

Feinstein
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COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS
COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY
COMMITTEE ON RULES AND ADMINISTRATION

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-0504

STATEMENT BY SENATOR DIANNE FEINSTEIN REGARDING THE SAN JOAQUIN RIVER COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

October 18, 1994

I want to state my opposition to any effort to take water from Friant Dam for the purposes of restoring a long gone fishery on the San Joaquin River.

The unique situation facing the Friant Division of the Central Valley Project was referenced in the Central Valley Project Improvement Act. This law makes a specific exemption for the Friant Division, allowing districts it serves to contribute money instead of water to address the environmental issues targeted in the legislation. The Friant Division is currently contributing \$6 million per year, at a rate of \$4 per acre foot, in addition to approximately another \$9 million for fish and wildlife restoration purposes.

It has been estimated that as much as 300,000 to 500,000 acre feet of water could be required to sustain a year-round, anadromous fishery along the entire length of the San Joaquin River, given the stream temperatures and flows required. This compares with the Friant Division's "firm yield" of 800,000 acre feet per year, and its actual supply for 1994 of 640,000 acre feet.

There is much at stake here: 10,000 small, family farms, generating an annual agricultural product of over \$2 billion, on nearly one million acres of land.

The Central Valley Project Improvement Act requires that the San Joaquin River Comprehensive Plan be "reasonable, prudent and feasible." If this is the criteria, and it is, then any study is useless and in my opinion, a waste of money. Because to develop the fishery would take virtually all available water and clearly this is unacceptable.

The Central Valley Project Improvement Act specifically states that the Secretary of the Interior may not release any water for the restoration of the San Joaquin River without specific authorization from Congress.

If, by some implausible combination of circumstances, this foolish proposal reaches Congress for action, I will do everything I can to kill it in the Senate.

The bottom line is that when the process is complete, the Friant Division will not be the water supply source necessary to restore a fishery on the San Joaquin.

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