



Dear Speaker Nancy Pelosi:

California is facing a water crisis. Hardworking people throughout our great state are suffering from severe water shortages that impact not only their daily lives, but also the agricultural and economic well-being of California. In fact, an economist at U.C. Davis recently concluded that drought conditions, coupled with recent federal regulations restricting the flow of water through pumps at the south end of the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta, will lead to income loss of nearly \$1 billion and 35,000 lost jobs.

Restrictions on the amount of water that may be delivered to the Central Valley have forced residents to rely more heavily on groundwater, which can lead to irreparable harm to the environment.

You are in the unique position to solve this issue. Not only are you the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, but you are first and foremost a representative of Californians. I do not see how you can actively stand against finding a common-sense solution for the farmers of our state. It is imperative that you take immediate action to help resolve this problem and aid the people of California's Central Valley.

To show your commitment to representing the people of California and solving our water crisis, I strongly urge you to support legislation to encourage the more flexible application of the Endangered Species Act during times of drought emergency in California, ensuring the free flow of water to those who desperately need it. At the very least, I implore you to stop standing in the way of other members of the California delegation who have tried to rectify this crisis.

In 2004, following a drought in New Mexico, you voted for legislation that included provisions effectively exempting water projects in that state from the requirements of the Endangered Species Act. Members of the California delegation have introduced similar legislation for the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta, but you have refused to even put the issue to a vote.

Millions of Californians rely on the water flowing from the Delta and all Californians need you to use your voice in Congress to advocate for action and to find a solution.

I have been to the Central Valley and have seen our water problems firsthand. There are short-term solutions which can help provide immediate relief, including the "Two Gates" project to increase the amount of water that is delivered through pumps at the south end of the Delta, while protecting endangered fish. We can also invest in other infrastructure to protect local species like the increased use of virtual barriers, in combination with state-of-the-art monitoring technologies.

I urge you to also visit the area so that you can see for yourself the extreme agricultural and economic hardships that Californians are enduring because of inaction from Congress.

Speaker Pelosi, join me to ensure that we get water to the Central Valley to save jobs, rescue our struggling economy, and protect the environment. Keep the water pumps pumping!

Sincerely,

Steve Poizner