

## Time is of the essence to pass California water legislation

I would like to thank the Fresno Bee and its staff for the extensive coverage of the drought on Dec. 6. Since the beginning, The Bee and its reporters have provided readers with in-depth stories about the drought, its impacts on the Valley, and the human toll it has taken on the lives of people in our Valley.

Every day, I am working to help solve the water crisis we are facing. The challenge in Congress is not lack of support from the Valley delegation. The problem is that members of Congress who represent Southern California and the Bay Area, where the majority of Californians live, do not understand that their water and food is at risk as well.

I sent last Sunday's coverage on the drought to my colleagues to help them better understand the dire situation in our Valley. Members of the California delegation need to realize that we must get legislation passed that allows the ability to capture flows from El Niño as rapidly as possible, because the farmers in the Valley who provide the food on our dinner tables will not be able to continue doing so without an adequate water supply.

Rep. Jim Costa, Fresno