

### **Delta Counties Coalition**

Contra Costa County · Sacramento County · San Joaquin County · Solano County · Yolo County

*"Working together on water and Delta issues"*

July 6, 2017

The Honorable David Valadao  
United States House of Representatives  
1728 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Valadao:

The Delta Counties Coalition (DCC) appreciates your efforts to develop federal policies that will help grow the State's water supply and provide water security for our communities. Upon review of your H.R. 23, "Gaining Responsibility on Water Act," we have serious reservations as the bill would undermine existing protections of the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta (Delta). As currently constructed, the DCC opposes H.R. 23 unless amended.

The DCC strongly opposes Section 108, which mandates the operation of the Central Valley Project and the State Water Project to the water quality and operational constraints of the 1994 Bay-Delta Accord, regardless of the requirements of the Endangered Species Act (ESA) or any other law. Waiving the ESA, the Clean Water Act, or any other law to benefit one group of water users at the expense of the Delta and other water users is unacceptable.

California's drastic volatility in precipitation, which includes historic flooding and multi-year drought, demonstrates the urgent need to develop a shared solution to the problems of an inadequate State water supply, poor Delta water quality, and a threatened Delta ecosystem. We support efforts to develop and implement a comprehensive water-management plan that produces performance based, multiple-benefit projects that will benefit the State as a whole, including projects to expand water supplies, improve the management of existing water resources, protect the Delta levees, restore environmental habitat in the Delta as well as upstream and downstream of the Delta, and help meet the State's clean water goals in both the near- and long-term.

Given our understanding of the Delta region and the water challenges in the State, we are confident that the DCC can help forge statewide solutions for a more drought resilient water supply. The DCC supports Federal legislation that fully and fairly reflects the Delta's role in meeting legitimate needs around the State and that seeks to protect and improve the Delta

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July 6, 2017

-2-

consistent with the coequal goals in the State's Delta Reform Act of 2009. Only then can the Delta's vital resources, important to both the Delta region's residents and the entire State, be assured.

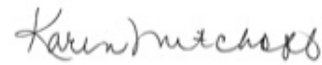
Sincerely,



Don Nottoli  
Supervisor, Sacramento County



Skip Thomson  
Supervisor, Solano County



Karen Mitchoff  
Supervisor, Contra Costa County



Jim Provenza  
Supervisor, Yolo County



Chuck Winn  
Supervisor, San Joaquin County

cc: DCC Federal Delegation