



# County of Fresno

## BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Chairman  
**Sal Quintero**  
District Three

Vice-Chairman  
**Andreas Borgeas**  
District Two

**Brian Pacheco**  
District One

**Buddy Mendes**  
District Four

**Nathan Magsig**  
District Five

**Bernice E. Seidel**  
Clerk

January 23, 2018

Ms. Katrina Harrison, Project Manager  
United States Bureau of Reclamation, Bay-Delta Office  
801 I Street, Suite 140  
Sacramento, California 95814-2439

Dear Ms. Harrison,

The Fresno County Board of Supervisors is writing in response to the United States Bureau of Reclamation's (USBR) request for public comment about the operation of the Central Valley Project (CVP). Our comments are as follows:

- On an annual average, 25 million acre-feet of water inflows to the Delta and seventy-six percent of this water goes to the ocean. This percentage greatly increases during wet years when California should be storing for drier periods. Beneficial use of water must be viewed with a common-sense approach. Water is a necessity for all living things and all living things should be defined as current population, current economies, and current ecosystems. Sending millions of acre-feet of water to the ocean on an annual basis in order to restore an ecosystem that is no longer present, must stop. The Sacramento-San Joaquin Bay Delta plays a vital role for millions of people and millions of acres of farmland. Secured delivery of surface supplies of water to south of the Delta Agriculture Contractors is not only important to the economy and future of California, but to the entire nation. Hundreds of crops grow in the Central Valley, which feed this country, and a secure supply of surface water as contracted, is in fact a matter of national security. Projects such as the raising of Shasta Dam, expansion of the San Luis Reservoir, expansion of the Los Vaqueros Reservoir, Temperance Flat Dam, and Sites Reservoir must be the focus to protect our nation's breadbasket.
- The Endangered Species Act and all listings threatened or otherwise within the Delta and rivers it drains, should be reviewed. Updates and amendments should consider harm or hardships, which burden people, industry, and economies, and place them as a priority. Policy and law should leave no room for assumptions, and any action taken which may affect delivery of water should be supported by hard, factual data. Infrastructure should be operated as such and pumping numbers prior to 1992 should be used as a guide.
- The ability to block deliveries from Shasta because of water temperature in the Sacramento River negates the original purpose of Shasta's construction. The USBR should not allow any action by the California State Water Resources Control Board to impede deliveries from Shasta to the CVP.

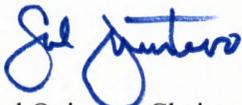
Biological Opinions (Bi Ops) that affect the delivery of water should be carefully reviewed, updated or reformed to address our current ecosystem and its inhabitants. Bi Ops and other laws and policies are changing our ability to feed our nation. The Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) will contribute to this emergency by infringing on property rights. The San Joaquin River Settlement is likely to result in the retirement of over 90,000 acres within Friant Division alone while hundreds of thousands of acres are at risk and or currently being retired throughout the west side of the valley.

- Ecosystems change, and our laws and policies should change concurrently to thwart the dangerous practice of wasting resources. CVP contractors should be protected by the federal government. Contracts are for the delivery of surface water, and the USBR and all related federal agencies should restore contractual agreements to its customers while not allowing the State of California to effect those deliveries. Further, water used in the production of food, fiber, or dairy should be a top priority second only to health and safety. Central Valley Project and the State Water Program surface deliveries to agriculture should absolutely be viewed and regarded as a national security issue by any federal administration. Environmental use of water should be regarded as a user of water in the same fashion as agriculture, municipal and industrial users. Environmental water should be metered and responsible agencies held accountable.

We waste millions of acre-feet of water in hopes of restoring species. In so doing, we are destroying industries, economies, towns, and the lives of people. It is time to restore the future of our country and stop the dumping of fresh water into the ocean.

Sincerely,

**Fresno County Board of Supervisors**



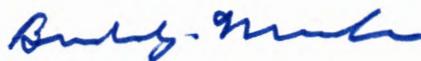
Sal Quintero, Chairman



Andreas Borgeas, Vice Chairman



Brian Pacheco, Supervisor



Buddy Mendes, Supervisor



Nathan Magsig, Supervisor