



# BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

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June 28, 2011

The Honorable Tom McClintock, Chair  
House Subcommittee on Water and Power  
1324 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Re: Opposition to the "San Joaquin Valley Water Reliability Act" (H.R. 1837)

Dear Chairman McClintock:

The Butte County Board of Supervisors opposes the proposed San Joaquin Valley Water Reliability Act (H.R. 1837). If passed, the legislation will unnecessarily preempt state law and undermine the delicate progress made to solve California's water challenges. Most importantly, the ramifications could be dire for Butte County's communities, economy and environment.

Butte County lies in the northern Sacramento Valley region and is the Area of Origin for much of the water that flows through the San Francisco Bay Delta. Our region is a major source for California's overall water supply and an integral component of a healthy Delta watershed. Our surface water resources include the crown jewel of the State Water Project (SWP) located at Lake Oroville and the headwaters of the Central Valley Project (CVP) located at Lake Shasta.

Our region's water resources are more than the water supply for the Delta and the state. They provide the life blood for our agricultural-based communities, help stimulate our local economy and protect our pristine environment. Much of our local water supply comes from the various groundwater basins throughout the region that are recharged through a network of creeks and rivers that are tributary to the great Sacramento River which feeds into the Delta. Butte County has a vested interest in viable solutions to the challenges facing the Delta ecosystem and a reliable water supply for California.

Understanding the unique and diverse challenges that face the California water system, local, state and federal water leaders worked collaboratively to establish coequal goals of restoring the Delta ecosystem and improving statewide water reliability. The pursuit of the Bay Delta Conservation Plan and the enactment of the 2009 Delta Reform Act provide the foundation to achieve these coequal goals. H.R.

1837 attempts to address a singular regional concern in complete disregard to other considerations. The approach taken in H.R. 1837 will ultimately create a myriad of unintended consequences and potentially cause irreparable harm to our region's communities, economy and ecosystem. H.R. 1837 will undermine the delicate progress made over the past three years and extinguish any hope for the future.

Lessons from the past have demonstrated that California cannot resolve its water challenges by advancing the interests of a select few. Butte County opposes H.R.1837 and any attempt to undermine the carefully crafted path to solving California's water challenges. We recommend that efforts be better placed to support the collaborative approach under which we have all been working.

Sincerely,



Steve Lambert, Chair  
Butte County Board of Supervisors

Cc: The Honorable Wally Herger  
Member of Congress  
242 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC, 20515

The Honorable Doc Hastings, Chair  
House Committee on Natural Resources  
1324 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Edward J. Markey, Ranking Member  
House Committee on Natural Resources  
1329 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Grace F. Napolitano, Ranking Member  
House Subcommittee on Water and Power  
1329 Longworth House Office Building  
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The Honorable Dianne Feinstein  
United States Senate  
331 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Barbara Boxer  
United States Senate  
112 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510