

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

May 16, 2008

The Honorable Arnold Schwarzenegger, Governor
State of California
State Capitol Building
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Governor Schwarzenegger:

As members of the California Congressional Delegation, we urge your administration not to revoke the existing water rights held by the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) for the Auburn Dam. As recent conditions demonstrate, now is not the time for the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) to be using its resources to *decrease* potential water supply for the state. Instead, the SWRCB should consider the additional water supply an Auburn Dam would offer the region and should actively promote it.

In your 2007 State of the State address, you emphasized the need for additional surface water storage in California. We agreed with you then, as we do now, that the current water supply infrastructure is insufficient to accommodate our growing state. The existing water rights for the Auburn Dam would assist in our combined efforts to provide California's residents with adequate water supply. According to a recent report issued by Reclamation, a multi-purpose Auburn Dam would provide an additional 343,000 acre feet of annual deliveries during dry and critically dry years. While construction of the Auburn Dam has been delayed, the existing water rights are a valuable potential source of much-needed water.

In addition to increasing water supply for the area, an Auburn Dam would offer several other significant benefits. Most importantly, the Auburn Dam is the only way to provide Sacramento with the needed protection against a 500 year flood event. The dam would also provide hydroelectric power, recreation benefits, and assistance in managing river flows downstream, including positive impacts on the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta. These advantages should not be sacrificed by revoking Reclamation's water rights; such action is of no use other than to appease those who zealously seek to destroy the Auburn Dam and the great benefits that it would provide.

We strongly urge you not to revoke Reclamation's existing permit. Please keep us informed of any development in this matter.

Sincerely,

John T. Doherty

Jimmy Lewis

Jim Campbell

Derin Nungesser

Will Calvert

George Schanoch

Ed Royce

Wally Harger

May Bonomack

Jay Ferguson

Kir McCann

Dana Rohrab

Sue P. Kiff

Paul K. [unclear] 1949

Daniel Klein

Duck McKen

Byrd [unclear]

Elly [unclear]

Amos [unclear]