



Consisting of 240,000 acres on the Westside of the San Joaquin Valley

January 6, 2017

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

Dear Congressman Valadao:

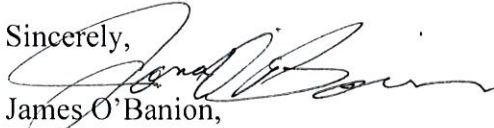
We write to convey the appreciation of the San Joaquin River Exchange Contractors Water Authority (Exchange Contractors) for your unrelenting focus throughout your entire tenure in the U.S. Congress to obtain additional and reliable water supplies for the Central Valley. The thousands of hours both you and your staff members have dedicated to the issue are recognized and greatly appreciated.

The Exchange Contractors also greatly appreciate all of your efforts, along with those of your many House colleagues and members of the U.S. Senate, to achieve the enactment of the Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation (WIN) Act. The provisions of the WINN Act already show promise of delivering on their potential.

The introduction of HR 23, the Guiding Responsibility on Water the (GROW) Act, is also greatly appreciated. HR 23 contains provisions in Title I, Section 114 which have been considered previously to address the San Joaquin River Restoration Program (SJRRP). The Exchange Contractors have for the last several years taken the position that the SJRRP is in need of comprehensive overhaul. The Program simply is not being executed as it was envisioned – and in all likelihood never can be. This is unfortunate for all interested parties, but especially for the Exchange Contractors, who could be subject to millions of dollars in damages if the program is not substantially revised. This is doubly unacceptable, since the Exchange Contractors were not direct parties to the original lawsuit or settlement.

Thank you for your untiring efforts. We look forward to working with you, your colleagues, and the California Senators in the weeks and months ahead to improve the water supply outlook for the Central Valley -- for both the near term and for generations to come.

Sincerely,


James O'Banion,
President