

The Honorable Doc Hastings, Chair
Natural Resources Committee
1324 Longworth House Office Bldg.
Washington, D.C. 20515

Subject: Oppose H.R. 1837 - Repeal of the San Joaquin River Settlement Act

Dear Chairman Hastings and Members:

On behalf of the San Joaquin River Parkway and Conservation Trust, I write in opposition to H.R. 1837, specifically Title II of the Bill, which is the repeal of the San Joaquin River Restoration Settlement Act. Repeal of the San Joaquin River Settlement will undercut years of cooperative planning and problem solving that California Central Valley agricultural and environmental interests have achieved.

Funding and implementing the San Joaquin River Settlement Act is essential to enhance the River's ecological functions as well as implement projects which will provide for downstream recapture of water flows for agricultural reuse. The San Joaquin River Settlement Act is a comprehensive long-term effort to restore flows to dry sections of the River, bringing the River back to life, while reducing or avoiding adverse water supply impacts from flow releases. Since 2006, State and Federal Agencies, landowners, and numerous non-profit organizations such as ours, have been making good progress on the Settlement Act's implementation.

Restoration of the San Joaquin River will bring economic and quality of life benefits to our community. Creating jobs, providing additional flood protection, and creating outdoor recreation opportunities for Valley towns are a few of the key benefits that river restoration brings to our Region. Repealing the Settlement Act will serve only to re-ignite costly and prolonged legal battles.

For these reasons, we urge you to oppose H.R. 1837 and the repeal of the San Joaquin River Settlement Act. A comprehensive plan with a balanced approach to restoring the river is in place. Funding and implementation of the Settlement Act is the best solution to maximize the environmental, social, and economic benefits the San Joaquin River brings to California's Central Valley.

Sincerely,



Dave Koehler
Executive Director