

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE

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March 30, 2015

Ms. Felicia Marcus, Chair
Members of the Board
State Water Resources Control Board
P.O. Box 100
Sacramento, CA 95812-0100

Re: Reclamation TUCP for New Melones

Dear Chair Marcus and Board Members,

We as Central Valley legislators write to urge the State Water Resources Control Board to approve the Temporary Urgency Change Petition for New Melones operations in 2015 which would modify the water flow on the Stanislaus River. The petition represents a carefully reviewed and concerted effort by Federal stakeholders, water right holders, and communities reliant on the water of New Melones and downstream Lake Tulloch that must be fully implemented in its current form without delay.

Despite periodic storms this year, California's stored water supply remains at alarmingly low levels. The New Melones reservoir in the foothills of California is at 24% of capacity. Continuing operations under the status quo is unacceptable as it will likely cause New Melones to reach dead pool status by August jeopardizing communities and farmers downstream, as well as the fall salmon run.

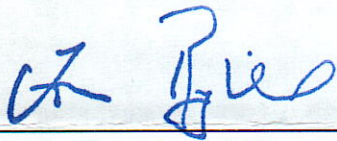
We understand you are acutely aware of these significant challenges caused by the ongoing drought conditions, and the difficulty of managing a 5th consecutive dry year. The operating agency of new Melones, comprised of Oakdale Irrigation District and South San Joaquin Irrigation District have too sought ways to wisely manage their water the last four years and have put 165,000 acre-feet back into the conservation account for drought years like these. Yet, it was actions taken by federal agencies in 2009 and up to 2015 that led to the operational problems that exist today.

The agreed upon TUCP supported by the Bureau of Reclamation and National Marine Fisheries Service establishes a framework that will ensure a balanced approach to the competing needs of irrigators, power

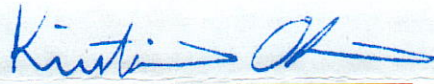
generation, agriculture, recreation and the environment. Again, we urge the Board to approve the TUCP for New Melones operations as submitted for enhanced reliability to the Stanislaus River watershed. Any changes or added conditions to approving the TUCP will only continue to fail at properly managing our river system.

We stand ready to work with the Water Board in implementing this action in a timely manner. If there are additional questions, we will be happy to discuss these issues in more detail.

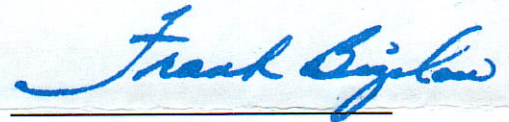
Sincerely,



Senator Tom Berryhill
8th Senate District



Assemblymember Kristin Olsen
12th Assembly District



Assemblymember Frank Bigelow
5th Assembly District

Cc: Tom Howard, Executive Director State Water Resources Control Board