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February 9, 2016

The Honorable Dianne Feinstein
331 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Feinstein,

I write to convey my support for the California drought and water supply discussion draft that you released on February 1st. In its current form, this legislation addresses our immediate water challenges while preparing our state for future droughts. The long term investments in water storage, both surface and aquifer, conservation, recycling and desalination projects, along with innovative water infrastructure financing are the most valuable elements of the bill. These provisions align with the voter-passed Proposition 1, thus enhancing that law with the coordinated activities of the Federal agencies.

The short term operations provisions in the proposed legislation fall within the boundaries of the Endangered Species Act and Biological Opinions. These provisions mirror and confirm the actions that State and Federal agencies have taken over the course of the last four years as the State and Federal agencies acted to address the effects of the drought. A vital component of these provisions is the limited time period in which these operational sections are in effect, thus making these sections emergency actions.

Your bill requires real-time monitoring of listed species, which is critically important as we try to improve the health of various fisheries. You also provide funding for the federal agencies to carry out these actions which will ensure that required monitoring is in fact completed.

I am heartened by your commitment to finding a solution that fits within our nation's landmark environmental laws and encourage you to remain true to that commitment as the legislative process plays itself out. I applaud the serious effort that you have made to work with stakeholders to craft a solution to the drought crisis effecting California and I look forward to continuing that work with you.

Sincerely,

A large, stylized handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "John Garamendi".

JOHN GARAMENDI
Member of Congress