

**DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES****CALIFORNIA WATER COMMISSION**

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**Joseph Byrne**  
Chair

September 6, 2013

**Joe Del Bosque**  
Vice Chair

**Andrew Ball**  
Member

The Honorable Bill Shuster  
Chairman  
Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2165 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

**Daniel Curtin**  
Member

**Kimberley Delfino**  
Member

**Luther Hintz**  
Member

The Honorable Nick J. Rahall, II  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2163 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

**Adán Ortega, Jr.**  
Member

**David Orth**  
Member

**Anthony Saracino**  
Member

Dear Chairman Shuster and Ranking Member Rahall:

**Sue Sims**  
Executive Officer

The California Water Commission, whose mission is to support projects and programs that further the development of sustainable water resources management and a healthy environment in California, respectfully requests your support of comprehensive federal Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) legislation.

We believe it is vitally important that Congress pass legislation this year to help modernize and preserve our nation's critical water infrastructure, provide critical flood protection, fund innovation in water management, and protect ecosystems and habitat. California, like many other states, faces great challenges to improve its water management systems in the face of a growing population, aging water system infrastructure, and increasing demands for reliable water supplies, all while dealing with the uncertainties of climate change impacts and heightened environmental concerns. Local and state agencies need strong federal support and strategic investments to ensure our nation's water future.

One of the statutory responsibilities of the California Water Commission is to present information to Congress on appropriations for flood control projects under the jurisdiction of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and reclamation projects planned by the Bureau of Reclamation. In recent years, the state, federal and local governments in our state have made significant progress to improve flood management and protection, especially in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Valley which has one of the highest flood risks in the country. However, as outlined in the recently-released California's Flood Future Report prepared by the Department of Water Resources, there still exists an immediate need for more than \$50 billion to complete flood management improvements and projects in the state, or face

The Honorable Bill Shuster  
The Honorable Nick J. Rahall, II  
September 6, 2013  
Page 2

tremendous loss of life, property, infrastructure and ecosystems from the inevitable flooding. The federal government, working with state and local agencies, must take steps now to reduce risk and lay the groundwork for long-term solutions. Passage of a WRDA bill will go a long way toward meeting these objectives.

In addition to flood protection and related investments, California is on a path of significant progress in water management including implementing statewide conservation requirements for urban users and agriculture, significant state and local investments in infrastructure and integrated water management, and a proposed Bay Delta Conservation Plan to help meet the co-equal goals of ecosystem restoration and water supply reliability for 25 million Californians and 3 million acres of farmland.

We strongly urge the passage of a WRDA bill that will provide funding and improve the federal-state coordination and cooperation in managing our vital water infrastructure resources for the benefit of our people, our environment, and our economy.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joseph Byrne", is centered on a light gray rectangular background.

Joseph Byrne  
Chairman, California Water Commission

Cc: California House Members  
Washington D.C. Office of the Governor, State of California  
John Laird, California Secretary for Natural Resources  
Mark W. Cowin, Director, California Department of Water Resources  
Kasey Schimke, Assistant Director for Legislation, California Department of Water Resources