



October 13, 2015

The Honorable Herb Wesson, Chair  
Rules, Elections, Intergovernmental Relations, and Neighborhoods Committee  
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,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Doug Obegi".

Doug Obegi



## LA LEADERSHIP COUNCIL

October 13, 2015

The Honorable Herb Wesson, Chair  
Rules, Elections, Intergovernmental Relations, and Neighborhoods Committee  
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 (Valadao) and Similar Legislation**

Dear Chairman Wesson and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of the NRDC Los Angeles Leadership Council, we are 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 is suffering through a significant drought affecting farms, cities, rural communities and the environment. We support solutions 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. However, we strongly oppose efforts to weaken protections for California's rivers and wildlife during the drought, as H.R. 2898 (Valadao) proposes, and 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 has broad opposition, including opposition from the White House, the majority of California's House delegation, fishermen, farmers, and other stakeholders across the state. The Los Angeles Times editorialized in opposition to H.R. 2898 on July 10, 2015. Like us, polling by the Los Angeles Times and University of Southern California released in September 2015 demonstrated that the 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 sustaining our economy by investing in local and regional water supplies. Los Angeles should continue to be a leader in protecting the environment and economy. Rather than undermining environmental protections as proposed in H.R. 2898, federal legislation should

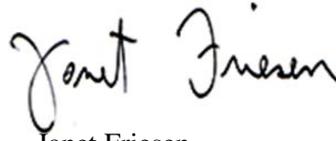
complement and help fund the efforts being taken by the City, and we urge the City Council to oppose H.R. 2898 and support Item 15-0002-S71.

Thank you for consideration of our views.

Sincerely,



Cambria Gordon  
Co-Chair



Janet Friesen  
Co-Chair

**Los Angeles Leadership Council 2015 Roster:**

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Laurie Benenson  
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Dayna Bochco  
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Kelly Meyer  
Ann Moss  
Audrey Sarn  
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