



Water bill needs backing of Sen. Boxer

Posted: Thursday, July 9, 2015 10:08 am

With Democrats and Republicans still far apart on a comprehensive water bill in Congress, we do not see much of a chance of any meaningful water bill coming out of Washington right now.

California's Republican delegation in Congress, led by Reps. David Valadao and Kevin McCarthy, is taking the lead in pushing a bill that would speed up new water storage projects and move more water through river pumps for farms and cities. The bill is being debated this week in Washington.

However, the bill has only attracted the support of one Democrat — Jim Costa of Fresno — so far and its chances in the Senate are not good.

President Obama and California Sen. Barbara Boxer have opposed almost all legislation that would bring more water storage to the Golden State. They also oppose cutting the amount of water that is released into the ocean. Approximately 50 percent of developed water or 75 percent of all water that falls on California each year is released into the ocean.

Since his promises more than a year ago, President Obama has done little about California's drought except doing what Democrats are best at — handing out aid instead of fixing the problem so aid would not be needed. Millions of dollars have gone to assist farmers and farmworkers who would not need those dollars if only they had water to grow their crops.

Surface water is the key to California's future, and not just the Central Valley. The state has grown by at least 50 percent in population since the last large water storage project was done. Without that storage of water, the Central Valley and maybe even parts of Southern California may become dry wastelands.

We call on Sen. Boxer to get involved in the latest legislation to help lawmakers come up with a meaningful bill that will benefit all Californians.

http://www.recorderonline.com/opinion/editorials/water-bill-needs-backing-of-sen-boxer/article_94f2568a-265d-11e5-a585-fb1ab9912840.html