

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

June 8, 2007

The Hon. Grace F. Napolitano, Chairwoman
Subcommittee on Water and Power
1522 Longworth House Office Building
Fax: (202) 226-6953

Dear Chairwoman Napolitano:

We are writing to request that the Water & Power subcommittee hold an oversight hearing on the ongoing crisis in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta.

As you know, both the state and federal water projects – which supply water to homes, farms, and commercial and industrial entities throughout the state – have recently been temporarily shut down in response to the Delta fisheries' collapse and court rulings that the agencies have violated state and federal law.

Because the dramatic decline of the Bay-Delta estuary has serious ramifications for California's water management, which in turn has such important implications for our state's economy and our environment, we are requesting an oversight hearing to look into two specific issues:

- (1) The current scientific understanding of the health of the estuary and its native fisheries, including the threatened Delta smelt; and
- (2) How the federal and state agencies are responding to the problem to promote the estuary's recovery, to ensure that future actions do not exacerbate the Delta's problems, and to help water users throughout the state conserve and recycle water to mitigate against the effects of the pump shutdown.

Thank you for your attention to this serious matter, and for your continued efforts on behalf of our state's water future.

Sincerely,




GEORGE MILLER
Member of Congress

ELLEN O. TAUSCHER
Member of Congress

MIKE HONDA
Member of Congress


MIKE THOMPSON
Member of Congress


LYNN C. WOOLSEY
Member of Congress


TOM LANTOS
Member of Congress