



**CONTRA COSTA
WATER DISTRICT**

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July 7, 2011

Directors

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President

Karl L. Wandry
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Jerry Brown
General Manager

The Honorable Devin Nunes
U.S. House of Representatives
1013 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Subject: H.R. 1837 San Joaquin Valley Water Reliability Act

Dear Representative Nunes:

The Contra Costa Water District (CCWD) Board of Directors has unanimously voted to *Oppose* H.R. 1837 San Joaquin Valley Water Reliability Act.

The CCWD Board of Directors *Opposes* the bill because, among other things, it would override California state water policy and water rights, providing contractors in the San Joaquin Valley priority for water over in-Delta area of origin and senior water right holders and the environment. This would violate the co-equal goals of the 2009 state legislation, which CCWD supported, putting water supply reliability and water quality at risk of serious impairment.

Most northern California and in-Delta water right holders would be adversely affected by H.R. 1837, including CCWD. The bill would waive the state and federal Endangered Species Act and allow export pumps to operate using outdated standards to protect endangered species by reverting back to the Biological Opinions for the 1994 Bay-Delta Accord. The bill would also repeal the 2009 San Joaquin River Restoration Settlement Act, undoing a settlement that took over 20 years to reach. The bill would undermine current activities to meet the legislated co-equal goals of water supply reliability and habitat restoration such as the Bay Delta Conservation Plan. CCWD is concerned that this bill represents an effort by the federal government to intervene in state water rights and policies put in place to protect the Delta.

CCWD agrees that immediate action is needed in the Delta to address issues surrounding water supply reliability, water quality, and ecosystem restoration. As an alternative to lifting policies in place to protect the Delta and water users, CCWD has identified a suite of actions that can be taken immediately and already have widespread support. These immediate actions are included in the Delta Vision Strategic Plan and the Delta Stewardship Council's Interim Delta Plan and are being considered in the Bay-Delta Conservation Plan and the Delta Stewardship Council's Delta Plan. These actions include fish screens, barriers, habitat restoration, and emergency preparedness that can be implemented now and will have immediate benefits.

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Implementation of these actions would create water supply benefits without the unnecessary unraveling of legal protections for senior water right holders and fisheries. CCWD can provide more detailed information about each of the immediate actions.

If you have any additional questions, please contact Jerry Brown, General Manager at (925) 688-8034.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'JL Campbell', enclosed within a circular scribble.

Joseph L. Campbell
President

JLC/JA:ma

cc: CCWD Board of Directors