

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

June 14, 2019

The Hon. Gavin Newsom  
Governor  
State of California  
State Capitol  
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Hon. Toni Atkins  
President pro Tempore  
California Senate  
State Capitol, Room 205  
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Hon. Anthony Rendon  
Speaker  
California Assembly  
State Capitol, Room 219  
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Hon. Eduardo Garcia  
Chairman  
Assembly Committee on Water, Parks, and Wildlife  
State Capitol, Room 4140  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Governor Newsom, Senator Atkins, Speaker Rendon, and Chairman Garcia:

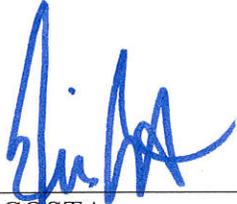
This letter serves to express our strong support for Senate Bill (SB) 559, a bill to correct the subsidence-related capacity reductions on the Friant-Kern Canal. SB 559, introduced by State Senator Melissa Hurtado, would provide \$400,000,000 toward our collective effort to restore a vital piece of water infrastructure in the San Joaquin Valley. We also support the funding request for the project in the Fiscal Year 2019-2020 California Budget.

For seventy years, the locally funded and managed Friant-Kern Canal has served as the foundation for regional water delivery and groundwater sustainability in the Valley. However, the capacity of the canal to deliver water has been reduced by as much as sixty percent. This reduction in capacity prevents much needed water from flowing to regions with some of the most over-drafted aquifers in the state. The inability to deliver this water and recharge Valley aquifers not only imperils our food supply but it harms the cities, and rural and disadvantaged communities that depend on these aquifers for their drinking water.

The State of California has an important role to play in helping secure the funding for this critical project. We will work across the aisle in both the U.S. House and U.S. Senate to ensure the Federal government fulfills its duty as a partner with state and local agencies. We believe a partnership between the Federal government, State government, and local water users is crucial for the success of this project.

Because this goal is so important to the health and wellbeing of our Valley communities, collaboration is essential. Thank you for your leadership this year on critical issues for rural communities in the Valley and beyond. We look forward to working with you and other legislators to make access to safe, reliable water a reality for our region.

Sincerely,



JIM COSTA  
Member of Congress



TJ COX  
Member of Congress



JOSH HARDER  
Member of Congress

cc: The Honorable Melissa Hurtado  
Members of the Assembly Committee on Water, Parks, and Wildlife