

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

June 4, 2009

Rowan Gould, Acting Director
Correspondence Control Unit
ATTN: Information Quality Correction Request Processing
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
1849 C Street, NW Mailstop 3238-MIB
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Mr. Gould:

We are gravely disappointed to learn of the Fish and Wildlife Service's (FWS) unresponsive and dismissive reply to the Family Farm Alliance's Information Quality Act (IQA) request, and we write in support of their April 1, 2009 appeal. As you recall, the Alliance's IQA request raised numerous concerns regarding the Biological Opinion on the Continued Long-Term Operations of the Central Valley Project and State Water Project.

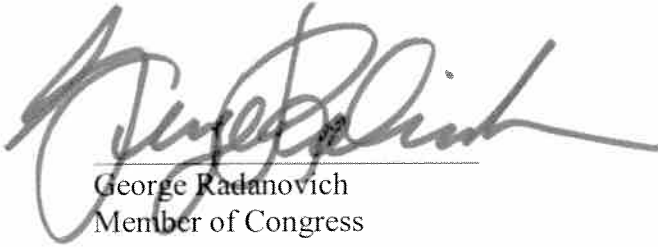
The FWS states that it did not respond to the Alliance's concerns in the Biological Opinion because, "Any allegations of violation of the Endangered Species Act cannot be addressed via the IQA mechanism." We strongly disagree. The IQA is a congressionally enacted law created to ensure the "quality, objectivity, utility and integrity of information disseminated by federal agencies" such as the FWS. It also ensures that administrative processes are established to allow impacted entities to seek a correction to information distributed by the federal agency, as the Alliance has done in this instance. The General Accounting Office reports that IQA guidelines are in place within the Department of the Interior, which means that the FWS is certainly not absolved of its requirements. To reject the Alliance's IQA request is to fail to abide by its provisions, and we urge you to correct this infraction.

This is no frivolous request, and we ask you to consider it seriously and thoroughly. The Biological Opinion demands significant reductions to Central Valley water users to protect the delta smelt and leads to the continued unraveling of agriculture on the West side of the Valley. If the 2008 Biological Opinion is not corrected, the ramifications reach far beyond diminished water supplies and more fallowed land, which are devastating enough. We will see increased job losses, in addition to the 37,000 people already out of work, more families going hungry and indirect industries permanently impaired or put out of business.

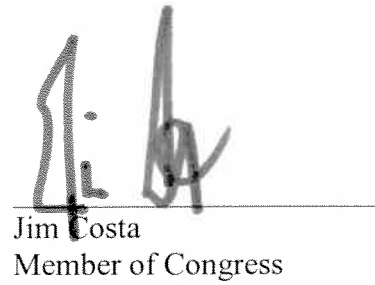
For these reasons, we support the Alliance's appeal and ask you to sincerely review the legitimate concerns raised by the Alliance and respond to the request as required by the

law. To disregard the valid issues in the request is an affront to the hard-working citizens we represent and ignores the law enacted by Congress.

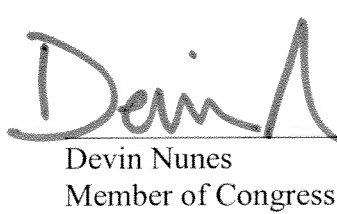
Sincerely,



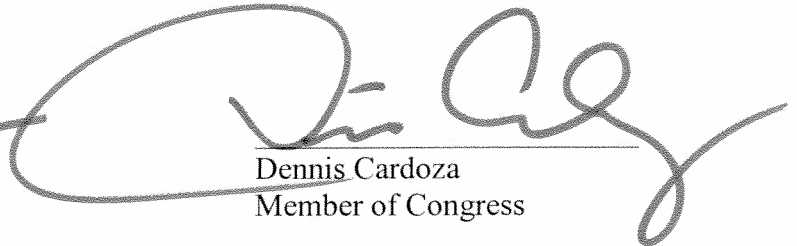
George Radanovich
Member of Congress



Jim Costa
Member of Congress



Devin Nunes
Member of Congress



Dennis Cardoza
Member of Congress