



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

February 14, 2014

The Honorable Mary Landrieu
Chairman, Committee on Energy & Natural Resources
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Lisa Murkowski
Ranking Member, Committee on Energy & Natural Resources
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Madam Chairman and Senator Murkowski:

California is experiencing the worst water crisis in our modern history. We are in the third consecutive year of extremely dry conditions. Precipitation and snowpack are a small fraction of their normal averages. Reservoirs are at very low levels and rivers have severely diminished flows. We face extreme water scarcity for an uncertain duration.

Farmers, farmworkers, businesses and entire communities that depend on agricultural water supplies are confronted by these dire conditions. Many ranchers cannot feed their livestock because their animals' feed did not grow over the winter. Growers are choosing not to plant crops because they will not be able to irrigate their land. Workers who pick, process and transport crops, as well as those who work with livestock, face widespread unemployment. Many rural communities have limited supplies of drinking water. The threat of wildfire is high and will grow if dry conditions persist. The drought threatens endangered and threatened species who rely on California's rivers for life.

This growing crisis made it necessary to proclaim a state of emergency in January and call on all Californians to reduce their water consumption by 20 percent. We are taking immediate action to conserve all we can, including holding back water in our reservoirs for use later in the year. We are also taking steps to increase water storage, conservation, recycling, water transfers and other solutions that will increase our water reliability for years to come.

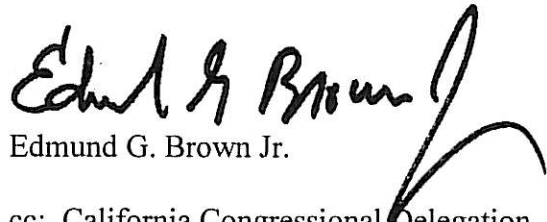
The Honorable Mary Landrieu
The Honorable Lisa Murkowski
February 14, 2014
Page 2

While the state is responding decisively to this threat, we welcome federal government assistance during this time of emergency.

The California Emergency Drought Relief Act of 2014, introduced by Senators Feinstein, Boxer, Wyden and Merkley in the Senate and Representatives Costa, Cardenas and Farr in the House of Representatives, provides relief as soon as possible and is respectful of our state's laws. This legislation provides necessary tools to supply additional water when it is available and offers disaster assistance to farmers and communities that desperately need it. I urge support of this legislation.

While we can't make it rain, we can unite to respond to the profound threat that water scarcity poses to Californians. This is not a partisan adversary — this is Mother Nature.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Edmund G. Brown Jr.", with a large, stylized flourish extending from the end of the name.

Edmund G. Brown Jr.

cc: California Congressional Delegation