June 21, 2007

Dear Friend,

Like you, I understand that water is the lifeblood of our valley. Our region's rich agricultural heritage can only be preserved if we take seriously the water supply challenges that lie ahead. That is why I have long advocated investments in new water storage and infrastructure throughout our state and why my first act in Congress was to introduce and secure passage of legislation that authorized the Temperance Flat reservoir feasibility study.

I write today to share with you a letter I recently sent to the Friant Water Users Authority Board, relating to the San Joaquin River Settlement. I transmitted this letter following the admission by the Friant Board that the recirculation plan outlined in the Settlement is not feasible. This raises new questions about how and if water will be recovered under the Settlement. If water is not recovered, the question becomes how many acres would need to be retired and whose land it will be.

If you have any questions about this issue, or any other issue before Congress, please feel free to call or write. I also encourage you to visit me online at www.nunes.house.gov.

Sincerely,

Member of Congress

This mailing was prepared, published and mailed at taxpayer expense.

DEVIN NUNES
21ST DISTRICT, CALIFORNIA

1013 LONGWORTH HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
(202) 225-2523

113 NORTH CHURCH STREET
SUITE 208
VISALIA, CA 93291
(559) 733-3861

264 CLOVIS AVENUE
SUITE 206
CLOVIS, CA 93612
(559) 323-5235

WWW.NUNES.HOUSE.GOV

ASSISTANT MINORITY WHIP
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COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS
SUBCOMMITTEES:
OVERSIGHT
HUMAN RESOURCES

UNITED STATES
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

June 11, 2007

Friant Water Users Authority Board
C/O Ron Jacobsma, General Manager
854 N. Harvard Ave.
Lindsay, CA 93247

Dear Friant Board Members:

I am writing to inquire about recent information that has come to my attention related to the San Joaquin River Settlement. Knowing that Friant negotiated in good faith, this information raises new questions about the challenges in implementing this agreement.

I have been made aware that the board has been informed that the recirculation of water outlined in the Settlement is not feasible. Furthermore, I recently learned that the Bureau of Reclamation takes the position that it has no authority under the Settlement or its implementing legislation to undertake projects that would be needed to recirculate the water without further action from Congress. Obviously, this is of great concern to me and should be of great concern to you.

In light of this new information, we must return to the facts of the 2005 expert report of Dr. Robert McKusick. The report said the releases proposed in the Settlement *"combined with increased pumping costs, cause acreage declines in all crop types totaling 51,300 acres (80 square miles)."*

With this in mind, I would appreciate answers to the following questions as soon as possible.

1. What means, other than recirculation, are realistically available to Friant to recover water dedicated to settlement flows? How much of the water released for in-stream flows can realistically be replaced in the immediate future?
2. How many acres within Friant do you expect will have to be retired since recirculation is apparently not feasible?
3. Have you identified what lands will be retired? If so, can you provide me with that plan?
4. Will there be a balanced water reduction across the board for all water users in the Friant service area? Or will non-long-term water contractors lose water first, then Class 2 contract holders, and then Class 1 contract holders?

Again, due to the pace of the Settlement legislation, I would appreciate answers to these questions in a timely manner.

Best regards,

Devin Nunes
Member of Congress

CC: The Honorable Dianne Feinstein, United States Senator; The Honorable Nick Rahall, Chairman, Natural Resources Committee; The Honorable Don Young, Ranking Member, Natural Resources Committee; The Honorable George Radanovich; The Honorable Dennis Cardoza; The Honorable Jim Costa; The Honorable Kevin McCarthy