

**From:** Representative Jerry McNerney [JerryMcNerney@mail.house.gov]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 04, 2009 9:43 AM  
**To:** jmcleery@duckpondsoftware.com  
**Subject:** A message from Jerry McNerney

JERRY McNERNEY  
11th DISTRICT, CALIFORNIA  
COMMITTEES:  
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November 4, 2009

Dear Ms. McCleery,

Thank you for contacting me to express your opposition to the "Two Gates" project and your concerns about a potential peripheral canal. I appreciate learning your views, and I value your input.

The Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta is the nexus of California's water distribution system, providing drinking water for tens of millions of people and supporting agricultural industries throughout the state. The Delta is more, however, than simply a resource for southern California. Delta waterways flow through five counties that are home to four million people whose health, well-being, and livelihoods are dependent up on a reliable supply of clean water. I am honored to represent significant portions of Contra Costa County and San Joaquin County - two of the five "Delta Counties," - and I am fighting tirelessly for policies that protect water quality and water availability for the families, farmers, and businesses in our communities.

Like you, I am deeply concerned that a proposed canal that diverts additional fresh water from the Delta would be harmful to our communities. Too often, key decisions affecting the Delta are made without sufficient input from Delta residents, and our communities must have a seat at the table as negotiations affecting our well-being occur. That's why I wrote a letter to Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar insisting that he actively solicit input from my constituents in Contra Costa County and San Joaquin County as his Department makes decisions about water supply in California. I also wrote a similar letter to Governor Schwarzenegger pledging to fight federal support for projects that are harmful to San Joaquin Delta communities. These letters can be found on my website at [www.mcnerney.house.gov](http://www.mcnerney.house.gov). I will not accept proposals that threaten to further erode water resources for my constituents.

I also understand the concerns you raise about the Two Gates project. As you may know, this project is intended to test new mechanisms to protect certain fish species. However, I have heard from residents of nearby communities who are concerned that Two Gates could inhibit boating access and threaten the quality of local water supplies. I am closely monitoring this project and I am consulting with local government agencies as well as the Bureau of Reclamation to ensure that residents of eastern Contra Costa County are not unduly affected by this proposal. I will continue advocating on behalf of Delta communities, and I encourage you to stay in touch with my office to share your thoughts on Two Gates and other issues affecting the Delta.

In addition to advocating for Delta residents at the federal level, I am working hard to bring home funding for key water projects in our area. Since 2007, I have secured several million dollars for projects that are improving levees, recharging the groundwater basin, and improving existing water infrastructure. For example, I helped secure \$835,000 in federal stimulus funding for the Farmington Groundwater Recharge Project, and I brought back \$4.79 million in 2009 funding for levee stability projects in Contra Costa and San Joaquin counties. These initiatives are helping our communities maximize the water resources available to us.

I am also advancing common-sense policies that will improve water availability in every part of California. I was proud to introduce H.R. 700, the Healthy Communities Water Supply Act, which authorizes federal funding for innovative water projects. I also championed key legislation to permanently codify the WaterSense program, which is similar to Energy Star for power and appliances. WaterSense labels water-efficient products so that consumers can make well-informed purchases. Both of these initiatives have passed the House of Representatives, and I am hopeful that they will be signed into law.

I believe that we can work together to protect water quality and water availability for San Joaquin Delta communities and to give residents of the Delta a leading voice in the decision that affect them. As I continue working on water policy, I will keep your comments in mind.

Thank you again for sharing your views. Please do not hesitate to contact me if I can be of additional assistance. To learn about other issues that I am working on in Congress, I encourage you to visit my website at [www.mcnerney.house.gov](http://www.mcnerney.house.gov).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jerry McNerney", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Jerry McNerney  
Member of Congress

Please do not reply to this message as the mailbox is unattended.

If you wish to contact me again, please visit my website at <http://mcnerney.house.gov>.