



April 14, 2015

Modesto Means Business

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Adam Gray
Assemblyman, 21st District
P.O. Box 942849
Sacramento, CA 94249-0021

RE: Support for Assembly Bill 1242

Dear Assemblyman Gray,

The Modesto Chamber of Commerce strongly supports 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.

The State Water Board's proposal seriously threatens our ability to keep the water healthy, let alone provide enough for our 250,000 residents.

For us, this is not simply an agricultural issue. This proposal by the State Water Board effectively ends discussions, and also ends our chances to achieve groundwater sustainability without serious and lasting economic devastation.

We find it curious that the State Water Board would focus its attention for increasing flows into the Delta from small rivers that account for less than 20% of the Delta's inflow while ignoring much larger rivers that provide over 80% of the water.

The overwhelmingly disadvantaged populations in the Central Valley have been disproportionately affected by the recent housing boom and economic downturn. Our residents and businesses cannot afford such a massive, disproportionate and discriminatory take of water.

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 lives.

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

Sincerely,

Cecil Russell
CEO/President Modesto Chamber of Commerce