

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

January 16, 2014

The Honorable Edmund G. Brown, Jr.  
Governor  
State of California  
State Capitol, Suite 1173  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Subject: Recent Passage of the Emergency Drought Relief Act and Requesting the Declaration of a Drought Emergency.


Dear Governor Brown:

As members of the California Democratic Congressional Delegation, we would like to commend you for your leadership on California water issues and look forward to working with you on addressing the California Drought. On January 15, 2014, the House passed the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2014, which is expected to be approved by the Senate and signed by the President later this week. Included in the Act are several provisions important to the management of California's water resources. We are strong supporters of Section 206 of the bill that reauthorizes the Bureau of Reclamation's Emergency Drought Relief Act program.

The Emergency Drought Relief Act provides the Bureau of Reclamation with authorities to help minimize or mitigate drought damages and loss in the West. These authorities include the construction of temporary facilities, the drilling of wells, and the ability to issue contracts to move non-project water on project facilities. The Act also helps to facilitate water transfers from willing sellers to willing buyers, and allows Reclamation to work with states to prepare drought contingency plans.

However, the authorities under this Act do not occur automatically. The Governor must first issue a drought declaration in the state prior to the Secretary of the Interior determining whether assistance is merited. Given that the most recent Department of Water Resources snowpack survey showed that the snowpack is 20% of normal, we must ensure that the federal agencies have the authorities to take action. Congress has taken the necessary steps, and we respectfully ask that you declare a drought emergency so that these provisions are put in place right away.

Sincerely,

  
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Raul Ruiz, M.D.  
Member of Congress

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Jim Costa  
Member of Congress




John Garamendi  
Member of Congress



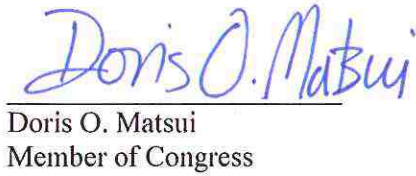
Grace F. Napolitano  
Member of Congress



Zoe Lofgren  
Member of Congress



Loretta Sanchez  
Member of Congress



Doris O. Matsui  
Member of Congress



Tony Cárdenas  
Member of Congress



Sam Farr  
Member of Congress



Gloria Negrete McLeod  
Member of Congress



Jerry McNerney  
Member of Congress



Mark Takano  
Member of Congress



Jared Huffman  
Member of Congress