



**ASSEMBLYMEMBER ADAM C. GRAY  
21ST ASSEMBLY DISTRICT**

**For Immediate Release:** July 6, 2018

**Contact:** Adam Capper

**Phone:** (916) 319-2021

## **The Next Chapter of California's Water Wars Has Begun**

**(Sacramento)** – Assemblymember Adam C. Gray (D-Merced) released the following statement condemning today's announcement from the State Water Resources Control Board to ignore decade's worth of science and public opinion by adopting radical new requirements to seize and waste critically needed San Joaquin Valley water supplies.

"The State Water Resources Control Board's decision today is the first shot fired in the next chapter of California's water wars. The board has chosen to create, in their own words, 'a permanent regulatory drought' and shrugged off our concerns as 'significant but unavoidable'.

This is what theft looks like. A small group of special interests have spent years plotting one of the largest water takes in our state's history. They attempted and failed to change the law and win in court, so instead they have infiltrated government itself. They positioned their allies to influence the process from within and spent hundreds of millions of dollars of taxpayer money to prop up their house of cards. Despite entire agencies at their disposal and seemingly unlimited funds, no amount of trickery can obscure the truth – their fish first philosophy will decimate our region, poison our drinking water, and provide no environmental benefit what-so-ever.

These special interests are desperate to claim the moral high ground and demonize our entire region. They speak about the people of the San Joaquin Valley as if we are parasites on the land and demand we apologize for our very existence.

They do this because without the zealous drumbeat of environmentalism on their side, the truth would have an opportunity to surface. People would begin to question the wisdom of poisoning the drinking water of poor immigrant communities or the sense in decimating the farms that feed the nation and fields that make California's farm-to-fork movement possible. People would question why the proponents of a plan designed to save fish cannot demonstrate any meaningful

benefit to those very fish or why the questions and concerns of a million people do not deserve even a halfhearted response. People might even question whether it is really environmentally friendly to sacrifice the health of one environment for the health of another.

They have left us no alternative. We will continue to negotiate with the best interests of the Valley at heart, but, if the state continues to violate the principles of good faith, a decades worth of lawsuits are about to begin.

The final public comment period is now open until July 27<sup>th</sup> with final adoption scheduled for August 21<sup>st</sup>. Please submit your comments to tell the State Water Board exactly how their plan will impact your community. They have made the comment period short to try to keep us quiet. Let's not let them."

# # #

*Assemblymember Adam C. Gray represents the 21<sup>st</sup> Assembly District which includes all of Merced County and portions of Stanislaus County.*