Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE
Sacramento, CA 95814

President Barack Obama
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500

Governor Jerry Brown
The State Capitol
Suite 1173
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear President Obama and Governor Brown:

It is absolutely critical we take this opportunity to express our concern about next year's projected water supplies for the State of California. We urge you to use your executive authority and take immediate action to mitigate the catastrophic effects of another natural drought exacerbated by environmental regulations.

In recent years, dry conditions in the State of California have been exacerbated by environmental restrictions placed on water supplies in the Delta, leaving California reservoirs in terrible shape for 2014. Although cities and farmers in California continue to implement cutting edge water conservation practices, burdensome restrictions in the Delta exercised without recognition of the severe economic consequences they cause will be disastrous.

The California Department of Water Resources announced an initial 5% water allocation for California State Water Project contractors for the 2014 water year. We anticipate a similar, if not worse, initial allocation for Central Valley Project contractors when the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation makes its announcement. Such an allocation will result in the continued depletion of local groundwater resources, fallowing of thousands of acres of productive farmland, rising food costs, skyrocketing agriculture and urban water rates, and the elimination of countless jobs in our state.

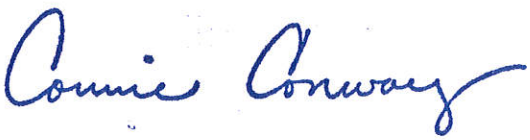
We urge your administrations to immediately take action to improve California's water supplies in 2014, while also respecting California's long-standing principles of water right priorities and area of origin protections. We also call on your administrations to work with their respective legislative bodies to develop and implement comprehensive plans to address water supply, reliability, and affordability for 2014 and into the future. A successful water plan must include additional storage and assured protection of water right priorities and area of origin protections. Finally, you must ensure that any unanticipated water supplies be put to productive use for California's families and farms, not lost to the Pacific Ocean due to environmental regulations. Failure to increase water supplies in California will jeopardize America's breadbasket and our state's trillion-dollar economy.

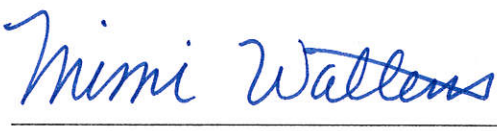
Your timely responses are critical to avoiding an economic disaster.

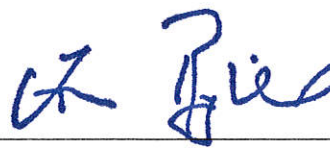
Sincerely,

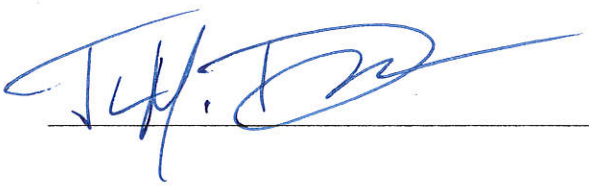
David G. Valadao
Member of Congress

Sen. Jean Fuller
California State Senate









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