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September 13, 2016

The Honorable Sally Jewell, Secretary
United States Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, NW
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Secretary Jewell,

The Fresno County Board of Supervisors wishes to express serious concern regarding an activity by one of the federal agencies you oversee. The proposal by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) to designate a portion of the San Joaquin River in Fresno and Madera counties as “Wild and Scenic” represents an action that would be highly detrimental to the San Joaquin Valley by negatively affecting our ability to build the Temperance Flat Dam and Reservoir Project that we desperately need and strongly support.

As you may be aware, the San Joaquin Valley continues to be impacted by a prolonged drought that has ravaged the entire state over the last five years. The impacts of the drought have clearly demonstrated that California’s water system is broken and no longer is adequate to sustain the demands placed on it by our cities, farms and ecosystems. Significant infrastructure investment is required to reestablish a reliable water supply, including increasing both surface and subsurface water storage so that valuable water currently lost to the ocean during high runoff periods can be made available during future drought periods.

The U.S. Bureau of Reclamation through the CalFed storage studies has identified the Temperance Flat Dam project site as being among the best locations for new multi-purpose surface water storage projects in California. The Temperance Flat Dam and Reservoir Project (Project) would be managed to provide a broad array of public benefits in combination with developing substantial groundwater recharge opportunities. The Project would also have a substantial impact on the future of not only the nation’s No. 1 agricultural region but also the other industries and the people who depend on those jobs.

In December of 2014 the Bureau of Land Management issued a Regional Management Plan that proposed that 7.25 miles of the San Joaquin River be considered eligible for inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic River System and suitable for a “wild and scenic river” designation. At the same time Reclamation is completing almost 16 years of technical studies resulting in a

Letter Secretary Jewell
Re: Wild and Scenic Designation
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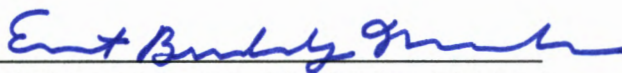
We are very concerned that a proposed wild and scenic river designation would directly conflict with any potential recommendation to move forward with the Temperance Flat Dam Project and would negatively impact the opportunity for project funding before the California Water Commission.

We support the efforts by the Bureau of Reclamation to advance the Temperance Flat feasibility study and urge you to ensure that their efforts are not negatively impacted by the Bureau of Land Management's proposal of a "wild and scenic river" designation of the San Joaquin River in that area.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

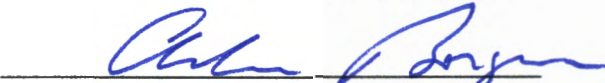
Fresno County Board of Supervisors



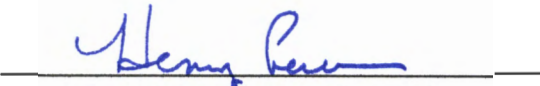
Chairman Ernest Buddy Mendes, District 4



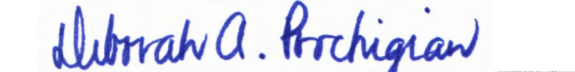
Vice Chairman Brian Pacheco, District 1



Supervisor Andreas Borgeas, District 2



Supervisor Henry Perea, District 3



Supervisor Deborah A. Poochigian, District 5

cc: Fresno County Federal Legislative Delegation
Trace Roller, Federal Legislative Advocate
Mario Santoyo, Executive Director San Joaquin Valley Water Infrastructure Authority