

# Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20510

October 15, 2009

The Honorable Ken Salazar  
Secretary of the Interior  
1849 C Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Secretary Salazar:

We write to urge the Department of the Interior to immediately begin moving forward to address these issues so that water transfers can be approved and completed expeditiously in preparation for the coming water year. As you may know, we introduced legislation last week to facilitate water transfers throughout the Central Valley.

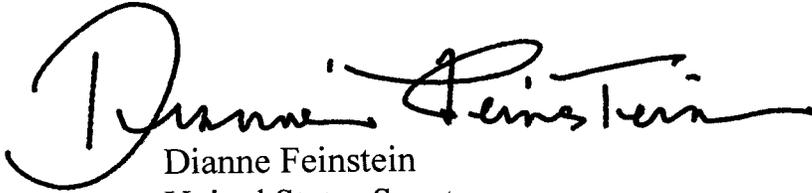
Among other things, the bill directs the Department of the Interior to:

- (1) undertake a programmatic approach to North-South transfers and expedite the environmental review associated with species like the Giant Garter Snake;
- (2) describe the status of efforts to help facilitate the water transfers under this Act, including water transfers originating from the Sacramento Valley; and
- (3) provide recommendations on ways to facilitate, and improve the process for water transfers both within the Central Valley Project and between the Central Valley Project and State water projects.

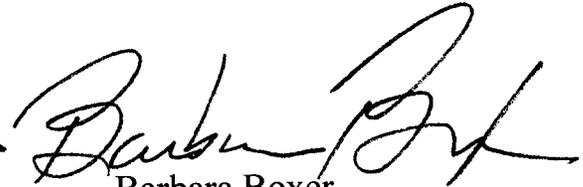
We hope to pass this legislation as quickly as possible, and Senator Bingaman has agreed to hold a hearing before Thanksgiving. Water transfers are not a comprehensive solution for addressing California's water supply issues, but they are an important tool that provides flexibility to deliver water to those communities that need it most. It is essential that we maximize the potential of the transfer program during the next few years while new infrastructure is being developed. We look forward to working

with you to improve the transfer program and take maximum advantage of its potential.

Sincerely yours,



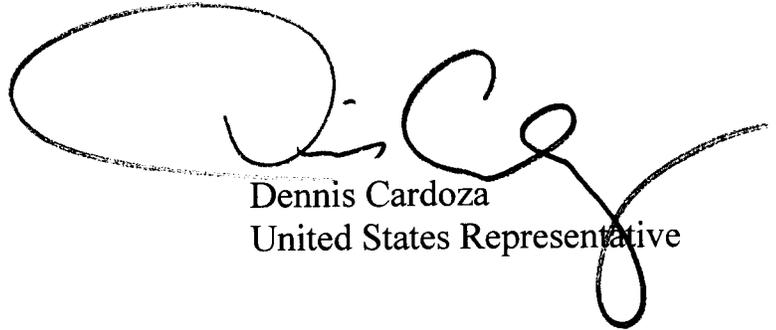
Dianne Feinstein  
United States Senator



Barbara Boxer  
United States Senator



Jim Costa  
United States Representative



Dennis Cardoza  
United States Representative