

VIA Email on June 8, 2011

Dear Friend,

In the San Joaquin Valley, we share a common goal: restoring a sustainable water supply for the farmers, farmworkers, and farm communities that feed our state, the nation, and the world.

Last week, we continued the search for commonsense solutions to our water challenges during a Water and Power Subcommittee hearing on [H.R. 1837](#), the San Joaquin Valley Water Reliability Act. [Click here](#) to view a video of my opening statement at the hearing.

This bill attempts to tackle many of the same issues I have been working to resolve over the past several years. Like the [water legislation](#) I introduced in March, H.R. 1837 addresses two of our biggest challenges in California water policy.

First, this bill would ensure our water laws are implemented fairly and as Congress intended. Federal and state water laws change not just with new legislatures, but with different administrations as well. The letter, interpretation, and implementation of the laws are constantly in flux. This bill puts an end to uncertainty and ugly courtroom battles.

Second, the bill seeks to provide congressional direction for the implementation of the Endangered Species Act and restore balance and flexibility for California's water policy. Our Valley's water supply needs certainty while we work on long-term solutions like the Bay Delta Conservation Plan.

Although I support many provisions of the bill, I am troubled by others. Specifically, one provision of the bill repeals and replaces the San Joaquin River Restoration Settlement Act. Most folks agree that the settlement is not perfect. I believe we should re-examine this program, and I remain open to a discussion with those most affected by its implementation regarding the merits of this policy in the long term.

We can only find solutions if we are willing to put aside our differences and work together. Last week, I pledged my support for improving this bill and moving it forward in the legislative process. It is high time to throw away the partisan talking points and return to our proud tradition of working together for the good of the Valley. As always, I hope you will share your thoughts with me by voting in the poll below.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jim Costa". The signature is stylized and cursive.

Jim Costa
Member of Congress