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UNITED STATES
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
February 26, 2009

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COMMITTEE ON BUDGET

ASSISTANT REPUBLICAN WHIP

The Honorable Barack Obama
President of the United States
1600 Pennsylvania Ave, NW
Washington, DC 20502

Dear President Obama:

It has been three weeks since my last correspondence (attached) and the economic catastrophe caused by water supply shortages in the State of California has only gotten worse. We have now seen your stimulus package enacted and the omnibus appropriations bill pass the House. Yet, despite my urging, neither of them contained a "zero cost" provision that would save 80,000 jobs in the San Joaquin Valley.

A simple measure that would save up to 80,000 jobs would be to relax restrictions on pumping facilities in the Sacramento - San Joaquin Rivers Delta that have caused the regulatory drought that my constituents are experiencing. (Presently those restrictions are resulting in a loss of nearly 8,000 acre-feet per day.) By eliminating those restrictions you would enable family farmers to cultivate nearly 500,000 acres of land that otherwise will have to be fallowed because of a lack of water. The economic loss of fallowing this ground will reach \$2.2 billion dollars. Ironically, this is close to the same amount of money that my constituents are being asked to provide the Federal government as their share of the nearly one trillion dollar stimulus package.

Your administration requested a list of "shovel ready" projects that can break ground within 180 days. Below is a list of such projects that total \$261 million. Considering my constituents were asked to pay nearly \$2 billion to fund your economic stimulus package, I would hope that you are able to find a way to invest a small portion of their funds back into the local community.

- \$3 million for the completion of State Route 180 from Temperance to Academy in Fresno, California;
- \$2.5 million for Friant Road Reconstruction (SR 41 - Shepherd) in Fresno, California;
- \$5 million for Manning Avenue Rehabilitation in Reedley, California;
- \$4.2 million for Dimuba Avenue Rehabilitation in Reedley, California;
- \$170 million for State Route 99 expansion between the cities of Goshen and Tulare, California;
- \$7 million for Betty Drive Widening in Tulare County, California;
- \$14 million for Ben Maddox Bridge Widening in Visalia, California;
- \$48 million for Road 80 expansion in Tulare County, California;
- \$7.2 million for Road 192 expansion in Tulare County, California;

I remain convinced that you can achieve a "zero cost" immediate relief by restoring delta pumping to historic levels. But in the meantime, I stand ready to work with you on these projects.

Best regards,

Devin Nunes
Member of Congress

CC: Speaker Nancy Pelosi; Interior Secretary Ken Salazar; Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger; Senator Dianne Feinstein; Senator Barbara Boxer; California Secretary for Natural Resources Mike Chrisman;