

Assembly Member Adam Gray

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April 9, 2015

We look forward to seeing this common-sense solution implemented, and offer our full support to Assembly Bill 1242 and its passage.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Rodrigo Espinoza". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "R" and "E".

Rodrigo Espinoza, Mayor
City of Livingston



City of Livingston

1416 C Street
Livingston, CA 95334

April 9, 2015

Assembly Member Adam Gray
P.O. Box 942949
Sacramento, CA 94249-0021

Dear Assembly Member Gray:

On behalf of the City of Livingston, I am writing in support of Assembly Bill 1242. As you know, the State Water Resources Control Board has proposed new unimpaired flow requirements on the Tuolumne, Merced and Stanislaus Rivers. The consequences of such a plan will reach far beyond agriculture, and will be devastating to our local economy.

Cities bear a tremendous responsibility to ensure quality infrastructure and protect the public's safety, and can only do so effectively when we have adequate means. City governments in the Central Valley, which typically serve overwhelmingly disadvantaged populations, have been disproportionately affected by the recent housing boom and economic downturn. This is particularly true in Livingston – with a population which is 17% South Asian, and over 70% Latino. We depend on the revenues generated by agriculture and its economic multiplier for our lifeblood. Additionally, we rely on a sustainable groundwater supply for drinking water.

It is ludicrous for the State Water Board to seriously consider a proposal whose impact will be to deny our area 350,000 acre feet of water each year. To put it in context, this is more water than the Merced Irrigation District provided for all agricultural use in an average year. It makes no sense to demand increases in flows, while at the same time mandating necessary reforms in groundwater management. Agricultural irrigation is the number one source of groundwater recharge. Don't take away this important tool.

We believe that AB 1242 provides a critical protection to our people, our economy and our way of life. It ensures that the agency tasked with an important mandate of environmental stewardship does not adversely affect thousands of human lives. For us, this is a public health and environmental justice issue.