



October 26, 2021

The Honorable Deb Haaland
Secretary
U.S. Department of Interior
1849 C Street NW
Washington D.C. 20240

The Honorable Wade Crowfoot
Secretary
California Natural Resources Agency
715 P Street, 20th Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Secretary Haaland and Secretary Crowfoot:

We are opposed to new court filings in California's lawsuit challenging the 2019 Biological Opinions for coordinated operations of the federal Central Valley Project (CVP) and the State Water Project (SWP). These filings include an unprecedented and unvetted interim operations plan for the upcoming water year in California.

California continues to struggle with the impacts of COVID-19, in addition to enduring through the worst drought year since the historic 1976-1977 drought.

The worldwide pandemic has shuttered international trade and congested ports. These issues have hampered our ability to move our high quality, California-grown agricultural products to market.

Immigration, border issues, and unemployment benefits have made a tight labor market even tighter.

Our agricultural members proactively worked with government officials to get much needed personal protective equipment for our employees and neighbors. We organized multiple vaccine clinics throughout 2021 to protect our hard-to-reach population.

As we have known – and has been highlighted over the last year and a half – facts and findings grounded on science need to be followed. That ethos should also apply to the coordinated operations of the CVP and SWP.

We support continued efforts by your respective departments to work collaboratively to manage operations of California's major water infrastructure.

California communities are in desperate need of relief. Many of our most disadvantaged communities are lacking reliable, clean drinking water.

In addition, Groundwater Sustainability Agencies are expediting enforcement actions to minimize negative impacts resulting from groundwater overdraft. We implore you to work together to alleviate these extreme circumstances, rather than exacerbate them.

We are willing to help provide solutions, along with bringing interested parties together to help the communities where we live, work, and grow to stay alive. Only by fostering partnership among all levels of government and among interested parties can we resolve California's short- and long-term water issues.

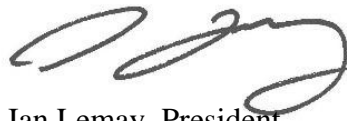
Please feel free to reach out to us. We recognize the complexity and the need for careful consideration to managing water in California.

Thank you for your attention to this critical issue.

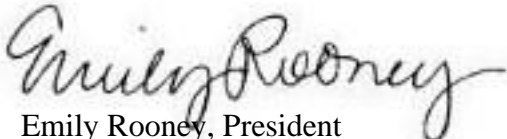
Sincerely,



Casey Creamer, President/CEO
California Citrus Mutual



Ian Lemay, President
California Fresh Fruit Association



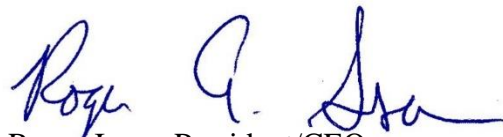
Emily Rooney, President
Agricultural Council of California



Richard Matoian, Executive Director
American Pistachio Growers



Todd Sanders, Executive Director
California Apple Commission
California Blueberry Commission
California Olive Committee
California Wild Rice Advisory Board
California Blueberry Association
Olive Growers Council of California
California Olive Oil Council



Roger Isom, President/CEO
California Cotton Ginner & Growers Assoc.
Western Agricultural Processors Association