

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

June 4, 2009

The Honorable Nick Rahall
Chairman
House Natural Resources Committee
1324 Longworth HOB
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Doc Hastings
Ranking Member
House Natural Resources Committee
1329 Longworth HOB
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Rahall and Ranking Member Hastings:

We write to follow-up on our earlier request for the House Natural Resources Committee to hold a field hearing on the man-made drought in the San Joaquin Valley.

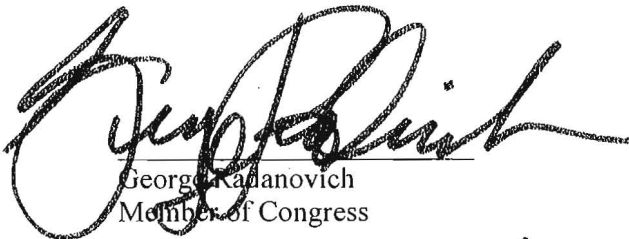
At the time of our March 31, 2009 request, the San Joaquin Valley and southern California faced crippling job losses and economic disaster because of a Biological Opinion on the three-inch Delta Smelt. Today's proposal by the Obama Administration to curtail even more water deliveries to California farms and cities in the name of salmon, steelhead, green sturgeon, and killer whale protection will make matters even more devastating to California's communities.

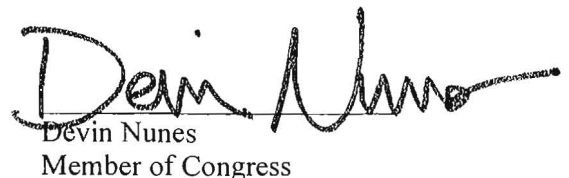
Very little has been done to help California's San Joaquin water-starved communities in the last few months. Red-tape, bureaucratic inertia and lack of adequate funding have made a bad situation even worse in the San Joaquin Valley. In addition, President Obama's skipping an opportunity to witness the dire economic and social situation in the San Joaquin Valley so he could attend a \$3 million Hollywood fundraiser on May 24th left the impression that policy-makers in Washington, DC fail to understand the everyday plights of Valley farmers and farm-workers.

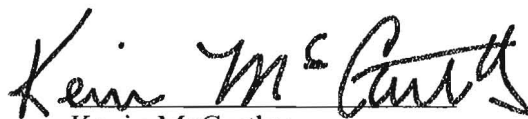
The Natural Resources Committee has an opportunity to reverse this perception by holding a field hearing this summer in the San Joaquin Valley where Congress can listen firsthand to impacted citizens and tour the nearby area to begin the process of enacting real change for the hard working people who put food on America's table.

We hope you agree that the status quo of massive unemployment and economic turmoil in the name of protecting fish is unacceptable. We stand ready to work with you immediately to ensure a field hearing occurs so the people's voices can be heard. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,


George Kalanovich
Member of Congress


Devin Nunes
Member of Congress


Kevin McCarthy
Member of Congress