

RESOLUTION NO 2014-_____

**A RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF
FRESNO, CALIFORNIA TO REQUEST ACTION BY
CONGRESS ON PENDING WATER LEGISLATION**

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Fresno (City) is responsible for providing a safe, secure and reliable water resource supply to support the health, welfare and prosperity of the residents, businesses, industries, and institutions of the City; and

WHEREAS, the City Council recognizes and understands that the City's management and use of its water supply resources are integrally connected to the quality and quantity of the entire region's water supply resources; and

WHEREAS, a significant portion of the water supply resources are provided through facilities of the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation's Friant Division under a federal Central Valley Project contract that provides water to 31 water agencies located along the East Side of the central and southern San Joaquin Valley and the City is the largest municipal and industrial contractor of Central Valley Project; and

WHEREAS, the City Council desires to preserve, protect, and restore the water supply resources of the City, as well as the major water and irrigation districts surrounding the City and the 31 Central Valley Project contractors; and

WHEREAS, water supply was withheld from Friant Division contractors this year for the first time in the more than 60 years that such water contracts and deliveries have existed; and

WHEREAS, this year's zero water supply allocation for Friant Division contractors has adversely impacted groundwater levels in the City and the surrounding region; and

WHEREAS, this year's zero water supply allocation for Friant Division contractors has adversely impacted the agricultural economy upon which the City and the surrounding region rely and such adverse impacts may have long-lasting and far-reaching negative effects on the social, economic, and quality of life elements of the City, its surrounding communities and the San Joaquin Valley; and

WHEREAS, this year's zero water supply allocation is the direct result of failed management policies and practices applied by state and federal agencies of the Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta to implement the inequitable requirements of the federal Endangered Species Act, which prevented planned water deliveries to the San Joaquin River Exchange Contractors and compelled the Exchange Contractors to receive San Joaquin River water that would normally have been delivered to the City and other Friant Division contractors; and

WHEREAS, the City believes that a more equitable implementation of the Endangered Species Act in the Delta would have resulted in Friant Division water contractors receiving a portion of the available water supply this year, rather than the current zero allocation.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Fresno as follows:

1. That the City has a direct and keen interest in development and adoption of legislation that cures the failed water supply resource management policies and practices of the Delta, and ensures that a zero allocation for Friant Division contractors will never be repeated in the future.
2. That action in Congress must be taken immediately to avoid another year of zero allocations for Friant Division contractors.
3. That the City applauds members of the U.S. House of Representatives for passing H.R. 3964 (the Sacramento-San Joaquin Valley Emergency Water Delivery Act) and members of the U.S. Senate for passing S. 2198 (Emergency Drought Relief Act), both of which offer hope for correcting the failed water supply resource management policies and practices in the Delta that have led to zero allocation.
4. That the City urges California's delegation to both Houses of Congress to immediately conclude negotiations and arrive at a joint Delta water reform and drought relief measure that can be adopted by both Houses of Congress and signed by the President.
5. That the City expresses support for the positions taken in the "Allied Growers Letter" to members of Congress dated July 10, 2014, and signed by leaders of the San Joaquin Valley's business and farming community (see attached Exhibit A).

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STATE OF CALIFORNIA)
COUNTY OF FRESNO) ss.
CITY OF FRESNO)

I, YVONNE SPENCE, City Clerk of the City of Fresno, certify that the foregoing resolution was adopted by the Council of the City of Fresno, at a regular meeting held on the _____ day of _____, 2014.


AYES :
NOES :
ABSENT :
ABSTAIN :

Mayor Approval: _____, 2014
Mayor Approval/No Return: _____, 2014
Mayor Veto: _____, 2014
Council Override Vote: _____, 2014

YVONNE SPENCE, CMC
City Clerk

BY: _____
Deputy

APPROVED AS TO FORM:
CITY ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

BY:  _____
Deputy [Date] 8/22/14

[65478elb/kbd] Reso 08-22-14

July 10, 2014

Dear Member of Congress,

We write in our individual capacities to thank each of you for the effort you have made to address the dire water situation facing the State of California. The passage of S. 2198, the Emergency Drought Relief Act out of the U.S. Senate, and H.R. 3964, the Sacramento-San Joaquin Valley Emergency Water Delivery Act out of the U.S. House of Representatives, are significant and commendable milestones. The efforts you have taken are greatly appreciated. We are, however, acutely aware of the need for you to promptly resolve the differences between these bills before any legislation will become law. We also know that we are in urgent need of a change in law.

Therefore, we are asking each of you to work diligently and in good faith to bridge your differences. Failure will ensure that the current regulatory and policy regimes that were put in place to improve the health of the Delta and the Central Valley, but have actually done the opposite, will continue unchecked. As a result, more acreage will be fallowed further diminishing our ability to provide a safe and sustainable food supply and threatening our national security. In addition, the demands on food banks, existing high unemployment, the inability of families to pay utilities and stay in their homes, and the lack of job opportunity that already exists in disadvantaged communities will all be exacerbated.


To facilitate the resolution of your differences, we have come together to emphasize the concepts we believe are essential to any legislation that moves forward. To be meaningful, any bill must:

- Provide congressional direction concerning the operation of the Central Valley Project and the State Water Project to ensure sufficient operational flexibility to restore water supply and water supply reliability. The operators of these projects must be able to capture water from the Delta during periods of higher flows and move water from north to south in a rational way.
- Extend the provisions of any legislation for a period of time that will allow communities to establish sound long term water supplies for their future;
- Establish a process that could lead to increased storage in a reasonable timeframe;
- Ensure that additional burdens are not placed on the State Water Project as a result of congressional action; and
- Recognize that the reasonableness and efficacy of the San Joaquin River Restoration Program must be reevaluated in light of changed conditions since its authorization, including the reality of federal budget constraints.

We are optimistic that if you focus on addressing these concepts, you can resolve your differences in time to provide our communities the needed relief. It is time for you to move forward with policies that restore regulatory balance, achieve benefits, and improve the social, economic, and environmental health of much of California.

EXHIBIT "A"

Respectfully,



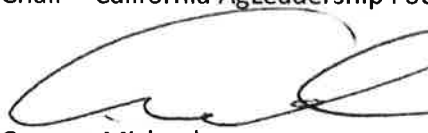
Georgeanne White
Director – Friant Water Authority
Chief of Staff – City of Fresno




Kimberly Brown
Director of Water Resources – Paramount
Farming Company



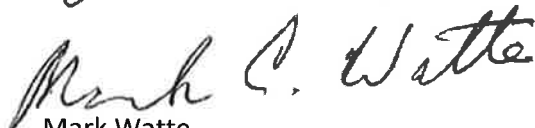
Loren Booth
President – Booth Farms
Chair – Hills Valley Irrigation District
Chair – California AgLeadership Foundation



Cannon Michael
President – Bowles Farming
Director – San Luis Canal Company




Jim Nickel
President – Nickel Family
Treasurer – San Joaquin River Exchange
Contractors Water Authority




Mark Watte
Partner – Watte & Sons
Director – Friant Water Authority



Dan Errotabere
General Partner – Errotabere Ranches
Western County Grower




Paul Adams
Booth Farms
Wheeler Ridge Maricopa Water Storage
Dist.



Kent H. Stephens
Sec/CFO – Sunview Vineyards of California
Director – Friant Water Authority



Ashley Swearengin
Mayor – City of Fresno



Earl Perez
President – Perez Farms
Vice President – Del Puerto Water District
Board – California Processing Tomato
Advisory Board



Sarah Woolf
Partner – Clark Bros. Farming
Director – Westlands Water District



John Bennett
President – JFB Ranch
President – Panoche Water District



William D. Phillimore
Executive Vice President – Paramount
Farming Company



Mike Stearns
General Manger – Hammonds Ranch
Chairman – San Luis & Delta-Mendota
Water Authority



Tom Barcellos
T-Bar Dairy/Barcellos Farms
Director – Lower Tule River Irr. Dist.



Harvey Bailey
President Bailey Brothers Farming
Chairman – Friant Water Authority



Ted Page
Partner – Bookland Farms
President – Kern County Water Agency

Sent to:

The Honorable Diane Feinstein

The Honorable Barbara Boxer

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy

The Honorable Doug LaMalfa

The Honorable Tom McClintock

The Honorable Paul Cook

The Honorable Jeff Denham

The Honorable David Valadao

The Honorable Devin Nunes

The Honorable Howard McKeon

The Honorable Gary Miller

The Honorable Ed Royce

The Honorable Ken Calvert

The Honorable John Campbell

The Honorable Dana Rohrabacher

The Honorable Darrell Issa

The Honorable Duncan Hunter

The Honorable Jim Costa