

# South Valley Water Association



February 22, 2017

The Honorable David Valadao  
U.S. House of Representatives  
1728 Longworth HOB  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Valadao:

South Valley Water Association (SVWA) appreciates the opportunity to review H.R. 23, the Guiding Responsibility on Water Act of 2017. We also want to express our continued appreciation for the work you and your colleagues did in getting S. 612, the Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation Act passed by both the House and Senate and signed by the President. The work that went into getting S. 612 enacted provides a good example of how bipartisan and constructive collaboration can produce tangible results. Better decisions are already being made regarding the operations of the water projects in California while still protecting the environment.

S. 612 must however be the first step and not the final step forward as much more needs to be done to bring balance to the water systems in California. To that end, we applaud your willingness to introduce H.R. 23 as a way to expand the discussion and continue to make progress. 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 that water supply shortfall.

H.R. 23 includes many common-sense provisions SVWA supports and has supported previously in very similar legislation. H.R. 23 also addresses the San Joaquin River Restoration Program (SJRRP). The SVWA has been at the forefront in requesting a

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Delano-Earlimart ~ Exeter ~ Ivanhoe ~ Lower Tule River ~ Pixley ~ Shafter Wasco ~ Stone Corral ~ Tea Pot Dome ~ SJJMUD

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comprehensive review of the Settlement and the Settlement Act against the backdrop of current conditions. Implementation of a restoration program on the San Joaquin River must happen in a manner that is reasonable, prudent, and feasible. Your efforts to initiate that discussion are appreciated.

We recognize that H.R. 23 represents an effort to meld previously proposed legislation and is a work in progress. Comprehensive protections against adverse impacts to water contractors and water rights holders, which have been essential to Friant Division contractors specifically, were included in S. 612. We support their inclusion in H.R. 23.

We look forward to working with you and your colleagues in the Senate and across the aisle in the House to achieve a long-term and sustainable solution to California's water needs.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Dan Vink', is written over a light blue circular stamp or watermark.

Dan Vink  
Executive Director