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 hamstrunging 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