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April 9th, 2015

State Capitol
Assembly Member Adam Gray
P.O. Box 942849
Sacramento, CA 94249-0021

Dear Assembly Member Gray:

Please accept this letter of support regarding 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 overwhelmingly disadvantaged populations in the Central Valley have been disproportionately affected by the recent housing boom and economic downturn. They depend on the revenues generated by agriculture and its economic multiplier for their lifeblood. Additionally, Valley cities rely on a sustainable groundwater supply for drinking water. Our goal is to safeguard a healthy local economy, so they can sustain and improve their quality of life.

This proposal will restore fairness to an unfair equation - preventing the State from requiring serious groundwater management on one hand, and attempting to take away the tools to accomplish that on the other. 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,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Shawn Dwyer". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Shawn Dwyer, President
The Greater Merced Chamber of Commerce