

 JEFF DENHAM
10TH DISTRICT, CALIFORNIA

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Public Hearing (3/20/13)
Bay-Delta Plan SED
Deadline: 3/29/13 by 12 noon

HOUSE AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE
HOUSE TRANSPORTATION AND
INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE
CHAIRMAN, SUBCOMMITTEE ON RAILROADS,
PIPELINES AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS
HOUSE VETERANS' AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC

March 20, 2013



State Water Resources Control Board
1001 I Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Chairman Charles Hoppin and Board Members:

"It's a great honor to serve in the United States House of Representatives on behalf of the people of California's 10th Congressional District. Like you, I share a passion for California's water as well as a reverence for water rights.

"We have a responsibility to those we serve to provide a government that works efficiently and cooperatively to solve problems. Such cooperation is particularly critical with a resource as vital to Californians as water. The Central Valley of California is home to the world's most productive farm land. The economies of most communities in the Valley are buoyed by the agricultural production that occurs throughout the Valley. As such, our farmers and communities alike depend on a reliable water supply, both in the form of surface water and groundwater.

"Unfortunately, the San Joaquin River flow proposal from the Board being discussed today is bad. It's bad for those I represent. It's bad for the people and industry of Central Valley already decimated by economic pain.

"But above all, this proposal is bad because it punishes agriculture water users and water districts who have been efficiently putting water to its most beneficial use since water began to be diverted on the three tributaries affected by your proposal.

"Further, the Substitute Environmental Document being presented makes sweeping assertions and stands in direct conflict with the Delta Stewardship Council's co-equal goals of providing a more reliable water supply for the state and protecting, restoring and enhancing the Delta's ecosystem.

"The public expects government actions to be anchored in evidence. However, this plan provides no scientific proof that increasing flows will help native fish populations. To move forward with this project without any rationale or scientific basis behind it is irresponsible.

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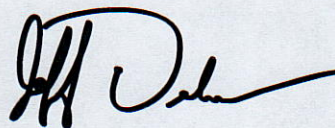
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"But the issue here is not just water. Stanislaus, Merced, and San Joaquin counties rely on summer water supplies from reservoirs for irrigation and hydropower. Under this proposal, water deliveries will be cut, thousands of acres will be fallowed and we will need to purchase energy elsewhere during a time of peak demand.

"I strongly encourage you to consider the devastating impacts your proposal would have on our communities and the farmers and ratepayers who call them home. And then please take a hard look at the lack of evidence supporting this proposal.

"We've all heard the expression, 'the devil's in the details,' and with California water, that's especially true. We can do better. California deserves better. You must do better.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeff D. Jones". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "J" and "D".

United States Representative