



# California Legislature

April 3, 2020

The Honorable Gavin Newsom  
Governor, State of California  
State Capitol  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Governor Newsom:

We are writing to raise serious concerns with your administration's unprecedented Incidental Take Permit for the Long-Term Operation of the State Water Project. This action will no doubt overly complicate operation of California's water infrastructure by reducing overall water supplies and further intensifying the discord between the State Water Project and the Central Valley Project. To avoid escalating this needless water war and forcing the state to face costly litigation, we ask that you reconsider this decision.

Nothing is more vital to ensuring that California families, farms, and communities receive a reliable source of water than the successful collaboration of the state's two water projects. Responsible for delivering water throughout Southern California and the Bay Area, these two water systems are crucial for providing safe drinking water to millions of families and for helping farmers fill shelves at local grocery stores. Yet, the state's reduction of available water directly limits access to safe drinking water in urban and suburban communities and the ability of farmers to produce needed food.

Historically, California has managed the State Water Project in compliance with the operation and wildlife protection measures required by the biological opinions produced by federal agencies. As these recommendations were produced implementing the most up-to-date data and science that preserved a necessary balance between the needs of people and the environment, your administration's decision to ignore these biological opinions flies in the face of reason.


As our nation deals with and responds to COVID-19, it is important that we consider ways to help, not hinder, those who need it. At this time, we should not ignore the needs of California families nor those of essential agricultural producers. Now is not the time to issue further restrictions on access to desperately needed water.

We strongly urge you to reconsider this potentially devastating action. To ensure that Californians have access to the water they need, we recommend that your administration not pursue litigation against the 2019 biological opinions and that the State of California issue a consistency determination. Both of these actions will help move California in the right direction

by allowing the State Water Project and Central Valley Project to resume coordinated operations. We cannot emphasize enough that at this critical juncture for California, failure to act prudently will further jeopardize the welfare of Californians that depend on this stable supply of water.

Thank you for your time and attention to this issue.

Respectfully,



Assemblymember Vince Fong  
34<sup>th</sup> Assembly District



Senator Melissa Hurtado  
14<sup>th</sup> Senate District



Senator Shannon Grove  
16<sup>th</sup> Senate District



Assemblymember Jordan Cunningham  
35<sup>th</sup> Assembly District



Assemblymember James Gallagher  
3<sup>rd</sup> Assembly District



Assemblymember Jim Patterson  
23<sup>rd</sup> Assembly District



Assemblymember Devon Mathis  
26<sup>th</sup> Assembly District