



UNITED STATES
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

April 27, 2018

COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

VICE CHAIR

SUBCOMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE,
RURAL DEVELOPMENT,
FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION

SUBCOMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION,
HOUSING, AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

SUBCOMMITTEE ON MILITARY
CONSTRUCTION, VETERANS AFFAIRS

The Honorable Ryan Zinke
Secretary
U.S. Department of Interior
1849 C Street NW
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Secretary Zinke:

I am writing to express my concerns with the Bureau of Reclamation's recent water allocations for South-of-Delta Central Valley Project (CVP) agricultural water service contractors and for South-of-Delta CVP municipal and industrial water service contractors. While I do applaud the decision to increase allocations for the agricultural water service to 40%, it is incredibly disappointing given that current hydrologic conditions would have supported a much higher allocation, up to 70%.

California depends upon its state and federal water conveyance systems to move water supplies from rainy regions in the north, to the rest of California's farms, cities, and people living in the southern two-thirds of the state. Due to federal law, and the broad authority of the Department in making operational water supply decisions, the Bureau provided South-of-Delta contractors 0% of their water supply in 2014 and 2015 and only 5% in 2016.

The 2017 hydrologic year was the wettest on record for the Sacramento River watershed, resulting in all CVP reservoirs being, as of April 15, 2018, near or above their historical average for this date: Shasta is at 108% of its historical average; Folsom is at 114% of its historical average; Trinity is at 98% of its historical average; New Melones is at 137% of its historical average; and San Luis is at 100% of its historical average.

As of April 16, 2018, the 8-station North Sierra index has recorded 38.1 inches of precipitation, 84% of average precipitation to date. Similarly, the 5-station San Joaquin index has recorded 28.8 inches of precipitation, 82% of average precipitation to date. Lastly, the 6-station Tulare Lake Basin index has recorded 16.8 inches of precipitation, 67% of average precipitation to date. From October 1, 2016 through April 15, 2018 over 54.7 million acre-feet of fresh water has been flushed out to the Pacific Ocean from the Delta.

Despite the huge amounts of water flowing into the Delta and out to the ocean, as a result of historic precipitation, the Bureau of Reclamation announced South-of-Delta municipal and industrial (M&I) contractors would receive 75% of their water supply contract amount and agricultural water contractors would receive 40% of their water supply contract amount. It is unfathomable that even with the current abundance of water, water supply contractors are not receiving even close to their entire contract amount. I respectfully request that you review this decision and provide information as to how the Bureau determined this year's South-of-Delta water supply allocations. Additionally, I request you increase allocations within the next two weeks in order to give the agriculture industry the ability to plan for their growing season.

Thank you for your attention to this matter and I look forward to your reply.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'D. Valadao', with a stylized, flowing script.

David G. Valadao
Member of Congress