



THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT
OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

Office of the General Manager

April 5, 2016

The Honorable Jeff Denham
U.S. House of Representatives
1730 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Denham:

Metropolitan is pleased to support H.R. 4582, the Save our Salmon Act of 2016 which would exclude striped bass from the anadromous fish doubling requirement in the Central Valley Project Improvement Act of 1992 (CVPIA). This legislation helps advance California's co-equal goals of improving water supply reliability and ecosystem restoration and is consistent with our Board's previous policy directive to reduce stressors impacting listed species in the Delta in accordance with Metropolitan's Delta Action Plan.

Metropolitan has long advocated for legislative policies to reduce predation among the many stressors harming California's native and endangered species, including helping to advance state legislation, AB 2336, in 2010 by then Assembly Member Jean Fuller.

The striped bass in the Bay-Delta region is a non-native species and a major predator of several listed species in the Delta and Delta watershed, including salmon and Delta smelt. Predator control and effective reduction will help protect these species and achieve significant conservation objectives within the scope of California WaterFix and California EcoRestore objectives.

Removing striped bass from the anadromous fish doubling goal in the Central Valley Improvement Act of 1992 would also remove from federal law a goal that is inconsistent with the Endangered Species Act and the California Endangered Species Act, which aim to take all conservation measures to recover listed species to the point they can be de-listed.

Metropolitan, along with other Delta water stakeholders, believes the current requirement for doubling this predator could lead to the extinction or extirpation of listed prey species. If striped bass populations were doubled in the Delta, it could lead to additional pumping restrictions for the State Water Project and Central Valley Project as listed prey species further decline, further reducing water supply reliability for urban and agricultural water providers.

It is our hope that H.R. 4582 will move expeditiously through the 114th Congress and be enacted into law this year.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeff Kightlinger".

Jeffrey Kightlinger
General Manager