in Water (GROW) Act of 2017, targets these concerns directly.

The Kaweah Delta Water Conservation District helps to manage water resources in this area, representing 340,000 acres of communities and farmland, and has seen firsthand the impacts of the San Joaquin River Settlement and the reduction of San Joaquin River water supplies delivered through the Central Valley Project to farming operations in the Valley. This area's groundwater supplies have been impacted the most by these surface water reductions, and it is questionable as to how long the aquifers in this area can provide substitute groundwater for this reduction in surface water.

It is with these concerns that the Kaweah Delta Water Conservation District wholly supports H.R.23. This legislation would help bring water back to the valley, improving the reliability of water deliveries to an area that supports a thriving agricultural economy. The legislation contains many provisions that get right to the heart of water supply issues we face.

Thank you for your continued support and dedication to resolving water reliability issue, and introducing H.R.23 as a reasonable, common-sense approach to returning water to the Valley.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Don Mills".

Don Mills
President