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Good morning Chairman Huffman, Ranking Member McClintock, and Members of the Subcommittee.

My name is Anthea Hansen, and on behalf of the Del Puerto Water District, I thank you for this opportunity to present testimony on a matter of critical importance to our membership: the reliability of water supplies in the western United States. This testimony will illustrate the problems Western farmers and ranchers face in terms of water supply reliability, outline what water managers such as myself and other Westerners are doing to address these challenges, and highlight policy recommendations that we believe lay the foundation for effectively addressing water supply reliability in the Western United States.

The Del Puerto Water District was formed in 1947 as a California special district under the provisions of Division 13 of the Water Code of the State of California. The District receives its water supply from the Bureau of Reclamation through deliveries from the Delta-Mendota Canal, a critically important water conveyance infrastructure facility of the Central Valley Project. On March 1, 1995, the District was reorganized through a formal consolidation with ten other local water districts similarly contracted with Reclamation. The water service contracts of these other districts were assigned to the District and subsequently renegotiated as a single water service contract providing for the delivery of up to 140,210 acre-feet of water annually. This action made Del Puerto Water District one of the largest recipients of agricultural water service in the Central Valley Project and South of the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta. I have been in the employ of the District for twenty years, and have been its General Manager since March 1, 2014. I would note that this meant that in my first three years as Manager serving the landowners of 45,000 acres of productive farmland in California's Central Valley, the District's long-term term contract provided two consecutive years of a 0% supply, followed by just a 5% supply in 2016. Prior to that, and again during my tenure, the CVP supply received by the District averaged just over 56% of its contractual allocation. While I am thankful that drought conditions have, at least for now, receded, I note for the Committee that at a time when California reports a snowpack exceeding 200% of average, South-of-Delta Agricultural Water Service Contractors currently only have an allocation

of 70%. Clearly this is not a sustainable situation for those that grow the food and fiber that feeds our nation and supports the fabric of the local economies of the rural communities of the Central Valley.

The District is a member of the San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water Authority, a 28-member organization of public agencies, 26 of which are contracted with Reclamation for over 2.8 million acre-feet of water supply used to serve not only 1.2 million acres of farmland, but over 2 million people in Silicon Valley and the largest contiguous wetlands west of the Mississippi River and a critical stop for migratory birds in the Pacific flyway. Although contractual water rights ultimately determine the quantities of supply that each of these contractors receive each water year from their CVP allocations, it goes without saying that all of the contracts depend on exports at the Jones Pumping Plant and on the reliability of CVP facilities South-of-the-Delta and all water users have suffered for the last two plus decades with shortages of their contracted supply.

The western portion of the San Joaquin Valley has experienced a decline in water supply reliability since the early 1990's, which has led to water supply imbalances for California's agricultural industry and the communities and people that are dependent upon it. Recently, the Public Policy Institute of California released a report that indicates that the difference between the water needs of the San Joaquin Valley and the available supplies is nearly 2.5 million acre-feet. The drastic reduction in surface water deliveries to the San Joaquin Valley in the last few decades has in turn led to a returned reliance on groundwater sources, something that the Central Valley Project facilities were originally constructed in part to address. This reliance on groundwater has resulted in subsidence along critical water conveyance infrastructure, reducing conveyance capacity and further exacerbating the challenges of reliably delivering surface water when it is available. Some preliminary estimates indicate that subsidence along the Delta-Mendota Canal, the main facility delivering water to the growers in Del Puerto Water District, has resulted in a loss of 10 percent of the Canal's conveyance capacity. In other areas like those dependent on Friant-Kern Canal deliveries, I understand impacts of almost 40 percent are occurring.

The 2019 hydrologic year is illustrative of the decline in water supply reliability for the San Joaquin Valley. This year will go down as one of the wettest years in the nearly 127-year California historical record. Many reservoirs are currently being operated for flood releases, we have experienced significant precipitation and are blessed with an abundant snowpack. Despite this, growers in my district have only been allocated 70 percent of their contracted surface water supplies, while an estimated 23.7 million acre-feet, or over 90 percent of the inflow to the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta, has flowed uncaptured out to the ocean. If it were its own country, California would boast the world's fifth largest economy, yet it is unable to provide water reliability to a region that produces more than two-thirds of the nation's fruit and nuts and over fifty percent of the nation's vegetables. This clearly threatens the security and reliability of the United States' food supply, is unacceptable, and requires immediate action.

Luckily, we know what must be done to confront this challenge. While the solutions are not complex, they require political will to accomplish, as well as a coalition who are willing to move past the historic water wars to find viable, sustainable solutions for California, and our nations',

future. There are four key components to restoring reliability to San Joaquin Valley water supplies:

1) Operate both the State and Federal water projects to capture as much water as possible during years like 2019, when rainfall and snowpack is abundant, with sufficient monitoring in place to decrease pumping as necessary when listed species are present, in a coordinated fashion and consistent with the provisions contained in 2016's Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation, or WIIN Act;

2) Increase the conveyance capacity of facilities and/or our river systems to move water from north to south, so that additional water can be captured during years of abundance like 2018 and 2019;

3) Build increased water storage capacity, both surface and subsurface, to provide the ability to store water in the years when its available for use in the years with less rainfall and snowpack; and

4) Diversify water supplies, including increasing the use of recycled and reclaimed water, increasing water conservation, and increasing utilization of technologies to use water as efficiently as possible.

H.R. 2473, the SAVE Water Resources Act, contains helpful tools to begin to restore reliable water supplies to the family farmers served by Del Puerto Water District and the communities that rely on them. Water resource infrastructure investments should be made more attractive and affordable for non-federal interests to sufficiently address western water reliability challenges. Specifically, provisions in the SAVE Water Resources Act that would be beneficial include:

1. Providing additional funding for WaterSMART grants that can assist water managers in investing in modernizing their water infrastructure and resolve conflicts in the process;

2. Creating the Reclamation Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act ("RIFIA"), which would provide low interest loans to cover up to 49 percent of water project costs;

3. Authorizing $450 million in funding for the Bureau of Reclamation's Title XVI grant program; and

4. Expediting water storage feasibility studies, including those for Sites Reservoir, the Los Vaqueros Reservoir Expansion, and Del Puerto Canyon Reservoir, as well as the expansion of the San Luis Reservoir and the related Pacheco Reservoir.

There is no one "silver bullet" to make up for all of the years that solutions have failed to improve not only our situation, but the situation for the environment as well. Fortunately, I do believe that a combination of efforts – both large-scale and on a local & regional level – can and do make a difference. Given its dramatic growth in population in the midst of a changing climatology, in the big picture California has been miserably lacking in infrastructure investment. H.R. 2473 takes an all-of-the-above approach to our water challenges, ensuring investment in new infrastructure including storage, water recycling, water use efficiency projects, and encourages the development of 21st century technologies to grow our water supply.

Del Puerto Water District has two specific projects that the S.A.V.E. Water Resources Act would benefit in meaningful ways. First, this legislation promotes the development and use of recycled water, and authorizes funding for the Bureau of Reclamation's Title XVI Program. The Title XVI Program has a backlog of beneficial use projects, and provides funding assistance for projects such as Del Puerto's North Valley Regional Recycled Water Program. The North Valley Regional Recycled Water Program is a regional partnership between Del Puerto Water District, located on the Westside of Stanislaus County, and the cities of Modesto (pop. 214,000) and Turlock (pop. 74,000), located on the eastside of Stanislaus County. By connecting the City of Modesto's Jennings Wastewater Treatment Plant via a dedicated pipeline under the San Joaquin River to the Delta-Mendota Canal, North Valley has delivered a reliable recycled water supply to the District each and every day since the beginning of 2018, now totaling more than 19,000 acre-feet in its first 17 months of operation. Currently, the District is seeking to complete the connection of the City of Turlock to the newly constructed pump station and pipeline at the Modesto facility. When this connection is in service, the District will realize over 25,000 Acre-feet per year of supply from North Valley under 40-year agreements with the Cities, approximately 27 percent of which will be delivered to wildlife refuges designated by the Central Valley Project Improvement Act under a separate long-term agreement with Reclamation's Refuge Water Supply Program. The District's Landowners previously committed to the over $90 million cost of this project. Supportive funding from the Title XVI Program serves to offset the ultimate costs of the project, and thus the final cost of the water supply being delivered to agriculture and the environment to make up for the shortfall caused by the inability of Reclamation to provide consistently adequate allocations year in and year out, regardless of hydrology.

As part of the effort by the District and its neighbors served South-of-the-Delta by the Central Valley Project to continuously look for opportunities to increase surface supplies to meet the needs of the region, and because of the highly variable nature of the availability of surplus surface water supplies, storage needs to be an integral part of our solution. I believe that when we develop storage, the goal should be "all of the above" for the projects supported by the S.A.V.E Water Resources Act, as well as others in California that prove feasible. For the viability of our farms and ranches, and for the economic sustainability of the Central Valley, we need to position ourselves to capture the abundant water supply that nature occasionally provides to be able to survive and grow food during times of drought, as well as to provide a level of reliability that will enable growers to make decisions about planting absent early or sufficient allocations from our CVP contract. California and the West need to manage water as if every year is a drought year. We need to invest in new water storage facilities to capture water in wet years, we need to look to innovative technology to enhance management of water supplies and delivery and we need to maximize the benefits from the water we have available to meet multiple needs. The ability to measure, assess and show value for how that water is used is incumbent on every water manager – environmental, urban and agricultural.

District lands have produced more than 30 different commercial crops over the years. Among the principal crops currently grown are almonds, tomatoes, apricots, dry beans, walnuts, oats, wheat, barley, grains, broccoli, melons, peaches, citrus, spices, cherries, wine grapes and olives. In 2017, these crops produced over $213 million in gross revenue for our local economy, which multiplies itself many times over in the form of jobs and sustenance for our small, rural communities. Nearly

100% of the permanent crops grown in the District are irrigated by high-efficiency sprinkler or drip irrigation systems. Many of the row-crops, such as tomatoes, are as well. The District supports conservation efforts by way of providing low interest loan funding for the installation of high-efficiency irrigation systems, including both micro-sprinkler and drip emission systems. In addition to supporting conservation, this investment in irrigation technology further compliments the District's efforts in the area of drainage reduction, thus supporting our belief that farmers are responsible for stewardship of the land.

It is noteworthy to share that the Districts annual operating budget, excepting investments in projects such as the North Valley Regional Recycled Water Program, the Orestimba Creek Recharge and Recovery Pilot Study for groundwater recharge, and the Del Puerto Canyon Reservoir studies, is less than $1 million per year. While our reserves are currently about four times that, the Districts Board has pledged over half of that to completing the studies needed to bring a shovel ready storage project to our region by the end of 2020. I am confident that with Reclamation's support and commitment, we can do just that. And while the $1.5 million recommended by Interior for funding under the WIIN Act to assist in the completion of the feasibility study, and expedited by the SAVE Water Resources Act, will greatly assist the project partners to achieve this goal, it is the message from Congress that this project is named and supported that will give Reclamation the authority it needs to work to complete these locally-sponsored projects.

I realize it will be hard work to reach an agreement and enact legislation to wisely manage the West's water now and into the future, but that's the kind of work we elect our Congress to do. Congressman Harder recognizes that, and has introduced a non-partisan, common-sense bill that provides helpful tools to assist in addressing the San Joaquin Valley's long-term water reliability challenges. Farmers work hard, water managers work hard, and we expect Congress to do the same. It is our responsibility to come together and find a way to fix this broken system, now. Only together can we in California and the West plan and prepare for our collective future. If we don't, we ensure only that water supply reliability will continue to decline, and the security of our Nation will someday be challenged because of an inadequate supply of safe and abundant food. I for one do not wish that for our children, or the generations that will follow.

I thank you for the opportunity to testify before the Committee today and look forward to answering any further questions.

Respectfully Submitted,

Anthea G. Hansen