



JOE NEVES – DISTRICT 1
LEMOORE & STRATFORD

RICHARD VALLE – DISTRICT 2
AVENAL, CONCORAN, HOME GARDEN
& KETTLEMAN CITY

DOUG VERBOON – DISTRICT 3
NORTH HANFORD, ISLAND DISTRICT
& NORTH LEMOORE

CRAIG PEDERSEN – DISTRICT 4
ARMONA & HANFORD

RICHARD FAGUNDES – DISTRICT 5
HANFORD & BURRIS PARK

COUNTY OF KINGS BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

MAILING ADDRESS: KINGS COUNTY GOVERNMENT CENTER, HANFORD, CA 93230
OFFICES AT: 1400 W. LACEY BLVD., ADMINISTRATION BUILDING # 1, HANFORD
(559) 852-2362, FAX: (559) 585-8047
Web Site: <http://www.countyofkings.com>

January 24, 2017

The Honorable David G. Valadao
US House of Representatives
1728 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Valadao:

On behalf of the Kings County Board of Supervisors, I am writing to thank you for your long-standing efforts to assist California farmers, businesses, and communities suffering from the devastating effects of our state's historic drought. In particular, we appreciate your leadership in securing passage of provisions in the *Water Infrastructure Investments for the Nation (WIIN) Act* (PL 114-322) that provide state and federal agencies with operational flexibility to maximize water supplies to the Central Valley.

As you know, Kings County is among the nation's leaders in agricultural production. Our shared constituents depend upon reliable supplies and quantities of water, delivered efficiently from a variety of sources. However, in recent years, the lack of rainfall – in combination with burdensome federal regulations – have resulted in severe curtailments of water supplies in some portions of Kings County. While our communities are already experiencing benefits from the aforementioned *WIIN Act* provisions, those reforms were only intended to provide temporary relief. Unless Congress enacts long-term, meaningful solutions to California's complex water management challenges, the Central Valley will continue to be disproportionately impacted by unprecedented dry conditions.

The Kings County Board of Supervisors believes that your legislation – the *Gaining Responsibility On Water (GROW) Act of 2017* (HR 23) – would help protect our vital agricultural interests by ensuring reliable and predictable water deliveries. Among other things, the *Grow Act* would restore water supply to the levels agreed upon in the 1994 Bay-Delta Accord. While we understand the desire of environmentalists to protect threatened fish species, we would argue that many current programs and policies improperly put the interests of fish over the fundamental needs of people.

The Honorable David G. Valadao
US House of Representatives
1728 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515
GROW Act of 2017 (HR 23) Comment Letter
Page 2 of 2

The legislation also would help streamline permitting and expedite construction of additional water storage facilities, including the proposed Temperance Flat dam along the San Joaquin River. The addition of Temperance Flat would create a new reservoir that nearly triples the storage of Millerton Lake to approximately 1.25 million acre feet. These types of strategic storage projects will help yield sustainable water resources, enhance flood protection, and recharge groundwater supplies.

For these reasons and more, the Kings County Board of Supervisors is pleased to endorse the *GROW Act*. Thank you again for your strong and sustained leadership on this critically important issue. We look forward to continuing to work with you on advancing the *GROW Act*. If you have any questions or need any additional information, please feel free to contact Hasan Sarsour, Kings County's federal representative, at 202-898-1444, or hs@wafed.com.

Sincerely,



Craig Pedersen, Chairman
Kings County Board of Supervisors

cc: Senator Dianne Feinstein
Senator Kamala Harris