

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

June 5, 2008

The Honorable Arnold Schwarzenegger
Governor
State of California
State Capitol Building
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Governor Schwarzenegger:

We are writing to commend your decision to proclaim a statewide drought in California and request that you take further action to declare a State of Emergency for the San Joaquin Valley. As you know, the \$20 billion San Joaquin Valley agriculture industry, the backbone of the California's economy, is facing a crisis of epic proportions. Available supplies of water for irrigated agriculture are substantially diminished and reservoirs are falling to dangerously low levels. The U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (Bureau) and the California Department of Water Resources have imposed sizeable cuts in water deliveries to south of the Delta water users. We urge you and state agencies to move quickly in advance of this crisis to expedite strategies which will provide California's farmers relief options and the support they will so desperately need in the coming days and weeks.

Your office is fully aware of the hydrologic season California has recently experienced. With the driest March, April and May on record, the snow packs which once held promise for the 2008 irrigation season have literally evaporated. The Bureau estimates that adequate run-off supplies no longer exist to meet project needs. The new Bureau reductions come on the heels of previously anticipated shortages and already low allocations resulting from the combination of the 2007 dry year and court ordered reductions in the pumping from the Delta to protect endangered and threatened fish. The projected shortfalls in supply will translate into severe crop losses and economic ruin in the San Joaquin Valley.

California agriculture has already fallowed significant acreage because of the continuous erosion of water supplies. Growers throughout the state plant crops based on water delivery forecasts and promised allocations which now will not be deliverable. Though not yet estimated, significant losses are expected to accrue. On top of rapidly escalating input costs such as fertilizers and fuel, these additional drought measures have unleashed a wave of anxiety throughout the

agriculture industry. Growers find themselves without enough water to finish the growing season. Many are now faced with the immediate prospect of choosing what crops to save and which to abandon, annuals versus permanent crops. Hard working farmers and farm workers stand to suffer significant economic hardship. Many growers face the prospect of losing their entire operations.

The ripple effect on communities dependent on agriculture will be devastating. Lost crops equal lost jobs and thereby lost revenue to already struggling communities. Workers dependent on wages from agriculture are especially hard hit. The San Joaquin Valley agriculture production and processing industries account for 37.8% of the regional employment. These individuals and their families already endure a disproportionate burden of the steadily rising costs of living, such necessities as gasoline and food are becoming unattainable. Approximately 17.3% of the San Joaquin Valley residents already live in poverty and the Valley consistently ranks as the top region in the nation in foreclosures. With every \$1 produced on the farm generating over \$3.50 in the local and regional economies, the removal of these dollars from circulation will devastate communities. When agriculture struggles, rural populations struggle. In the final analysis, the state's economy will weaken significantly at the worst possible time.

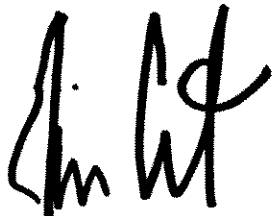
In an effort to mitigate these imminent losses, we request that you direct state agencies to stand ready to take immediate action to blunt the impact of this crisis. We encourage your Administration to work with federal agencies to employ measures to lessen the impact, including maximizing Delta pumping, approval of water transfers, flexibility in implementation of water quality standards, and seeking temporary supplemental sources of water.

Just as important is the need to take immediate action on long term solutions to address California's water crisis and to plan for our state's future. The state has not built a new reservoir in over 40 years, despite the fact that our state has more than doubled in population over this same time period. In 2006, over 2.6 million acre feet of water was released from Shasta Dam to make room for flood considerations. Without adequate storage and conveyance, opportunities to capture flood water releases are lost to the San Francisco Bay. It is essential that the state improve conveyance systems and build new storage facilities in order to increase our water supplies and to enable better management of our water system for improved water quality, flood control and environmental enhancement.

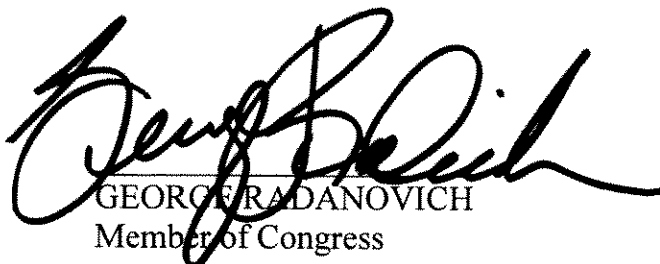
As you have stated recently, "The strength of California is tied to the economic success of the San Joaquin Valley." The San Joaquin Valley is in jeopardy. We ask that you continue your commitment to the Valley and support our request for your Administration to take immediate action, including issuing a State of

Emergency declaration for the San Joaquin Valley, and that you take renewed action to address California's long term water infrastructure needs.

Sincerely,



JIM COSTA
Member of Congress



GEORGE RADANOVICH
Member of Congress



DENNIS CARDOZA
Member of Congress



KEVIN MCCARTHY
Member of Congress

CC: Secretary Linda Adams, California Environmental Protection Agency
Secretary Mike Chrisman, California Resources Agency
Secretary A.G. Kawamura, California Department of Food and Agriculture
Susan Kennedy, Chief of Staff, Office of Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger
Lester Snow, Director, California Department of Water Resources
Tam Dudoc, Board Chair, California State Water Resource Control Board
Pamela Creedon, Executive Officer, Central California Regional Water Quality Control Board
Arthur Baggett, Board Member, State Water Control Board