



SOUTH VALLEY WATER ASSOCIATION



April 11, 2016

Congressman Jeff Denham
1730 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Denham:

We are writing to inform you of our collective support for your bill, H.R. 4582, the Save Our Salmon Act. We believe your bill represents much-needed common sense reform to the Central Valley Project Improvement Act (CVPIA).

As you know, the enactment of CVPIA in 1992 set a goal of doubling the number of striped bass, a non-native species that, ironically, feeds on endangered listed species. This predation is one of the primary stressors that negatively affects the effort to recover endangered Chinook salmon and Delta Smelt. Additionally, regulatory actions associated with this doubling mandate and the desire to "save" other Delta species has resulted in the startling and absurd mismanagement of California's water supply at a time when project operators should be maximizing water deliveries to enable the state to recover from the past three years of drought. Therefore, as you rightfully stated in your press release, "We must stop the crazy cycle of spending money on both the fish we want to save and the fish that kill them."

We appreciate your bipartisan efforts to bring this issue to light and look forward to working with you to move the legislation through the Congress.

Sincerely,

Thomas W. Birmingham
General Manager, Westlands Water District

Steve Chedester
General Manager, SJR Exchange Contractors

Curtis Creel
General Manager, Kern County Water Agency

Dave Orth
General Manager, Friant North Authority

Jason Peltier
Executive Director, San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water Authority

Jason Phillips
Chief Executive Officer, Friant Water Authority

Dan Vink
Executive Director, South Valley Water Association