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November 16, 2015

The Honorable Herb Wesson, Chair
Los Angeles City Council
200 N. Spring Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

RE: Support for Item 15-0002-S71, City Council Resolution Opposing H.R. 2898

Dear Chairman Wesson and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC), which has which has 2.4 million members and activists, 380,000 of whom are Californians, I am writing to support Item 15-0002-S71, the proposed city council resolution opposing H.R. 2898 (Valadao) and similar legislation that would undermine state and federal environmental laws. California's prolonged drought, not state or federal environmental laws, are the cause of low water supplies and low river flows affecting farmers, fishermen, cities, and our native fish and wildlife. Rather than the divisive approach of H.R. 2898, California deserves solutions to the drought that protect our economy and environment, such as new federal investments in water recycling, stormwater capture, agricultural and urban conservation, and safe drinking water for disadvantaged communities. We urge the City Council to support Item 15-0002-S71.

H.R. 2898 would permanently preempt state laws, override the Endangered Species Act, and drastically weaken protections for our native fish and wildlife and the thousands of fishing jobs and communities that depend on them. The bill is opposed by the White House, the majority of California's House delegation, and stakeholders across the state, and the Los Angeles Times editorialized in opposition to H.R. 2898 on July 10, 2015. In addition, recent polling by the Los Angeles Times and University of Southern California released in September 2015 concluded that a majority of respondents in Los Angeles County (as well as a majority of respondents statewide) oppose suspending environmental protections for fish and wildlife during the drought.

The City of Los Angeles has long been a leader on water conservation, reducing water use even as the City has grown by more than 1 million citizens over the past several decades. The City's Sustainable City pLAN demonstrates that we can reduce reliance on imported water from the Delta to protect the environment while sustain our economy by investing in local and regional

water supplies. Rather than undermining environmental protections as proposed in H.R. 2898, federal legislation should complement and help fund the efforts being taken by the City. We urge the City Council to oppose H.R. 2898 and support Item 15-0002-S71.

Sincerely,



Doug Obegi



Linda Escalante