

California Legislature

December 8, 2016

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

RE: San Joaquin Valley Caucus Strongly Supports WIIN Act

Dear Mr. President,

We write to express our strong support for the drought language included in the Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation Act (WIIN). As a caucus representing both Democrats and Republicans elected to the State Legislature from California's San Joaquin Valley, we are united behind this critical legislation.

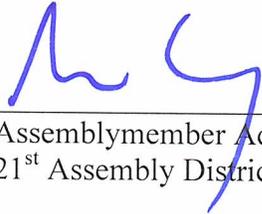
California's water infrastructure is in need of serious investment. The state's drinking water, irrigation, and environmental water deliveries are all mutually dependent upon a manmade network of storage, recharge, conveyance, and treatment facilities. This prolonged drought and the resulting adverse economic and social impacts are just the latest reminders of the inadequacy of this aging network.

California has endured decades of population growth with few meaningful improvements to our water infrastructure. Inaction has necessitated tough choices, sacrificing some water users at the expense of others. Many of these decisions could have been avoided altogether if our water system had kept pace with our population and modern science, but without change we appear doomed to continue down this road.

Californians made water infrastructure a priority by voting to invest more than \$7.5 billion in water improvements when they passed Proposition 1 in 2014, but many of those improvements are dependent upon federal grants, loans, and policy changes included in the legislation before you. The drought language honors the will of California voters by allocating \$558 million for storage, desalination, recycling, and wildlife protection programs. It strikes a careful balance, allowing our state to move forward on long identified improvements to water infrastructure, while at the same time investing in environmental improvements and explicitly prohibiting violation of the Endangered Species Act. It also proposes both short and long-term solutions, providing operational flexibility now while funding enduring water supply improvement projects for the future.

As state representatives from the region of California which has the most to lose and gain from this water debate, we join together to urge your support for this legislation. This is the best opportunity we have to make a real difference for the people of California who live in what the Congressional Research Service calls the Appalachia of the West.

Sincerely,



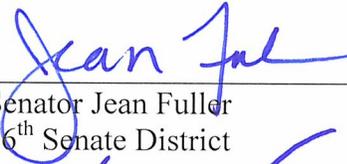
Assemblymember Adam C. Gray
21st Assembly District



Senator Anthony Cannella
12th Senate District



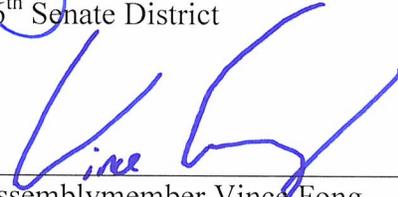
Senator Tom Berryhill
8th Senate District



Senator Jean Fuller
16th Senate District



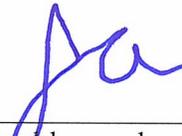
Assemblymember Devon Mathis
26th Assembly District



Assemblymember Vince Fong
34th Assembly District



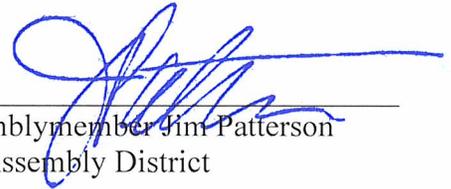
Assemblymember Heath Flora
12th Assembly District



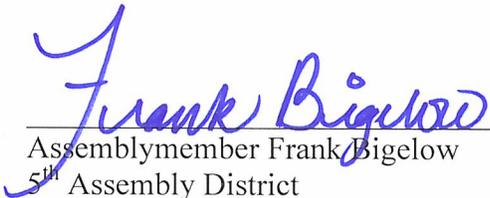
Assemblymember Joaquin Arambula
31st Assembly District



Assemblymember Rudy Salas
32nd Assembly District



Assemblymember Jim Patterson
23rd Assembly District



Assemblymember Frank Bigelow
5th Assembly District



Senator Andy Vidak
14th Senate District

Cathleen Galgiani

Senator Cathleen Galgiani
5th Senate District

cc: California Congressional Delegation