

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

October 26, 2021

President Joseph R. Biden Jr.
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20500

The Honorable Gavin Newsom
Governor
State of California
1303 10th St, Suite 1173
Sacramento, CA 95814

President Biden and Governor Newsom:

We urgently request federal and state emergency declarations related to the drought and recent storms in California to maximize pumping of stormwater and unregulated flows in the Delta.

The recent Category 5 Atmospheric River event drenched northern California, with rainfall totals exceeding ten inches in some areas of the state and setting single-day records in most. Moreover, atmospheric models indicate that California faces an elevated likelihood of additional atmospheric river activity in the coming weeks. The ground is now saturated from the last storm, meaning additional rain will manifest almost entirely as runoff through the Delta.

This year's catastrophic man-made drought has crushed California families and farms, and with supply chain disruptions further hamstringing our agricultural producers, we have a moral obligation to provide Californians any relief that is within our control. Government regulations should not and must not deny our constituents critical water from these storms. While we cannot make it rain, we must take advantage of opportunities to store water when it does.

We urge your administrations to issue emergency declarations and direct relevant federal and state agencies to temporarily waive all impediments that limit operations of the Delta pumps to ensure none of these storm flows go to waste. Time is of the essence.

Sincerely,



David G. Valadao
Member of Congress



Kevin McCarthy
House Republican Leader



Ken Calvert
Member of Congress



Darrell Issa
Member of Congress



Doug LaMalfa
Member of Congress



Devin Nunes
Member of Congress



Mike Garcia
Member of Congress



Young Kim
Member of Congress



Tom McClintock
Member of Congress



Michelle Steel
Member of Congress