

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

January 17, 2014

The Honorable Dianne Feinstein
United States Senator
331 Hart Senate Office Bldg.
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Feinstein,

As representatives of California districts that are suffering from acute water shortages, we write you to address the extreme drought conditions that have resulted in Governor Brown's declaration of a water emergency.

This disaster stems from dry weather conditions as well as federal and state regulations that artificially reduce water supplies. As you know, in previous appropriations bills and in the recent omnibus appropriations bill, members of the House of Representatives proposed legislative fixes to provide relief for California communities. The House also passed, in a strong bipartisan vote, the Sacramento-San Joaquin Valley Water Reliability Act (H.R. 1837), which would have raised water supplies before California reached the current crisis by allowing water to be stored in wet years for use during dry ones.

It is not clear to us what your solution is to this pressing problem. Therefore, it's urgent that you meet with us to discuss any legislative proposals you may have that would alleviate the water crisis, so that we can begin working to get them approved in the House of Representatives.

In order to provide immediate relief, we want to address this issue at the earliest opportunity, using the next available legislative bill that is already advancing in Congress. While we appreciate your call to appoint a "federal drought task force" and a "federal drought coordinator," Congress itself has the authority, the ability, and the duty to help Californians overcome this crisis.

Sincerely,

Kevin McCarthy
Member of Congress

Devin Nunes
Member of Congress

David Valadao
Member of Congress