

# Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

December 15, 2025

The Honorable Scott J. Cameron  
Acting Commissioner  
U.S. Bureau of Reclamation  
1849 C St., NW  
Washington, D.C. 20240

Re: Action 5 Operations Plan for the Long-Term Operation of the Central Valley Project and State Water Project

Dear Acting Commissioner Cameron:

We write regarding the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation's December 2<sup>nd</sup> Record of Decision to begin implementing the Trump Administration's Executive Order 14181, "Emergency Measures to Provide Water Resources in California and Improve Disaster Response in Certain Areas." As Members representing the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta, we are deeply concerned that Reclamation's Action 5 would endanger California's water supply, disrupt coordinated operations between state and federal agencies, and weaken environmental protections for the region.

The Delta is the hub of California's water supply, providing fresh water to approximately 30 million Californians and 6 million acres of farmland. As the largest estuary on the West Coast, the Delta also provides critical habitat for endangered fish and wildlife species. The long-term sustainability of the Delta's fresh water supply and ecosystem depends on careful, scientifically backed coordination between the Central Valley Project and State Water Project.

Pumping additional water out of the Delta into the southbound aqueducts of the Central Valley Project, as directed in Action 5, could force the State Water Project to reduce water exports. Not only will this endanger water supply for millions of Californians who rely on the State Water Project, but it will also create uncertainty for the farmers that depend on Delta water.

In addition, Action 5 threatens to reverse decades of hard work and compromise between state and federal agencies to maximize California water supplies in a science-based manner. As currently proposed, Reclamation would be unilaterally implementing sweeping changes to long-standing activities in the Delta. Our state's water supply operations already face countless obstacles. We cannot risk jeopardizing the collaborative operational relationship between state and federal agencies. All significant operational decisions must include comprehensive multi-agency feedback that incorporates technical and regulatory expertise from state and local agencies.

We are also deeply concerned that Action 5 would harm threatened fish and the Delta's fragile ecosystem. State, federal, and local agencies have committed significant resources to address declining fish populations in the Delta and bolster California's commercial and recreational fishing industries. We are concerned Action 5 could compromise these efforts and push threatened fish species closer to the brink of extinction. Action 5 does not fall within the 2024 Final Environmental Impact Statement on the Coordinated Long-Term Operations of the Central Valley Project and State Water Project, nor

are its effects fully evaluated within prior relevant biological opinions. That is why we insist Reclamation conduct a full *National Environmental Policy Act* review to evaluate the effects of Action 5 and ensure compliance with all relevant laws, including endangered species restrictions.

Management of California's water supply must not choose between winners and losers. All Californians and the vibrant communities that call the Delta home deserve a water supply plan that prioritizes solutions over partisan games. Unfortunately, rather than striking a fair balance between Californians, farmers, and wildlife, Action 5 could cause irreparable harm to Delta communities and ecosystems.

We urge you to work with the State of California and local stakeholders to develop science-backed steps that will secure California's water supply and safeguard the Delta. We look forward to your prompt response.

Sincerely,



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John Garamendi  
Member of Congress



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Ami Bera, M.D.  
Member of Congress



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Mark DeSaulnier  
Member of Congress



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Josh Harder  
Member of Congress



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Jared Huffman  
Member of Congress



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Doris Matsui  
Member of Congress



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Mike Thompson  
Member of Congress