

I voted Yes on H.R. 1837, the San Joaquin Valley Water Reliability Act.

This bill would allow for increased water access to the San Joaquin Valley in California for agricultural and municipal use, while limiting the enforcement of certain burdensome environmental rules and regulations. It would require the Department of the Interior to increase the water delivery capability of the Central Valley Project by a total of 800,000 acre-feet of water by September 2016. It would also require that all current and future operations under the Central Valley Project comply with conditions of California's own Bay-Delta Accord to meet the unique water issues of the state.

The economy of San Joaquin Valley has been stifled for years by fights over the proper level of environmental species protections for the Delta smelt – a 3 inch fish. These resulting lack of water through a man-made drought inflicted massive economic damage on farmers that provide the majority of our nation's fresh fruits and vegetables. We must be careful to implement policies that safeguard endangered species while not unnecessarily hampering our agricultural needs and restricting water delivery to local communities.

This bill protects up to 30,000 jobs and would provide a reliable water supply for the citizens, farmers, and fish of the state of California.

This legislation was approved by a vote of 246—175—1.