



Westlands Water District

3130 N. Fresno Street, P.O. Box 6056, Fresno, California 93703-6056, (559) 224-1523, FAX (559) 241-6277

February 2, 2017

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

RE: H.R. 23, Gaining Responsibility on Water Act of 2017

Dear Mr. ^{David}Valadao:

I am writing to follow up on my letter of January 3, 2017, regarding H.R. 23, the Gaining Responsibility on Water Act of 2017, because it has been reported to me that there is confusion regarding Westlands Water District's position on this legislation. Westlands supports the enactment of H.R. 23.

Over the last three decades, the ability of the Central Valley Project and the California State Water Project to supply the quantities of water required to satisfy demands in the San Joaquin Valley has been eroded by the implementation of various federal laws, including the Central Valley Project Improvement Act and the Endangered Species Act. Today, there exists in the San Joaquin Valley a shortage of more than 2.2 million acre-feet. The enactment of H.R. 23 would address that shortage by providing congressional direction on how those federal laws are implemented. Without the enactment of H.R. 23 or similar legislation, the San Joaquin Valley will continue to suffer the human and environmental harm caused by chronic water supply shortages.

It is Westlands' policy, as stated in my January 3, letter, to support the enactment of any 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. Westlands, in accordance with that policy, supports H.R. 23. As H.R. 23 moves forward, we are eager to work with you and other Members of Congress to enact meaningful legislation to provide a secure long-term water supply for California.

If you have any questions or if I may be of any assistance, please contact me at your convenience.

Very truly yours,


Thomas W. Birmingham
General Manager