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January 31, 2017

The Honorable David Valadao
U.S. House of Representatives
1728 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

HR 23: SUPPORT

Dear Congressman Valadao:

The Kern County Board of Supervisors strongly supports HR 23, the Gaining Responsibility On Water (Grow) Act, your legislation to modernize water policies throughout the Western United States and particularly in California to help increase water supplies depleted by drought and environmental regulations.

Securing a reliable water supply continues to be one of the greatest challenges facing the Central Valley. Besides cutbacks to farmers, reductions to municipalities, and the threat of heavy fines for groundwater use, the Valley has been hit especially hard by the lack of rainfall and burdensome federal regulations that have severely limited water deliveries.

HR 23 would restore water deliveries that have been drastically reduced over the last two decades as a result of numerous environmental lawsuits and state and federal regulations. By codifying the bipartisan Bay-Delta Accord as a federal law, the GROW Act would require regulators to restore water deliveries to Central California users consistent with Endangered Species Act requirements. The bill would also eliminate a number of regulatory hurdles that are delaying construction of major water storage projects that have been authorized by Congress for over a decade, and it would impose deadlines to finish feasibility studies on proposals for the Sites Dam along the Sacramento River and the Temperance Flat Dam along the San Joaquin River.

For these reasons, our Board applauds your introduction of HR 23 and urges its swift enactment by Congress.

Sincerely,

Zack Scrivner, Chairman
Kern County Board of Supervisors

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Attachment

cc: Kern County Farm Bureau
Kern County Water Agency