



April 18, 2014

The Honorable Penny Pritzker  
Secretary  
Department of Commerce  
1401 Constitutional Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20230

David G. Murillo  
Regional Director  
Bureau of Reclamation  
2800 Cottage Way  
Sacramento, CA 95825

The Honorable Sally Jewell  
Secretary  
Department of the Interior  
1849 C. Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20240

The Honorable John Laird  
Secretary  
The Resources Agency  
1416 Ninth Street  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Subject: 2014 CVP/SWP Delta/Drought Operations Plan

Dear Secretary Pritzker, Secretary Jewell, Regional Director Murillo, and Secretary Laird:

The San Joaquin Valley is in desperate need of immediate assistance to minimize certain socio-economic ruin.

**We urgently request a modest increase in the amount of CVP water to be released from upstream storage through the summer to support additional pumping at the Jones (Tracy) pumping plant. A prompt decision is vital; the viability of the San Joaquin Valley is at stake.**

The Exchange Contractors have a priority to CVP water. Even in a critically dry water-year like this one, Reclamation is obligated to provide the Exchange Contractors 650,000 acre feet of reduced substitute supply (75% of full supply). As currently contemplated in the Operations Plan, Reclamation will not be able to satisfy that obligation without the Exchange Contractors exercising their senior water rights to receive water from the San Joaquin River. At this point, the Exchange Contractors are short of receiving their entire reduced supply by approximately 60,000 acre-feet, which includes receiving about 200,000 acre-feet from the San Joaquin River.

The allocation of water to other San Joaquin Valley CVP agricultural contractors serving over 2,000,000 acres in the CVP's Delta, Friant, San Benito, and San Luis service areas is an unprecedented 0%. Pumping as little as an additional 300,000 acre-feet will meet the Exchange

Honorable Penny Pritzker et al

April 18, 2014

Page 2

Contractor's obligation and keep tens of thousands of acres in the San Joaquin Valley alive and minimize the multi-billion dollar economic impact occurring to farmers, farm workers and rural communities.

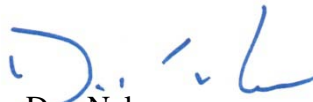
By undertaking this reasonable discretionary action, we believe a better balance of project objectives will be achieved and will avoid a more involved and possibly contentious discussion over Reclamation's obligations under law and contract. Allowing for the delivery of this water this year will not inhibit Reclamation's ability to deliver water upstream or to meet the regulatory commitments they have made with the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, National Marine Fisheries Service, California Department of Fish & Wildlife, or the State Water Resources Control Board.

We realize the significant demands placed upon you as well as your efforts in addressing water supply issues this year. We stand ready to provide any additional information to assist you in your decision making related to our requests.

Sincerely,



Steve Chedester  
Executive Director  
San Joaquin River Exchange  
Contractor Water Authority



Dan Nelson  
Executive Director  
San Luis & Delta-  
Mendota Water Authority



Ronald D. Jacobsma  
General Manager  
Friant Water Authority

Honorable Penny Pritzker et al

April 18, 2014

Page 3

Cc. The Honorable Dianne Feinstein  
The Honorable Barbara Boxer  
The Honorable Edmund G. Brown, Jr.  
The Honorable Jim Costa  
The Honorable Jeff Denham  
The Honorable Kevin McCarthy  
The Honorable Devin Nunes  
The Honorable David Valadao  
Mike Connor, Deputy Secretary, DOI  
Mark Cowin, Director, DWR  
Charlton H. Bonham, Director, DFW