



SOUTH SAN JOAQUIN IRRIGATION DISTRICT



West Delta Chapter

CALIFORNIA DELTA CHAMBERS & Visitors Bureau



Sacramento, The River City Chapter



Lower Sherman Island Duck Hunters Association



## Restore the Delta

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February 27, 2012

The Honorable John Boehner  
Speaker of the House  
United States House of Representatives  
H-232 The Capitol  
Washington, DC 20515

**RE: OPPOSE H.R. 1837 (Nunes)**

Dear Speaker Boehner:

On behalf of the undersigned organizations, we urge you to oppose the "San Joaquin Valley Water Reliability Act," (H.R. 1837), which was introduced by Representative Nunes. Furthermore, we do not believe that this bill merits a vote by the U.S. House of Representatives.

H.R. 1837 overrides the public trust as defined in the California Constitution and state water laws. It reverses the long-standing Congressional principle that the federal government should follow state water law whenever possible.

H.R. 1837 would reduce water quality and water availability for Delta communities and Delta farmers. It seeks to ensure water flows to corporate agribusiness in the western and southern San Joaquin Valley at the expense of Delta family farmers. The recently-released Economic Sustainability Report authored by the Delta Protection Commission shows that Delta agriculture is worth \$4.2 billion annually and provides tens of thousands of jobs. Delta agriculture and jobs should not be sacrificed to benefit water users in other parts of the state, some of whom do not even use that water for agriculture.

H.R. 1837 would hinder efforts to restore fish populations in the Delta. Science-based protections for salmon and other endangered species are required under both California state law and the Endangered Species Act. Since 2009, the State of California has consistently opposed legislation that would weaken the Endangered Species Act in the San Francisco Bay-Delta and Estuary. Title I of H.R. 1837 would substitute measures that were part of a short-term agreement in 1994, when the health of the Delta had not deteriorated so seriously and when recent scientific studies had not yet been done.

H.R. 1837 would reverse San Joaquin River restoration, thereby further impacting water quality and quantity for the south Delta. While the San Joaquin River restoration allows for a limited flow of additional water into the south Delta, breaking the promise of San Joaquin River restoration would signal to Delta communities the federal government's sacrifice of the Delta for the preference of another region in California.

This deeply-flawed bill joins a long list of water strategies created behind closed doors without input from the Delta communities that rely on a healthy Delta for their livelihoods. It threatens the economic security of families, farmers, and small business owners in the Delta, as well as those in the Delta and Northern California who depend on recreational and commercial fisheries. It also threatens the urban economy surrounding the Delta – an area that is home to four million Californians and that is dependent on the Delta to meet its water user needs.

H.R. 1837 deserves your opposition.

Sincerely yours,



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Executive Director  
Restore the Delta



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Mayor, City of Stockton  
Delta Coalition Chair



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California Water Impact Network



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San Joaquin Council of Governments

Bobby Barrack  
Professional Bass Fisherman  
Back to Class Guide Service

Jack Chapman  
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President  
CSBA Sacramento, The River City Chapter

Cc:

Nancy Sutley, Chair, White House Council on Environmental Quality  
U.S. Senator Barbara Boxer  
U.S. Senator Dianne Feinstein  
Hon. Dennis Cardoza  
Hon. Jim Costa  
Hon. Jeff Denham  
Hon. John Garamendi  
Hon. Dan Lungren  
Hon. Doris Matsui

Hon. Kevin McCarthy  
Hon. Tom McClintock  
Hon. Jerry McNerney  
Hon. George Miller  
Hon. Grace Napolitano  
Hon. Devin Nunes  
Hon. Jackie Speier  
Hon. Mike Thompson