

*Mayor*  
Willard Rodarmel  
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John Flourde  
*Council Members*  
John Gordon  
John Murray  
William Siegel



**Office of the  
Mayor**

119 Fox Street  
Lemoore ♦ CA 93245  
Phone ♦ (559) 924-6700  
FAX ♦ (559) 924-9003

June 7, 2010

The Honorable Devin Nunes  
United States House of Representatives  
1013 Longworth  
Washington, DC 20515

RE: San Joaquin Valley Water Reliability Act – SUPPORT

Dear Representative Nunes:

The City of Lemoore is pleased to support the San Joaquin Valley Water Reliability Act, which promotes water policies that facilitate the delivery of the California's abundant supply of water, as well as support the implementation of an economically feasible and environmentally sustainable river restoration on the San Joaquin River.

The San Joaquin Valley Water Reliability Act (Act) includes a number of provisions that will update the Central Valley Project Improvement Act (CVPIA) to ensure that it fulfills original promises while focusing on native species. The Act prioritizes native species over non-native species in the Delta and the Sacramento and San Joaquin Rivers (and tributaries). Scientists have identified that predatory nonnative species are one of the primary stressors on salmon smolts and Delta smelt. With the goal of protecting native species, the Act removes "take" limits on non-native species that are preying on native species.

The Act also reaffirms the original CVPIA commitment that a maximum of 800,000 acre-feet of water will be dedicated to fish, wildlife, and habitat restoration purposes. Among other things, the Act stops the San Joaquin River Settlement Act, the billion dollar salmon restoration program on the San Joaquin River, and replaces the program with a more environmentally sustainable and economically feasible habitat restoration program that provides substantial regional benefits.

The Act restores accountability to the CVPIA Restoration Fund, which collected and distributed nearly \$800 million for programs and projects intended for habitat restoration and mitigation since 1992. The Act ensures that funding decisions are transparent by creating a Restoration Fund Advisory Board. In addition, by eliminating the tiered pricing structure, the Act provides incentives for water districts to expand conjunctive use of surface and groundwater to ensure they have an ability to survive during dry years.

Agriculture is one of the largest industries in the San Joaquin Valley. A reliable water supply is crucial for successful agricultural production and therefore the economy of this region. This bill will help ensure a reliable water supply to the farmers in the San Joaquin Valley as well as provide much needed jobs to the area.

For these reasons, the City of Lemoore is pleased to support the San Joaquin Valley Water Reliability Act. If you have any questions, please contact Jeff Britz, City Manager, at 559-924-6700.

Sincerely,

Willard J. Rodarmel  
Mayor

cc: Congressman Jim Costa  
Steve Samuelian, California Consulting