

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**

Washington, DC

September 28, 2018

President Donald J Trump  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Ave NW  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Trump,

Sacramento bureaucrats are attacking Central Valley residents through both state and federal agencies. They want to drain our reservoirs, stop hydropower generation, and flush all our fresh water out to the ocean. This is an unprecedented assault on our water, our economy, and our livelihood. The House passed language I wrote to stop Sacramento's water grab, but the Senate has failed to act. The future of the Valley is at stake, and I am asking your Administration to intervene and stop these attacks.

The state of California does not have the authority to steal our water from federal reservoirs. Yet this is exactly what they are trying to do. The New Melones Reservoir was authorized by Congress to generate hydropower and infuse the Central Valley Project with water to irrigate the Valley. By stealing water from this reservoir, the California Water Resources Control Board is both undermining federal water authority and subverting the will of Congress. I authored language to stop this radical plan in its tracks. It passed the House of Representatives with strong support in July 2018, shortly after the state's plan was released. However, Senate inaction is putting my constituents and your Administration at risk of getting undermined by this disastrous plan. This would set a historically dangerous precedent, and many of your Secretaries have rightfully identified its devastating effects. It is imperative we continue working together to stop Sacramento's reckless water grab.

Likewise, the future of our water in the Don Pedro Reservoir is in jeopardy. Don Pedro is the sixth largest reservoir in California and provides water to Valley families, cities, businesses, and farmers while generating hydropower for hundreds of thousands of residents. Even though the reservoir is more than 150 river miles inland, bureaucrats in Sacramento are using the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) to shut down hydropower generation and drastically increase flows on the Tuolumne River. NMFS Sacramento office is holding the Department of Energy, the Department of Interior, Department of Agriculture, and Department of Commerce hostage through the hydropower relicensing process. They again want to flush an insane amount of our usable water into the ocean, while charging my constituents hundreds of millions of dollars to put experimental fish passage at Don Pedro – which literally involves trucking fish up and down the reservoir. No available science supports this idea. If Sacramento's plan proceeds, this will be the most expensive and devastating hydropower relicensing in history.

Secretary Ryan Zinke and the Department of the Interior staff have been active and engaged on these matters with my local Irrigation Districts, and extremely generous in their time and attention to our issues. We have made significant and beneficial progress, and I look forward to continuing to work with your Administration to find a practical solution that benefits and empowers the Valley. Thank you for your attention and I look forward to action on these critical issues.

Sincerely,

JEFF DENHAM

United States Representative