

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

January 11, 2023

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 10<sup>th</sup> St, Suite 1173  
Sacramento, CA 95814

President Biden and Governor Newsom:

In light of the drought and recent storms in California, we ask you to maximize pumping of stormwater and unregulated flows in the Delta to the fullest extent possible. We also ask you to prioritize and expedite water storage projects that would help us better prepare for future storm events like the ones we are experiencing.

The recent atmospheric river events have drenched the entire state of California, with rainfall totals 400-600 percent above average values, exceeding ten inches in some areas of the state. Moreover, atmospheric models indicate that California faces an elevated likelihood of additional atmospheric river activity in the coming days. The ground is now saturated, meaning additional rain will manifest almost entirely as runoff through the Delta.

The past few years of catastrophic man-made drought have 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 and maximize what can be moved at all times through the Delta for the duration of these storms.

We urge your administrations to direct relevant federal and state agencies to 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,



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David G. Valadao  
Member of Congress




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Ken Calvert  
Member of Congress




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John Duarte  
Member of Congress




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Doug LaMalfa  
Member of Congress



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Tom McClintock  
Member of Congress



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Jay Obernolte  
Member of Congress