



Westlands Water District

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January 3, 2017

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

Dear Representative Valadao:

Thank you for providing Westlands Water District with the opportunity to review H.R. 23, the Guiding Responsibility On Water Act of 2017. As an initial matter, we want to once again express our appreciation for you and your colleagues' efforts to successfully include key legislative language relating to operations of the Central Valley Project and the California State Water Project in S. 612, the Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation Act. Since the enactment of that legislation only a few short weeks ago, we are already seeing better decisions being made regarding operations of the CVP and SWP. Westlands agrees with you and your colleagues that although S. 612 was a significant and necessary step forward, it does not provide a solution to the long-term water supply challenges facing California, and the San Joaquin Valley in particular.

As you know, it is Westlands Water District's policy to support the enactment of any reasonable legislation intended to restore the ability of the CVP and SWP to deliver a reliable supply of water, sufficient to meet reasonable demands around the state. H.R. 23 is consistent with that policy, and Westlands has in the past supported legislation that is nearly identical to H.R. 23. As H.R. 23 moves forward, we are mindful of the effort needed to achieve meaningful bipartisan and bicameral legislation to provide a secure long-term water supply. In that regard, we appreciate your leadership on the critical issue of water supply, and Westlands reaffirms its support of your efforts.

We look forward to working with you and your colleagues to achieve a meaningful, long-term solution to California's water needs.

Very truly yours,

Thomas W. Birmingham
General Manager