

# **WATER POLICY CROSSROADS**

October 16, 1995

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Dairymen**

The Honorable Bill Clinton  
President of the United States  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Ave.  
Washington, D.C. 20500

OCT 19 1995

Dear President Clinton:

Few public policy issues in California are as important as a safe, reliable, economical and sufficient long-term water supply. Our state is currently at a crossroads in the management of its water resources. What happens in the water policy arena during the next few years will, to a large degree, determine the future economic performance and quality of life in California.

Exacerbated by recurrent droughts and a growing population, the state's water shortages will become even more pronounced unless comprehensive solutions are quickly put in place. The vitality of the state's economy hinges on the ability of policymakers to find and implement a resolution to California's water crisis.

Important progress toward resolving the state's water problems has been made in recent months, but we cannot allow that progress to stop short of a long-term, comprehensive solution that ensures a safe, reliable, economical and sufficient water supply for all Californians in the future.

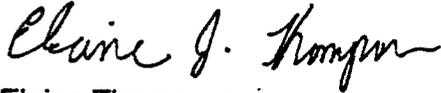
The next few years represent a pivotal period in preparing to meet the water needs of the next century. Policymakers can either take advantage of the window of opportunity created by the CALFED and Bay-Delta Advisory Council (BDAC) process, or allow the state to follow a path of uncertain supplies in the future. Balancing the social, economic and environmental water needs of the state is the key to resolving California's water policy crisis.

Any thorough discussion of water issues in California quickly turns to the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta, an area often referred to as the intersection of the state's environment and economy. If water is the lifeblood of the California economy, the Delta is the heart of our state's complex water delivery system. As such, any comprehensive solution to California's water problems must necessarily begin in the Delta.

We have developed the enclosed policy paper to expand and elevate the discussion of California's looming water problems so that comprehensive solutions can be developed and implemented. *Water Policy Crossroads* focuses on the role of the Delta and the need for a long-term solution to the region's complex problems.

We look forward to your increased involvement as a long overdue resolution to one of the state's most pressing issues is pursued. Your leadership will be necessary as we start today to prepare for tomorrow.

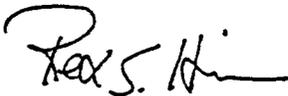
Sincerely,



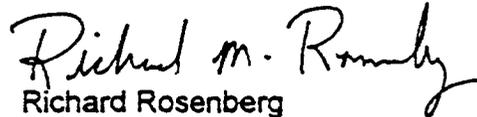
Elaine Thompson  
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Robert Rivinius  
Chief Executive Officer  
California Building Industry Association



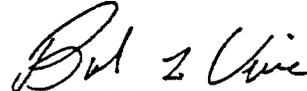
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Kirk West  
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Bob L. Vice  
President  
California Farm Bureau Federation



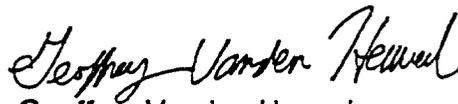
Sharon McGuire  
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California State Council of Laborers



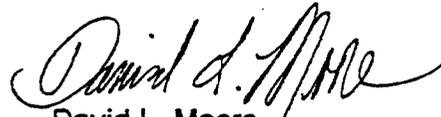
Mike Kunce  
Vice President  
Council for a Green Environment



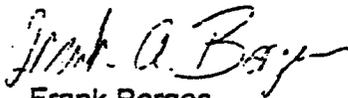
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Frank Borges  
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