

Anahuak Youth Sports – Butte Environmental Council
Calaveras Public Utility District
California Indian Heritage Council
California Sportfishing Protection Alliance
Central Delta Water Agency
Citrus Heights Water District - City of Folsom – City of Roseville
Clean Water Action – East Bay Municipal Utility District
El Dorado Irrigation District
Environmental Justice Coalition for Water
Food and Water Watch – Foothill Conservancy
Friends of the Los Angeles River
Friends of the River – Glenn-Colusa Irrigation District
Heal the Bay – Jackson Valley Irrigation District
Mono Lake Committee – Northern California Water Association
Orange Vale Water Company – Organic Sacramento
Pacific Coast Federation of Fishermen's Associations
Planning and Conservation League
Restore the Delta – Sacramento Suburban Water District
San Diego Coastkeeper
San Francisco Public Utilities Commission
San Joaquin County – San Juan Water District
Sierra Club California – Sierra Nevada Alliance
South Delta Water Agency
Southern California Watershed Alliance
Stockton East Water District – The River Project
Tuolumne Utilities District – Urban Semillas
Winnemem Wintu Tribe

September 2, 2009

Honorable Darrell Steinberg
Honorable Dean Florez
Honorable Alex Padilla
Honorable Fran Pavley
Honorable Dave Cogdill
Honorable Sam Aanestad
Honorable Bob Huff

Honorable Karen Bass
Honorable Anna Caballero
Honorable Jean Fuller
Honorable Jared Huffman
Honorable Kevin Jeffries
Honorable Jim Nielsen
Honorable Jose Solorio

Dear Water Conference Committee Members:

We the undersigned are pleased to see the Legislature committing its time and staff to addressing the declining situation in California statewide water management. As the hub of California's engineered water system, the Delta is a critical resource to everyone in the state. As the largest estuary on the west coast of the Americas, the Delta is also one of the most endangered ecosystems in the United States. We stand committed to working with the Legislature and its appointed conference committee through the remainder of this legislative session and beyond to arrive at a solution that improves the health of the Delta.

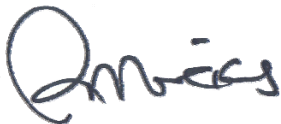
The few days left in this session are simply insufficient to ensure that passage of the package of bills will not result in unintended consequences that could prove even more harmful than the current situation presents. These Delta bills have not yet been amended with only nine days left.

Please do not mistake our views as being opposed to change. We understand that systemic changes will be needed to fix the Delta. However, we feel that in order to move past the stalemate surrounding the Delta, the Legislature and conference committee must find solutions to the most controversial issues. Unless those are discussed and resolved, the legislation will result in an ineffective package that will result only in a lifetime of litigation and no new water, jobs or protections for the environment.

The Delta package of bills that is now being considered proposes fundamental changes in California water policy that will require careful and broad consultation to ensure undisrupted implementation. More importantly, to be successful, the policy will require confidence and buy-in from a broad constituency. Rushing this process risks producing unintended consequences that will not benefit California in the long term.

At this juncture, water is one of the highest priority policy issues for California. It is important that any deal for the Delta promotes real and reliable improvements in the health of the Delta itself and promotes responsible statewide management of our water resources.

Sincerely,



Raul Macias, Executive Director
Anahuak Youth Sports Association



Lynn Barris
Butte Environmental Council



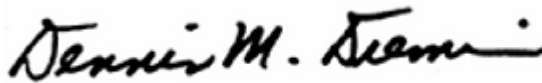
John Ornellas, District Manager
Calaveras Public Utility District



Jennifer Clary, Water Policy Analyst
Clean Water Action



Evon Chambers signing on behalf of:
Randy Yonemura, Project Director
California Indian Heritage Council



Dennis M. Diemer, General Manager
East Bay Municipal Utility District



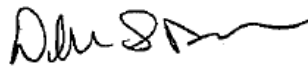
Bill Jennings, Executive Director
California Sportfishing Protection Alliance



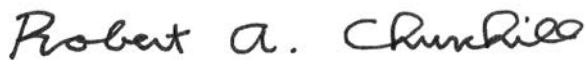
Thomas D. Cumpston, Acting General
Manager
El Dorado Irrigation District



Dante Nomellini, Manager and Counsel
Central Delta Water Agency



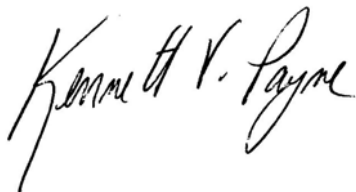
Debbie Davis, Legislative Analyst
Environmental Justice Coalition for Water



Robert Churchill, General Manager
Citrus Heights Water District



Mark Schlosberg, California Director
Food and Water Watch



Kenneth Payne, Utilities Director
City of Folsom



Chris Wright, Executive Director
Foothill Conservancy



Derrick Whitehead, Utilities Director
City of Roseville



Shelly Backlar, Executive Director
Friends of the Los Angeles River



Steve Evans, Conservation Director
Friends of the River

Organic Sacramento

Thaddeus Bettner, Glenn-Colusa Irrigation
District
Glenn-Colusa Irrigation District

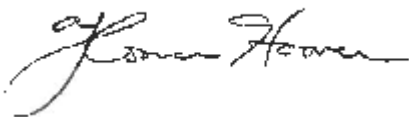
Zeke Grader, Executive Director
Pacific Coast Federation of Fishermen's
Associations



Mark Gold, Executive Director
Heal the Bay



Charlotte Hodde, Water Program Manager
Planning and Conservation League



Thomas Hoover, General Manager
Jackson Valley Irrigation District

Restore the Delta



Jonas Minton signing on behalf of:
Geoff McQuilken, Executive Director
Mono Lake Committee



Robert Roscoe, General Manager
Sacramento Suburban Water District



Donn Zea, President & CEO
Northern California Water Association



Ms. Gabriel Solmer, Legal Director
San Diego Coastkeeper



Sharon Wilcox, General Manager
Orange Vale Water Company



Michael Carlin, Deputy General Manager
San Francisco Public Utilities Commission



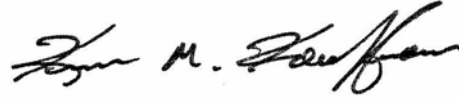
Ken Vogel, Supervisor
San Joaquin County



Conner Everts, Executive Director
Southern California Watershed Alliance



Shauna Lorance, General Manager
San Juan Water District



Kevin M. Kauffman, General Manager
Stockton East Water District

The River Project



Jim Metropulos, Senior Advocate
Sierra Club California



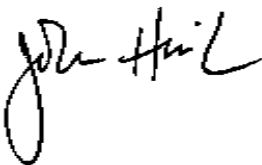
Pete Kampa, General Manager
Tuolumne Utilities District



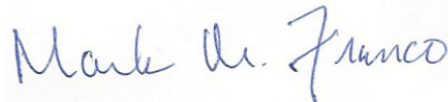
Joan Clayburgh, Executive Director
Sierra Nevada Alliance



Miguel Luna, Executive Director
Urban Semillas



John Herrick, Manager and Counsel
South Delta Water Agency



Mark Franco, Headman
Winnemem Wintu Tribe

cc: Members of the Legislature