

USCC-10-TV-04 – “Can’t Work” – Central Valley
FINAL on 9/3/10

VIDEO	AUDIO
<p><u>Graphic:</u> <u>CA Central Valley</u></p> <p>Without water...the Central Valley can't work</p>	<p><u>Music</u> <u>FEMALE ANNCR:</u> Water means jobs for California. Without water the Central Valley can't work.</p>
<p>Barbara Boxer: Protected the 3 inch smelt <small>WashingtonTimes.com, 9/22/09; H.R. 2996, CQ Vote #292, 9/22/09</small></p> <p>Instead of protecting California jobs and farms.</p>	<p>Barbara Boxer is famous for protecting the three-inch Smelt...</p> <p>... <u>instead</u> of protecting California jobs and farms.</p>
<p><u>Boxer</u> <u>Graphics:</u> Voted to cut water to Central Valley ... <small>H.R. 2996, CQ Vote #292, 9/22/09</small></p> <p>... killing jobs ... <small>The Examiner, 9/22/09; Wall Street Journal, WSJ.com, 9/2/09</small></p> <p><u>Farm worker</u> Some Valley unemployment 40% <small>Cite: CA Employment Development Dept. CA Farm Bureau, 9/30/09</small></p>	<p>She voted to <u>cut water</u> to the Central Valley ...</p> <p>... killing jobs ...</p> <p>...and driving unemployment as high as 40%.</p>
<p>www.USChamber.com/ca</p>	<p>Check the facts for yourself at U.S. Chamber dot com.</p>
<p><u>Graphic:</u> Tell Barbara Boxer. Central Valley needs water to create jobs (916) 448-2787 USChamber.com/ca</p> <p><small>PAID FOR BY THE U.S. CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, WWW.USCHAMBER.COM, AND NOT AUTHORIZED BY ANY CANDIDATE OR CANDIDATE'S COMMITTEE. THE U.S. CHAMBER OF COMMERCE IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE CONTENT OF THIS ADVERTISING.</small></p>	<p>And tell Barbara Boxer: the Central Valley needs water to create jobs.</p> <p>The U.S. Chamber of Commerce is responsible for the content of this advertising.</p>

DOCUMENTATION

VIDEO	AUDIO	
<p><u>Graphic:</u> <u>CA Central Valley</u></p> <p>Without water...the Central Valley can't work</p>	<p><u>Music</u> <u>FEMALE ANNCR:</u> Water means jobs for California. Without water the Central Valley can't work.</p>	
<p>Barbara Boxer: Protected the 3 inch smelt WashingtonTimes.com, 9/22/09; H.R. 2996, CQ Vote #292, 9/22/09</p> <p>Instead of protecting California jobs and farms.</p>	<p>Barbara Boxer is famous for protecting the three-inch Smelt...</p> <p>... <u>instead</u> of protecting California jobs and farms.</p>	<p>The Washington Times</p> <p><u>Senate rejects measure to turn California water on</u></p> <p>The Senate rejected an amendment proposed by Sen. Jim DeMint, South Carolina Republican, to send more water to struggling farming area of California's Central Valley through pumps that were shut down earlier this year to save a three-inch fish.</p> <p>Source: <u>http://www.washingtontimes.com/blog/back-story/2009/sep/22/senate-votes-down-measure-to-turn-california-water/print/</u></p>
<p><u>Boxer</u> <u>Graphics:</u> Voted to cut water to Central Valley ... H.R. 2996, CQ Vote #292, 9/22/09</p>	<p>She voted to <u>cut water</u> to the Central Valley ...</p>	<p>U.S. Senate Roll Call Votes 111th Congress - 1st Session as compiled through Senate LIS by the Senate Bill Clerk under the direction of the Secretary of the Senate</p> <p>Vote Summary</p> <p>Question: On the Motion (Motion to Table the DeMint Motion to Recommit to Committee on Appropriations)</p> <p>Vote Num 2 9 Vote Date: September 22, 2009, 06:19 PM ber: 2</p> <p>Requ red 1 For / Major 2 ity:</p> <p>Meas ure H.R. 2996 (Department of the Interior, Environment,</p>

... killing jobs ...
The Examiner, 9/22/09; Wall
Street Journal, WSJ.com,
9/2/09

... killing jobs ...

Number: and Related Agencies
Appropriations Act, 2010)

Measure: A bill making
Title: appropriations for the
Department of the Interior,
environment, and related
agencies for the fiscal year
ending September 30,
2010, and for other
purposes.

Vote
YEAs 61
NAYs 36
Not
Voting 2

Boxer (D-CA), Yea

For months, water that is normally pumped into the area has been diverted into the ocean, causing a severe drought that has devastated the area's farming economy and caused a steep rise in unemployment (40 percent in some areas).

The government began diverting water from the valley after environmental lawyers successfully sued to get protection for the smelt, which they said were being hurt by the water pumps. And there could be additional pumping restrictions now that salmon have been added to the list of protected fish.

Source: The Examiner - DeMint wants a smelt showdown- 9/22/09

The state's water emergency is unfolding thanks to the latest mishandling of the Endangered Species Act. Last December, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service issued what is known as a "biological opinion" imposing water reductions on the San Joaquin Valley and environs to safeguard the federally protected *hypomesus transpacificus*, a.k.a., the delta smelt.

**Farm worker
Some Valley
unemployment 40%**
Cite: CA Employment
Development Dept. CA Farm
Bureau, 9/30/09

**...and driving
unemployment as high
as 40%.**

As a result, tens of billions of gallons of water from mountains east and north of Sacramento have been channelled away from farmers and into the ocean, leaving hundreds of thousands of acres of arable land fallow or scorched.

The result has already been devastating for the state's farm economy. In the inland areas affected by the court-ordered water restrictions, the jobless rate has hit 14.3%, with some farming towns like Mendota seeing unemployment numbers near 40%. Statewide, the rate reached 11.6% in July, higher than it has been in 30 years. In August, 50 mayors from the San Joaquin Valley signed a letter asking President Obama to observe the impact of the draconian water rules firsthand.

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL.

WSJ.com

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052970204731804574384731898375624.html#printMode>

SEPTEMBER 2, 2009, 12:49 P.M. ET

Fresno County

Mendota city 41.4%

Merced County

Planada CDP 40.3%

South Dos Palos CDP 43.4%

Tulare County

Alpaugh CDP 40.4%

Richgrove CDP 49.0%

Terra Bella CDP 41.6%

**Source: Employment
Development Department August
20, 2010**

<p>www.USChamber.com/ca</p>	<p>Check the facts for yourself at U.S. Chamber dot com.</p>	
<p>Graphic: Tell Barbara Boxer. Central Valley needs water to create jobs (916) 448-2787 USChamber.com/ca</p> <p>PAID FOR BY THE U.S. CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, WWW.USCHAMBER.COM, AND NOT AUTHORIZED BY ANY CANDIDATE OR CANDIDATE'S COMMITTEE. THE U.S. CHAMBER OF COMMERCE IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE CONTENT OF THIS ADVERTISING.</p>	<p>And tell Barbara Boxer: the Central Valley needs water to create jobs.</p> <p>The U.S. Chamber of Commerce is responsible for the content of this advertising.</p>	

The Washington Times

<http://www.washingtontimes.com/blog/back-story/2009/sep/22/senate-votes-down-measure-to-turn-california-water/print/>

September 22, 2009

Senate rejects measure to turn California water on

The Senate rejected an amendment proposed by Sen. Jim DeMint, South Carolina Republican, to send more water to struggling farming area of California's Central Valley through pumps that were shut down earlier this year to save a three-inch fish.

This is the latest in a series of efforts in recent weeks to undo a biological opinion from U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service that required water to be cut off to the valley to protect the Delta Smelt, a small fish that resembles a large minnow.

Republican Rep. Devin Nunes, who represents some of the valley, has been trying to reverse the measure but has been unable to convince Democrats in the House to hold the floor vote necessary to do so. For their part, many Democrats attribute the area's farming woes to recent droughts and say giving the valley more water isn't the right solution.

Fox News personality Sean Hannity took his highly-rated prime time television program there earlier this month to interview the farmers who were asking the government to get the water back. This brought national attention to a problem that had only been covered by a few outlets, like the Wall Street Journal. Mr. Hannity called his program "The Valley that Hope Forgot" and slammed the Democrats in power for protecting fish at the expense of suffering farmers.

Mr. DeMint put the question to a test on Tuesday evening by proposing adding a measure to the Senate's Interior spending bill to prohibit any federal funds from being used to restrict the water supply in that area.

It was voted down 61-36.

California Democratic Sen. Dianne Feinstein voted against it and likened Mr. DeMint's amendment to let more water flow in her state to the sneak attack the Japanese made on Pearl Harbor.

"I don't quite understand what is going on here," she said on the floor of the Senate. "And that is the reason for my objection. I'm not going to put the state of California and the Bay Delta in the threat of another lawsuit. We have enough already and water is a huge, difficult and complicated issue...in a way this a kind of Pearl Harbor, when everything we are trying to do, to work together, to put Interior in the lead, not to handcuff Interior and that is the reason I object to the amendment."

A video of her statement, posted by Mr. DeMint's office can be viewed [HERE](#).

Mr. DeMint seemed to think she was making it too complicated. “Unlike most of the big government solutions coming out of Washington that cost taxpayers billions, this amendment doesn’t cost a single penny,” said Mr. DeMint in statement. “We can turn the water on so thousands of Central Valley farmers can get back to work without creating another federal program or bailing out another industry.”

=http://www.senate.gov/legislative/LIS/roll_call_lists/roll_call_vote_cfm.cfm?congress=111&session=1&vote=00292

[XML](#) U.S. Senate Roll Call Votes 111th Congress - 1st Session

as compiled through Senate LIS by the Senate Bill Clerk under the direction of the Secretary of the Senate

Vote Summary

Question: **On the Motion (Motion to Table the DeMint Motion to Recommit to Committee on Appropriations)**

Vote Number: **292** Vote Date: **September 22, 2009, 06:19 PM**

Required For Majority: **1/2** Vote Result: **Motion Agreed to**

Measure Number: **[H.R. 2996](#) (Department of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2010)**

Measure Title: **A bill making appropriations for the Department of the Interior, environment, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2010, and for other purposes.**

Vote Counts: **YEAs 61**
NAYs 36
Not Voting 2

[Vote Summary](#)

[By Senator Name](#)

[By Vote Position](#)

[By Home State](#)

Alphabetical by Senator Name

Akaka (D-HI), Yea
Alexander (R-TN), Yea
Barrasso (R-WY), Nay
Baucus (D-MT), Yea
Bayh (D-IN), Yea
Begich (D-AK), Yea
Bennet (D-CO), Yea
Bennett (R-UT), Nay
Bingaman (D-NM), Yea
Bond (R-MO), Nay
Boxer (D-CA), Yea
Brown (D-OH), Yea
Brownback (R-KS), Nay
Bunning (R-KY), Nay
Burr (R-NC), Nay
Burris (D-IL), Yea
Byrd (D-WV), Not Voting
Cantwell (D-WA), Yea
Cardin (D-MD), Yea
Carper (D-DE), Yea
Casey (D-PA), Yea
Chambliss (R-GA), Nay
Coburn (R-OK), Nay
Cochran (R-MS), Nay
Collins (R-ME), Yea
Conrad (D-ND), Yea
Corker (R-TN), Nay
Cornyn (R-TX), Nay
Crapo (R-ID), Nay
DeMint (R-SC), Nay
Dodd (D-CT), Yea
Dorgan (D-ND), Yea
Durbin (D-IL), Yea

Ensign (R-NV), Nay
Enzi (R-WY), Nay
Feingold (D-WI), Yea
Feinstein (D-CA), Yea
Franken (D-MN), Yea
Gillibrand (D-NY), Yea
Graham (R-SC), Nay
Grassley (R-IA), Nay
Gregg (R-NH), Nay
Hagan (D-NC), Yea
Harkin (D-IA), Yea
Hatch (R-UT), Nay
Hutchison (R-TX), Nay
Inhofe (R-OK), Nay
Inouye (D-HI), Yea
Isakson (R-GA), Nay
Johanns (R-NE), Nay
Johnson (D-SD), Yea
Kaufman (D-DE), Yea
Kerry (D-MA), Yea
Klobuchar (D-MN), Yea
Kohl (D-WI), Yea
Kyl (R-AZ), Nay
Landrieu (D-LA), Yea
Lautenberg (D-NJ), Yea
Leahy (D-VT), Yea
LeMieux (R-FL), Nay
Levin (D-MI), Yea
Lieberman (ID-CT), Yea
Lincoln (D-AR), Not Voting
Lugar (R-IN), Nay
McCain (R-AZ), Nay
McCaskill (D-MO), Yea

McConnell (R-KY), Nay
Menendez (D-NJ), Yea
Merkley (D-OR), Yea
Mikulski (D-MD), Yea
Murkowski (R-AK), Nay
Murray (D-WA), Yea
Nelson (D-FL), Yea
Nelson (D-NE), Yea
Pryor (D-AR), Yea
Reed (D-RI), Yea
Reid (D-NV), Yea
Risch (R-ID), Nay
Roberts (R-KS), Nay
Rockefeller (D-WV), Yea
Sanders (I-VT), Yea
Schumer (D-NY), Yea
Sessions (R-AL), Nay
Shaheen (D-NH), Yea
Shelby (R-AL), Nay
Snowe (R-ME), Yea
Specter (D-PA), Yea
Stabenow (D-MI), Yea
Tester (D-MT), Yea
Thune (R-SD), Nay
Udall (D-CO), Yea
Udall (D-NM), Yea
Vitter (R-LA), Nay
Voinovich (R-OH), Yea
Warner (D-VA), Yea
Webb (D-VA), Yea
Whitehouse (D-RI), Yea
Wicker (R-MS), Nay
Wyden (D-OR), Yea

[Vote Summary](#)

[By Senator Name](#)

[By Vote Position](#)

[By Home State](#)

- [WSJ.com](http://www.wsj.com)
- <http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052970204731804574384731898375624.html#printMode>
- SEPTEMBER 2, 2009, 12:49 P.M. ET

California's Man-Made Drought

The green war against San Joaquin Valley farmers.

California has a new endangered species on its hands in the San Joaquin Valley—farmers. Thanks to environmental regulations designed to protect the likes of the three-inch long delta smelt, one of America's premier agricultural regions is suffering in a drought made worse by federal regulations.

The state's water emergency is unfolding thanks to the latest mishandling of the Endangered Species Act. Last December, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service issued what is known as a "biological opinion" imposing water reductions on the San Joaquin Valley and environs to safeguard the federally protected *hypomesus transpacificus*, a.k.a., the delta smelt. As a result, tens of billions of gallons of water from mountains east and north of Sacramento have been channelled away from farmers and into the ocean, leaving hundreds of thousands of acres of arable land fallow or scorched.

For this, Californians can thank the usual environmental suspects, er, lawyers. Last year's government ruling was the result of a 2006 lawsuit filed by the Natural Resources Defense Council and other outfits objecting to increased water pumping in the smelt vicinity. In June, things got even dustier when the National Marine Fisheries Service concluded that local salmon and steelhead also needed to be defended from the valley's water pumps. Those additional restrictions will begin to effect pumping operations next year.

[View Full Image](#)



U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

The result has already been devastating for the state's farm economy. In the inland areas affected by the court-ordered water restrictions, the jobless rate has hit 14.3%, with some farming towns like Mendota seeing unemployment numbers near 40%. Statewide, the rate reached 11.6% in July, higher than it has been in 30 years. In August, 50 mayors from the San Joaquin Valley signed a letter asking President Obama to observe the impact of the draconian water rules firsthand.

Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger has said that he "doesn't have the authority to turn on the pumps" that would supply the delta with water, or "otherwise, they would be on." He did, however, have the ability to request intervention from the Department of Interior. Under a provision added to the Endangered Species Act in 1978 after the snail darter fiasco, a panel of seven cabinet officials known as a "God Squad" is able to intercede in economic emergencies, such as the one now parching California farmers. Despite a petition with more than 12,000 signers, Mr. Schwarzenegger has refused that remedy.

The issue now turns to the Obama Administration and the courts, though the farmers have so far found scant hope for relief from the White House. In June, the Administration denied the governor's request to designate California a federal disaster area as a result of the drought conditions, which U.S. Drought Monitor currently lists as a "severe drought" in 43% of the state. Doing so would force the Administration to acknowledge awkward questions about the role its own environmental policies have played in scorching the Earth.

As the crisis has deepened, the political stakes have risen as well. In late August, Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack came to the devastated valley to meet with farmers and community leaders. Democratic Senator Dianne Feinstein has pledged to press the issue with Interior Secretary Ken Salazar. "There are 30 lawsuits on the biological opinions and two separate opinions, one for the smelt and one for the salmon," Ms. Feinstein said, "The rules need to be reconsidered."

The Pacific Legal Foundation has filed a lawsuit on behalf of three farmers in the valley, calling the federal regulations "immoral and unconstitutional." Because the delta smelt is only found in California, the Foundation says, it does not fall under the regulatory powers provided by the Constitution's Commerce Clause. On a statutory basis, the Fish and Wildlife Service also neglected to appropriately consider the economic devastation the pumping restrictions would bring.

Things in California may have to get so bad that they endanger Democratic Congressional incumbents before Washington wakes up, but it doesn't have to be that way. Mr. Salazar has said that convening the God Squad would be "admitting failure" in the effort to save the smelt under the Endangered Species Act. Maybe so, but the livelihoods of tens of thousands of humans are also at stake. If the Obama Administration wants to help, it can take up Governor Schwarzenegger's request that it revisit the two biological opinions that are hanging farmers and farm workers out to dry.

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Opinion



BELTWAY CONFIDENTIAL

DeMint wants a smelt showdown

By: [Susan Ferrechio](#)

Chief Congressional Correspondent

09/22/09 7:44 PM EDT

Sen. Jim DeMint said he wants to end the drought in California's Central Valley by blocking government funds that have been used to divert water from the area to protect a 3-inch fish called the delta smelt.

The South Carolina Republican will introduce an amendment to a Department of the Interior spending bill that would place a one-year ban on the federal government using money to stem the flow of water from the regions farms.

For months, water that is normally pumped into the area has been diverted into the ocean, causing a severe drought that has devastated the area's farming economy and caused a steep rise in unemployment (40 percent in some areas).

The government began diverting water from the valley after environmental lawyers successfully sued to get protection for the smelt, which they said were being hurt by the water pumps. And there could be additional pumping restrictions now that salmon have been added to the list of protected fish.

DeMint pointed out that the area produces half of the nation's fruits and vegetables and 13 percent of the overall food supply comes from the region The drought, he said, could eventually result in higher food prices.

"What is happening in California is an example of what could happen across the country if we don't reform the Endangered Species Act," DeMint said. "Environmentalists could use this statute to bring great harm to our economy and to American families working to make ends meet."

The smelt issue first showed up in Congress back in [April](#).

Monthly Labor Force Data for Cities and Census Designated Places (CDP)
 July 2010 - Preliminary
 Data Not Seasonally Adjusted

Area Name	Labor Force	Employment	Unemployment Number	Unemployment Rate	Emp	Census Ratios Unemp
Fresno County Mendota city	4,900	2,900	2,000	41.4%	0.007616	0.027814
Merced County Planada CDP	1,900	1,100	800	40.3%	0.013218	0.038356
South Dos Palos CDP	600	300	200	43.4%	0.003605	0.011872
Tulare County Alpaugh CDP	400	200	200	40.4%	0.001271	0.004246
Richgrove CDP	1,700	900	800	49.0%	0.004936	0.023355
Terra Bella CDP	2,000	1,200	800	41.6%	0.006806	0.023885

CDP is "Census Designated Place" - a recognized community that was unincorporated at the time of the 2000 Census.

Notes:

- 1) Data may not add due to rounding. All unemployment rates shown are calculated on unrounded data.
- 2) These data are not seasonally adjusted.

Methodology:

Monthly city and CDP labor force data are derived by multiplying current estimates of county employment and unemployment by the employment and unemployment shares (ratios) of each city and CDP at the time of the 2000 Census. Ratios for cities of 25,000 or more persons were developed from special tabulations based on household population only from the Bureau of Labor Statistics. For smaller cities and CDP, ratios were calculated from published census data.

City and CDP unrounded employment and unemployment are summed to get the labor force. The unemployment rate is calculated by dividing unemployment by the labor force. Then the labor force, employment, and unemployment are rounded.

This method assumes that the rates of change in employment and unemployment, since 2000,

are exactly the same in each city and CDP as at the county level (i.e., that the shares are still accurate). If this assumption is not true for a specific city or CDP, then the estimates for that area may not represent the current economic conditions. Since this assumption is untested, caution should be employed when using these data.