

STATE CAPITOL  
P.O. BOX 942849  
SACRAMENTO, CA 94249-0002  
(916) 319-2002  
FAX (916) 319-2102

DISTRICT OFFICE  
280 HEMSTED DRIVE, SUITE 110  
REDDING, CA 96002  
(530) 223-6300  
FAX (530) 223-6737

EMAIL  
assemblymember.nielsen@assembly.ca.gov

# Assembly California Legislature



**JIM NIELSEN**  
ASSEMBLYMEMBER, SECOND DISTRICT

COMMITTEES  
VICE CHAIR, BUDGET  
APPROPRIATIONS  
RULES

February 10, 2011

Mr. John McCamman, Director  
California Department of Fish & Game  
1416 9<sup>th</sup> Street, 12<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Director McCamman:

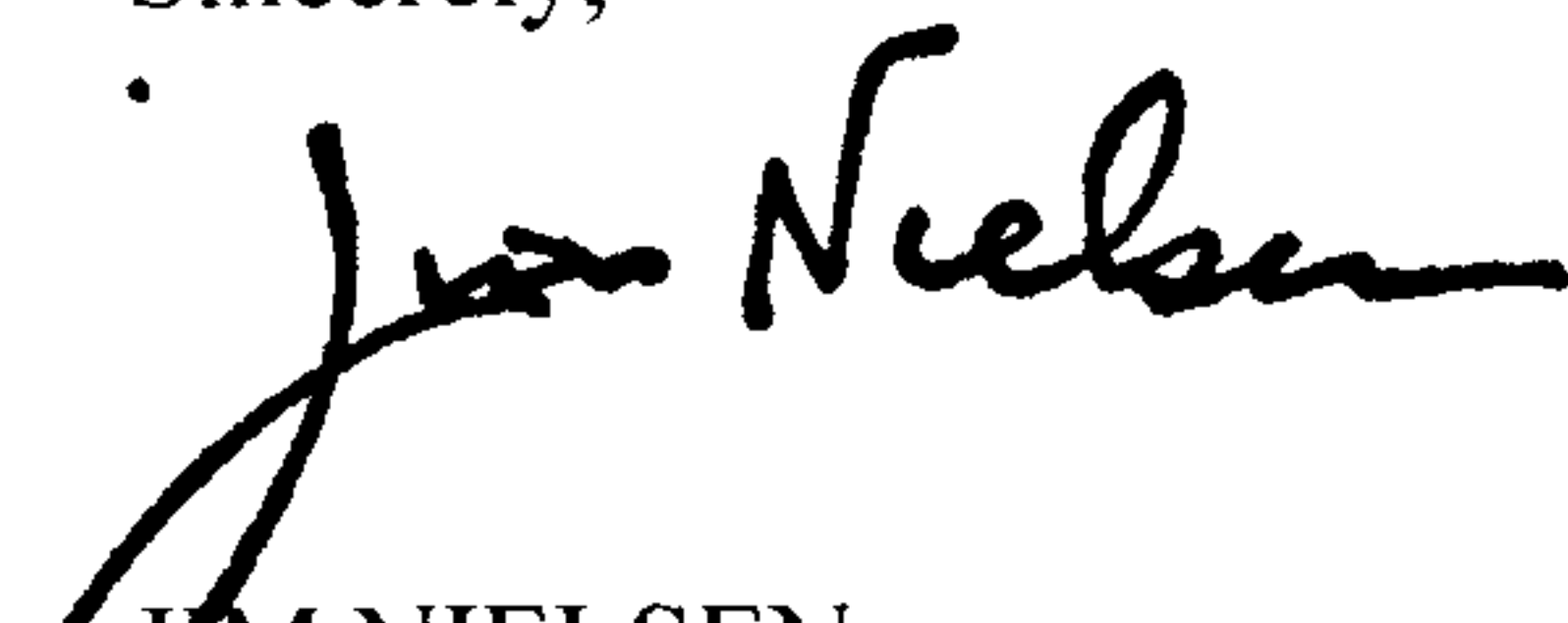
Senator Doug LaMalfa and I are writing to request an in-person update from the Department of Fish and Game (DFG) regarding the issues surrounding the Incidental Take Permits (ITP) that it appears DFG may be attempting to force water users in Siskiyou County to sign before the irrigation season begins this spring.

Both of our offices have been hearing very disturbing comments from our constituents as well as elected officials in Siskiyou County regarding this matter. In fact, both offices have heard from Siskiyou County Supervisor Michael Kobseff that his constituents have been contacting him expressing strong concern about the overbearing nature of DFG personnel. Essentially, these constituents are alleging that DFG personnel are contacting water users and advising them that if they refuse to sign their ITP permits, then they will not only have their water shut-off, but also may face criminal prosecution. This does not appear to us to be an acceptable method of working with the private landowners we represent, and may in fact be illegal under state law.

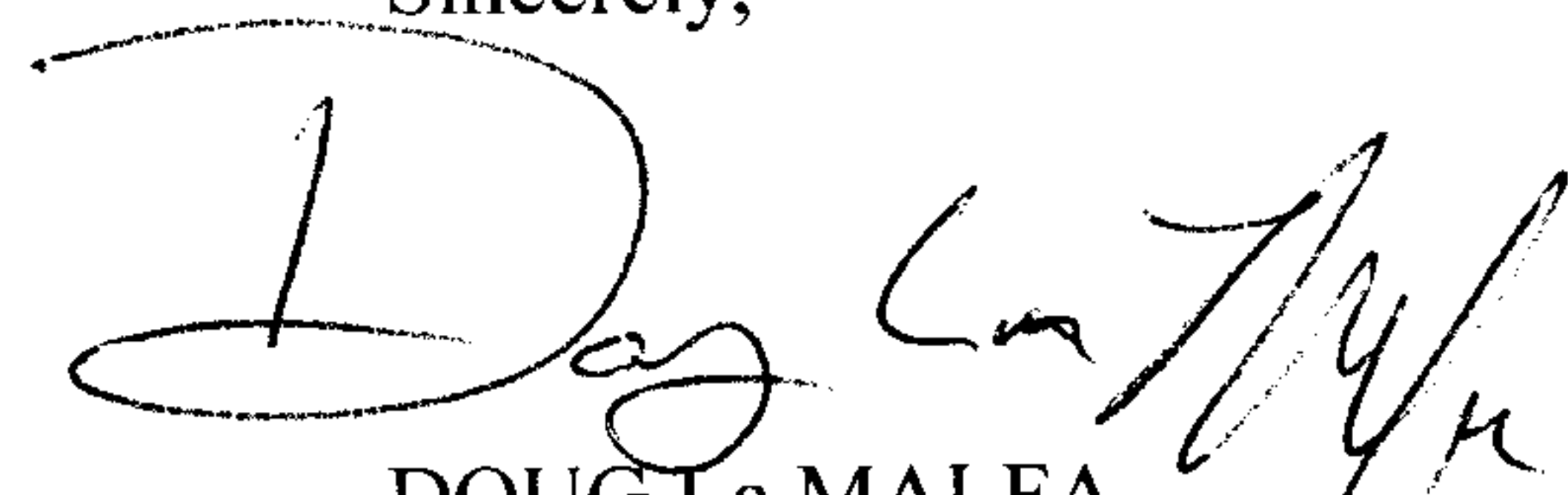
I respectfully request a meeting as soon as possible in my Capitol office with you, and only you, to discuss this matter further. Senator LaMalfa and I both feel that DFG personnel have grossly overstepped their boundaries and are forcing citizens of Siskiyou County to sign legally binding documents that are problematic at the very least, and according to well-respected legal experts with whom we have consulted are quite probably illegal.

Thank you for your attention to this very important request. Staff in our Capitol Offices will follow up very shortly with you to schedule an appointment.

Sincerely,

  
JIM NIELSEN  
Assemblyman, 2<sup>nd</sup> District

Sincerely,

  
DOUG La MALFA  
Senator, 4<sup>th</sup> District