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February 9, 2009

We are here today to call attention to the racist and uninformed views of radical environmentalists – who along with their friends in political organizations and elected offices make decisions that favor fish over our families and communities.

My friends, you have heard that if the Delta pumps are not turned on we could see in excess of 500,000 acres of farmland dried out. This catastrophic fallowing of land does not include hundreds of thousands of acres that will be taken out of production as a result of the San Joaquin River Settlement – a bill that the Congress will pass in the coming weeks.

You might ask, “How this is possible?” How could Congress consider taking more water from our dry valley when so many of our communities are suffering?

The answer is a testament to the power of the radical environmental movement; power they use to extract concession after concession from our battered communities in the San Joaquin Valley.

Friant and its San Joaquin River Settlement is the latest to fall victim to the idea of appeasing radicals in the vain hope of prolonging survival. We have seen what happens when the people of this valley are forced to compromise scarce resources. The suffering we are feeling today is the direct result of Congressional action taken in 1992.

However, there are things that our government can do. Relief can come to us but only if we, the people of this valley, stand up together and demand action.

First, turn on the Delta pumps. The stimulus bill can and must be used to achieve this goal. I have already asked President Obama for his help. He can fix this problem.

Second, we must say no to the San Joaquin River Settlement. Now is not the time to transfer even more water away from our communities.

What the radical environmentalists believe and say is despicable but at the end of the day they are just words. What is worse is when their friends in Congress turn these radical views into law.

I urge you to call Senator Feinstein. Call Senator Boxer. Call Speaker Pelosi and all of your elected leaders. Insist they take action to restore the flow of water.

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