



February 5, 2016

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

Dear Senator Feinstein,

Ducks Unlimited, the world's leader in wetlands and waterfowl conservation, and the Grassland Water District, home of the largest remaining freshwater marsh habitat on the Pacific Flyway, thanks you for your continued leadership and would like to express our support for the principles included in the California drought bill discussion draft (dated February 2, 2016). It is our understanding that this discussion draft is the product of exhaustive discussions about re-envisioning water operations in the face of California's historic drought, and providing for the necessary infrastructure investments and updates to water reuse, water recycling, water storage, groundwater recharge and water deliveries while ensuring that protections for conservation and the environment remain a fundamental policy priority.

We appreciate your commitment to several important provisions including: a commitment to water rights priorities, a focus on investing and accelerating new infrastructure and storage in the West and California in particular, funding for water reuse and groundwater recharge, and funding to benefit infrastructure investments still necessary on California's wildlife refuges. Additionally, the bill preserves CVPIA refuge water supplies, prevents the shift of oversight for refuge spending to non-refuge contractors, and maintains the CVPIA's core emphasis on mitigation and restoration.

We have some remaining concerns about the implementation of Section 602 (accelerated repayments). We believe language that conforms your discussion draft with language included in the San Luis Unit Drainage Resolution Act introduced in the House (H.R. 4366 - Valadao) is appropriate and in the best interests of the operation of CVP contracts. We look forward to working with you to resolve this issue.

California annually hosts one of the greatest concentrations of migratory waterfowl in North America, serving as the wintering home to millions of waterfowl, shorebirds, and other wetland dependent species. The majority of migratory birds that frequent Alaska, Washington and

Oregon spend their winters in California. These migratory visitors provide millions of hours of enjoyment to hunters and birdwatchers throughout the Pacific Flyway. Migratory waterfowl are an important economic driver across the Pacific Flyway. Sportsmen, including waterfowlers, contribute \$3.5 billion annually to California's economy. The birds of the Pacific Flyway are a shared resource, requiring the stewardship of not only California, but of all Western states as they migrate thousands of miles between their breeding grounds and winter homes.

On behalf of the Grassland Water District, and over one million Ducks Unlimited supporters nationwide, we thank you for your thoughtful leadership in advancing a comprehensive approach to this crisis. We look forward to working with you, Senator Boxer, other Members of the California Congressional delegation as well as leaders from the House and Senate to ensure that conservation priorities and the millions of migratory birds they serve will continue to be reflected in the drought relief package that ultimately reaches the President's desk.

Sincerely,



H. Dale Hall
Chief Executive Officer
Ducks Unlimited



Ric Ortega
General Manager
Grassland Water District