

Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives  
Washington, DC

HOUSE AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE  
HOUSE NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE  
HOUSE TRANSPORTATION AND  
INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE  
CHAIRMAN, SUBCOMMITTEE ON RAILROADS,  
PIPELINES AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

September 7, 2018

The Honorable Paul D. Ryan  
Speaker of the House of Representatives  
H-232, United States Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Speaker Ryan,

We write in strong support of including the House-passed provision to prohibit the Department of Interior from implementing the State of California's *Bay-Delta Water Quality Control Plan* in the next appropriations legislation that is provided to the President for signature.

The California State Water Resources Control Board recently proposed its *Bay-Delta Water Quality Control Plan* – a drastic action that intends to flush significant amounts of fresh water from Central Valley rivers directly into the ocean. This plan will devastate Central Valley residents, communities, and farmers.

Since the state's plan greatly affects operations at the United States Bureau of Reclamation owned New Melones Reservoir and the federally authorized Central Valley Project, it should not move forward without federal approval. The United States House of Representatives soundly rejected this plan through the recent passage of Denham Amendment number 65 to HR 6147, the Department of Interior Appropriations Act of 2019. Specifically, this amendment prohibits federal agencies from participating in the state's plan to deplete the New Melones Reservoir, which was authorized by Congress to generate hydropower and provide water for the Central Valley Project.

In a July 2018 letter, the United States Department of the Interior states that this plan "directly interfere[s] with the New Melones Project's ability to store water" and "elevate[s] the Project's fish and wildlife purposes over the Project's irrigation and domestic purposes contrary to the prioritization scheme carefully established by Congress."<sup>i</sup> Furthermore, a subsequent memo from the Secretary of the Interior notes that "The State of California is now proposing additional unacceptable restrictions that further reduce the Department's ability to deliver water to Federal contractors."<sup>ii</sup> The memo recognizes the Central Valley project is "a major water resource for farms, families, industry, and fish and wildlife in California. It is a significant contributor in facilitating California's ability to produce more than a third of our Nation's vegetables and two-thirds of our fruits and nuts." The Department rightfully understands this water grab from New Melones and the Central Valley Project is unacceptable.

Allowing this radical state proposal to move forward will undermine federal water authority, subvert the will of Congress, do irreparable damage to Central Valley communities and jeopardize a significant portion of our nation's agricultural productivity. Therefore, we strongly urge this provision be prioritized for inclusion in the next appropriations bill that comes before the House of Representatives and is provided to the President for signature.

Sincerely,

  
Jeff Denham  
Member of Congress

  
David G. Valadao  
Member of Congress



Doug LaMalfa  
Member of Congress



Devin Nunes  
Member of Congress



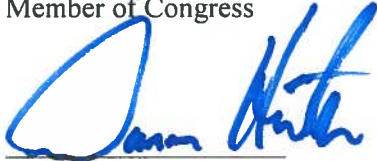
Tom McClintock  
Member of Congress



Ed Royce  
Member of Congress



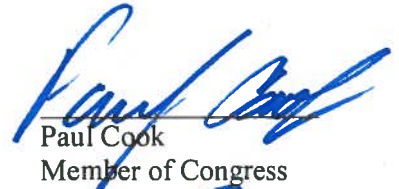
Mimi Walters  
Member of Congress



Duncan Hunter  
Member of Congress



Jim Costa  
Member of Congress



Paul Cook  
Member of Congress



Steve Knight  
Member of Congress



Ken Calvert  
Member of Congress



Dana Rohrabacher  
Member of Congress



Darrell Issa  
Member of Congress

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<sup>i</sup> USDOI letter to Ms. Felicia Marcus, Chair of State Water Resources Control Board. July 27, 2018.  
[https://denham.house.gov/uploadedfiles/doi\\_water\\_grab\\_comment.pdf](https://denham.house.gov/uploadedfiles/doi_water_grab_comment.pdf)

<sup>ii</sup> USDOI Memorandum, August 17, 2018.  
[https://denham.house.gov/uploadedfiles/8.17.18\\_doi\\_memo\\_on\\_california\\_water\\_infrastructure.pdf](https://denham.house.gov/uploadedfiles/8.17.18_doi_memo_on_california_water_infrastructure.pdf)