



April 19, 2021

Governor Gavin Newsom
State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: County Leaders Urge Support for Emergency Declaration Request

Dear Governor Newsom;

As chairs of boards of supervisors representing agricultural regions of the San Joaquin Valley, we write to you to express our support of the bipartisan and bicameral [request for a statewide emergency drought declaration](#) sent to you on April 7, 2021 by Senate Agriculture Committee Chairman Andreas Borgeas. In light of the recent water allocation announcement to California farmers and growers, we are writing to share our concerns and respectfully request that your administration take immediate steps to address this pending statewide emergency. California produces half of the nation's livestock and produce products, which are an essential part of our local economies.

Agriculture is a cornerstone of our local economies and will sustain significant losses as water scarcity becomes a reality. It is estimated that one million acres of land may be fallowed in the San Joaquin Valley over a period of two to three decades as a result of reduced ground and surface water availability. A drought will expedite this loss in productivity and result in thousands of lost jobs.

By providing agencies more flexibility under a state of emergency order, state agencies and stakeholders can work together to adapt to this challenging situation. All tools should be available to minimize red tape for water transfers, and allow state agencies to modify certain reservoir release standards to allow for more water to go to farms and communities throughout the state. We, the undersigned, respectfully request your administration consider the request for an emergency declaration.

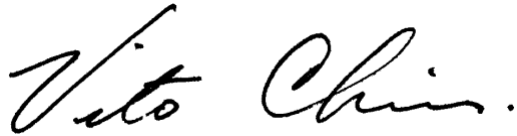
Sincerely,



Steve Brandau
Chair
Fresno County Board of Supervisors



Robert Poythress
Chair
Madera County Board of Supervisors



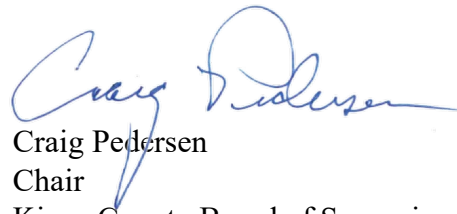
Vito Chiesa
Chair
Stanislaus County Board of Supervisors



Amy Shuklian
Chair
Tulare County Board of Supervisors



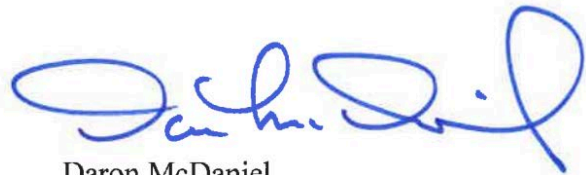
Tom Patti
Chair
San Joaquin County Board of Supervisors



Craig Pedersen
Chair
Kings County Board of Supervisors



Phillip Peters, Supervisor
County of Kern, First District



Daron McDaniel
Chair
Merced County Board of Supervisors