

# Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

February 20, 2008

The Honorable Arnold Schwarzenegger  
Governor, State of California  
State Capitol Building  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Governor Schwarzenegger:

With the expected continued growth of California, today, more than ever, we need to be looking toward the future. In 2006, we saw excessive rain, unusual snow melt, and flooding down stream of numerous watersheds throughout the state. In 2007, California experienced a severe drought, and the state's reservoirs finished the year with storage levels well below normal. We continue to face dry conditions, and now the state is confronted with significant curtailments of pumping from the Delta because of orders from a U.S. District Court and the California Fish and Game Commission. Clearly, this seesaw effect only furthers the need for investment in our water infrastructure future.

We greatly appreciate the hard work you have done to move the debate on the need for new water infrastructure forward. However, the current water bond proposed by the Chamber of Commerce "Version C" is unacceptable. While the bond purports to provide a comprehensive solution for all the state's water infrastructure needs, we believe that attempt has fallen short.

It was just over a year ago when an "infrastructure bond" was put before the voters - one that was touted as a massive investment in California and its environmental health. In the final negotiations on that bond, issues of delta conveyance and surface storage were left off the table in favor of ground water projects and ecosystem restoration. We were told that delta conveyance and surface storage would be addressed in the next bond.

However, once again delta conveyance and surface storage are being cast aside in favor of billions of dollars worth of ecosystem improvements. While there is a token effort in the bond to address the two issues, it is dwarfed by funds dedicated to other programs that have been addressed in previous bonds. Furthermore, the language that was included on delta conveyance and surface storage is vague and confusing. Enactment of this bond may do nothing to further the construction of a dual delta conveyance system or the construction of new surface storage and will certainly result in numerous court challenges. Inevitably, this will result in a complete lack of actual investment for the foreseeable future.

While we completely understand the difficult financial situation faced by California and the tough choices we must make together, as elected officials we must confront these problems head on in order to avoid catastrophe, the loss of life, and economic devastation in the future. We urge you to be steadfast in your work to improve our state. Like you, we believe that simply assuming today's water supply infrastructure is sufficient to accommodate our growing state would be irresponsible. Although new surface storage and delta conveyance alone will not solve all of our water problems, they are clearly the most effective ways to meet this challenge.

Therefore, we can not support the bond proposed by the Chamber of Commerce due to the unnecessary spending and lack of clarity and assurances on storage and conveyance.

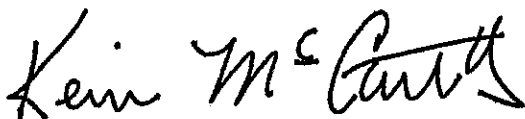
Best regards



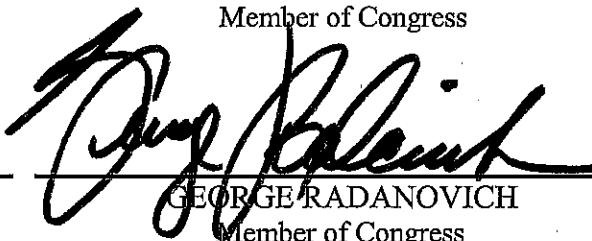
DEVIN NUNES  
Member of Congress



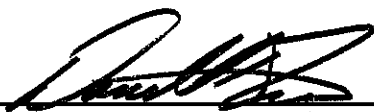
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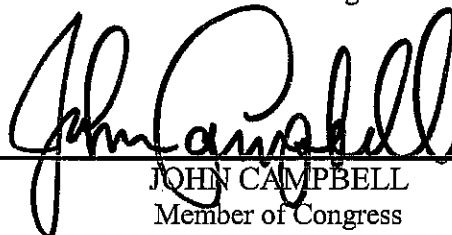
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