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January 8, 2014

Dear Friend:

I take this opportunity to send you a letter I mailed to all Friant farmers in 2008 that outlined an unfolding threat to Eastside water supplies: the San Joaquin River Settlement.

Despite dire warnings, Friant officials supported passage of the settlement. **This disastrous law, enacted in 2009 by Congress with support from then-Speaker Nancy Pelosi and Senator Dianne Feinstein, confiscated roughly 250,000 acre feet of your water annually to ensure that 500 salmon can swim in the San Joaquin River.** This legislation transformed periodic water shortages in the San Joaquin Valley's Eastside into a permanent drought.

I opposed this law then and I remain opposed today. **But Friant officials defend the damaging water giveaway and even opposed a legislative fix: the Sacramento-San Joaquin Valley Water Reliability Act (H.R. 1837).** That bill, which passed the House of Representatives but stalled in the Democrat-controlled Senate, would have restored Eastside water deliveries, reformed the Central Valley Project Improvement Act (CVPIA, originally known as the George Miller/Bill Bradley bill), and restored pumping out of the delta.

We now have three options for dealing with this situation:

1. Resolving to support H.R. 1837, Friant builds a coalition of all water districts, city councils, and counties from Redding to Bakersfield. This coalition then urges the U.S. Senate to enact the reforms included in H.R. 1837.
2. We keep the status quo, which would perpetuate surface water shortages and the overdraft of the aquifer. Economics would dictate that farmers who have the most money and can drill the deepest wells could hold out the longest before their land is forced out of production.
3. Radical environmental groups want to retire 1.3 million acres of productive farmland from Merced to Bakersfield. Friant landowners could endorse this demand and start a permanent land retirement program.

I prefer the first option. If you can devise a better solution, then please share it with me by email (through my website, www.nunes.house.gov), phone (202-225-2523), or fax (202-225-3404).

Sincerely,

Devin Nunes
Member of Congress

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TO ENSURE OUR CONSTITUENTS AND ALL AMERICANS LIVE FREE AND PROSPEROUS LIVES IN A HEALTHY AND SAFE ENVIRONMENT BY SERVING, COMMUNICATING, PROTECTING AND REPRESENTING THEM IN A PROFESSIONAL AND CARING MANNER.