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CALIFORNIA LATINO LEGISLATIVE CAUCUS

February 17, 2009

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

Dear Governor Schwarzenegger:

The undersigned members of the California State Legislature's Latino (Caucus) are writing in support of the Petition for Temporary Urgency Change (February 10, 2009) submitted by the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) and the United States Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) to the State Water Resources Control Board. The Petition proposes to modify deliveries to satisfy Delta outflow requirement at Collinsville instead of Chipps Island described in the Supplement to Petition for Temporary Urgency Change (February 10, 2009). We also support DWR and Reclamation's request to waive specific starting gate provisions and flow requirements also described in the supplement to the Petition.

The Caucus has reviewed the deteriorating hydrologic conditions across much of the state and the growing negative impacts created by restrictions imposed by the courts on Delta water export pumping. From this review and analysis of other relevant information, the Caucus has concluded that relaxation of the Delta water export pumping restrictions as specified in the Petition are essential to provide supplies of water vital to avoiding a greater economic and social catastrophe than already exists as a result of the recession.

Members of our caucus represent constituents for whom the current recession is being worsened rapidly – economically and socially – by increased curtailments in water supplies. Permitting these Delta outflow modifications will help to temporarily reduce the hardship that our constituents and many others are currently facing.

Thank you, Governor, for your concern and efforts in dealing with this critical problem. We look forward to working with you and your administration in search of water solutions that benefit all Californians.

Sincerely,



Senator Gil Cedillo, Chair
Latino Caucus



Assembly Member Tony Mendoza,
Vice Chair Latino Caucus