

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

June 24, 2009

The President
The White House
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

We urge you to issue an executive order focusing federal agency efforts on economic development in California's San Joaquin Valley. As you may know, in 2000 President Clinton signed an Executive Order (#13173) to provide a more rapid and integrated Federal response to the economic development challenges of the San Joaquin Valley. Further, in 2004 President Bush issued a similar Executive Order extending this designation in light of continued economic need. We trust that your administration will find it prudent to do so as well.

The San Joaquin Valley extends over a wide area of inland California, where agriculture dominates the landscape and is the primary economic engine of the region. The longstanding economic challenges here have recently been exacerbated by three years of regulatory drought conditions, which have caused hundreds of thousands of acres of productive farmland to be fallowed. Additionally, a precipitous drop in dairy prices along with the nationwide economic downturn, have created a "perfect storm" of economic catastrophes in the Valley. To further compound the problem, our region has seen some of the highest rates of foreclosure and unemployment in the nation. These factors warrant a renewal of the Interagency Task Force on the Economic Development of the Central San Joaquin Valley. Without rapid decisive intervention this dire situation will not improve.

With your assistance, and some common-sense approaches, this situation can be improved. All five members of the San Joaquin Valley congressional delegation work in concert with one another, and are committed to improving the lives of our constituents. It is our hope that your Executive Order can help in these collaborative efforts.

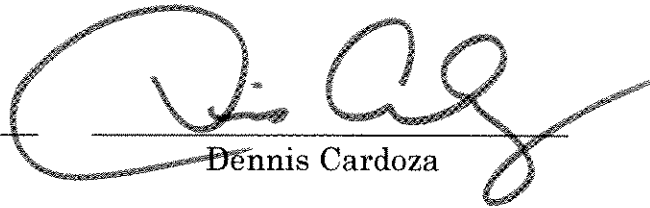
The President
June 24, 2009
Page 2

Mr. President, we urge you to visit the San Joaquin Valley and swiftly issue this Executive Order to enable innovative solutions for this area in great need. Please find the attached previous Executive Orders from Presidents George W. Bush and William Jefferson Clinton. Thank you for your time and we look forward to your reply.

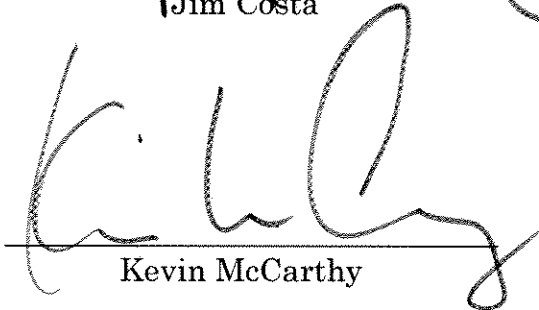
Sincerely,



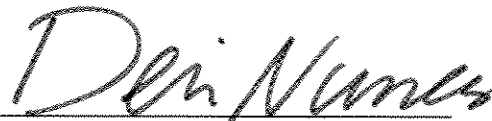
Jim Costa



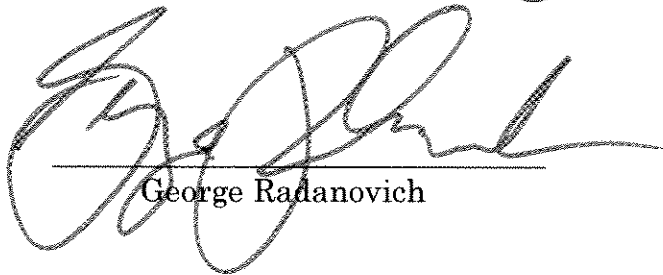
Dennis Cardoza



Kevin McCarthy



Devin Nunes



George Radanovich