



Frustration Sparks Federal Legislation

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For years, the federal government's involvement in the efforts to restore a balance between providing water supplies to more than 25 million Californians and 3 million acres of highly productive farmland and protecting native species in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta have been ineffective. The Obama Administration has repeatedly failed to provide leadership on this critical issue.

Acknowledging the growing frustration among all parties involved in the Delta, Rep.

Devin Nunes (R-Visalia), along with Reps. McCarthy (R-Bakersfield) and Denham (R-Turlock),

introduced H.R. 1837 to address some of the major water problems facing the State, particularly the San Joaquin Valley.

The Coalition for a Sustainable Delta has been seeking a comprehensive solution to the Delta's problems that improves the reliability of water deliveries through the Delta while taking into account the needs of endangered species. As the federal court has found, current operating rules for the Delta do not strike such a balance and are not scientifically justified. Pumping restrictions have resulted in millions of acre-feet of water being lost to the ocean, while failing to achieve any demonstrable benefit to endangered species.

Due to a lack of action by the Obama Administration, including in the context of the

Bay Delta Conservation Plan, the issue remains mired in multiple federal court proceedings. A federal judge has ruled that the current operating rules fail to comply with applicable laws and regulations, but meanwhile, residential,

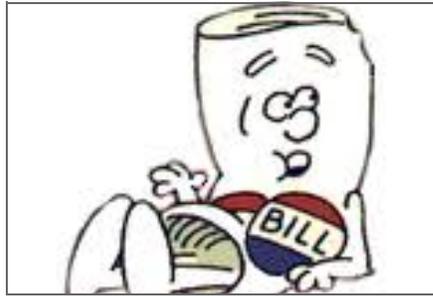
commercial, and agricultural water users are stuck with those requirements until the federal wildlife agencies come up with new operating rules for the federal and state water projects. No one should be surprised that frustration over this stalemate has pushed federal legislators to

step in and try to facilitate a solution.

We appreciate the leadership and

continue to support the efforts of Governor Brown's Administration to develop and implement the Bay Delta Conservation Plan, but the federal government must also take a proactive role in this vital process. Rather than threatening to veto H.R. 1837, the Obama Administration needs to engage in the process of proposing constructive solutions and fully commit to successful and timely completion of the Bay Delta Conservation Plan.

H.R. 1837 might not be a perfect solution, but it is furthering this important debate in our nation's capital and could lead to more reliable Delta water supplies. Those who depend on the Delta, both humans and fish, have gone far too long without leadership from elected officials in Washington.



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A Project of the Coalition for a Sustainable Delta