



July 13, 2011

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The Honorable Devin Nunes
Longworth House Office Building, Suite 1013
Washington, DC 20515

Re: H.R. 1837 – San Joaquin Valley Water Reliability Act: Oppose

Dear Congressman Nunes:

The water supply system that supports most of California's residents and businesses and underpins its ecological health is facing unprecedented challenges. Climate change, increased water demand, endangered fish species, harmful impacts to the San Joaquin Bay-Delta ecosystem and the potential for a Katrina-like levee collapse are all key issues that must be addressed in order to secure a reliable, sustainable water supply for California's farms, businesses and families.

Recognizing the primacy of water issues to the health of our state and businesses, the Silicon Valley Leadership Group has been working in good faith with business, water, governmental and environmental interests from around the state to help identify and pursue solutions to secure the co-equal goals of water supply reliability and environmental protection.

We believe that H.R. 1837 would be counterproductive to the development of a comprehensive solution to the Golden State's water problems as it overrides many existing regulations and laws concerning the Delta ecosystem and undermines years of collaboration and goodwill developed by a broad coalition of actors and experts. In addition, H.R. 1837 would exacerbate current unsustainable conditions in the Delta by decreasing protection of endangered fish species and jeopardizing future ecosystem restoration efforts. Finally, we believe the bill would face a number of legal hurdles and would languish indefinitely in the courts because of concerns about federal preemption of state authority and rights, its effect on decades of established water rights law and its impact to threatened and endangered species.

The Silicon Valley Leadership Group, founded in 1978 by David Packard of Hewlett-Packard, represents more than 345 of Silicon Valley's most respected employers on issues, programs and campaigns that affect the economic health and quality of life in Silicon Valley. Leadership Group members collectively provide nearly one of every three private sector jobs in Silicon Valley.

If you or your staff has any questions or concerns relative to our opposition to H.R. 1837, please feel free to contact Mike Mielke, Senior Director of Environmental Programs & Policy at 408-501-7864, or mmielke@svlg.org.

Sincerely,

Carl Guardino
President & CEO
Silicon Valley Leadership Group

CC:

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|----------------------------|-------------------------|
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| Honorable Nancy Pelosi | Honorable Anna Eshoo |
| Honorable Sam Farr | Honorable Mike Honda |
| Honorable Barbara Lee | Honorable Zoe Lofgren |
| Honorable Jerry McNerney | Honorable George Miller |
| Honorable Jackie Speier | Honorable Pete Stark |
| Honorable Ellen Tauscher | Honorable Lynn Woolsey |