

The Planning and Conservation League's CALIFORNIA

TODAY

2006 PCL Legislative Symposium Focuses On "Climate Change"

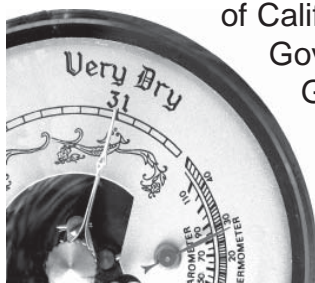
California's climate is changing. Not just our natural climate, but our social and political climate as well. In order to turn the tide against the wave of devastating environmental and public health impacts that climate change will bring, we must create a political climate that makes environmental protection a top priority. At PCL, that's our focus. And that's why this year's Environmental Legislative Symposium will bring together hundreds of the state's leading advocates, policymakers, and elected officials to discuss strategies that will lead to the type of political environment necessary for the creation and implementation of lasting protections for our environment, our economy, and ultimately, our quality of life.

2006 Symposium to Include Several New Features

The 2006 Planning and Conservation League Environmental Legislative Symposium is scheduled for April 29th, 2006 in Sacramento. As in the past, the Symposium will feature a number of "expert panels" that will focus on solutions to many of the most pressing environmental and public health challenges facing our state. We'll look at issues like land use, transportation, air and water quality, and environmental justice. In addition, we've invited some

of California's leading elected officials, including the Governor, gubernatorial candidates, the Attorney General, Attorney General candidates, and legislative leadership to discuss how they will make environmental protection a top priority. And, we're also expecting several leading

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LEADING THE WAY:

PCL BUILDS A STRONG COALITION IN RESPONSE TO INFRASTRUCTURE BOND PROPOSALS

For the past several months, the Capitol has been buzzing with talk about the "Infrastructure Bond." The Governor and leaders in both the Senate and Assembly have introduced legislation to address our state's perceived "infrastructure" needs. According to the various plans, the legislature would pass a bond that would be put to the voters for a final decision. The Governor's proposal is enormous – on the order of several hundred billion dollars – and would be phased in through adoption by the voters over multiple election cycles. The plans put forth by the legislative leadership are less ambitious, but nonetheless impressive in size, scope, and cost. From the environmental, environmental justice, and public health perspective, there's a big problem with all of these bond proposals; none of them go far

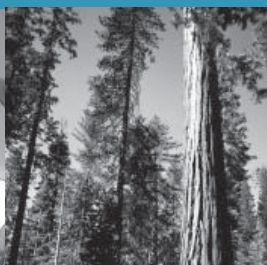
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CALIFORNIA TODAY (ISSN 0739-8042) is the quarterly newsletter of the

PLANNING AND CONSERVATION LEAGUE AND THE PCL FOUNDATION

1107 9th Street, Suite 360, Sacramento, CA 95814

916-444-8726 FAX 916-448-1789

E-MAIL ADDRESS: pclmail@pcl.org

WEB ADDRESS: <http://www.pcl.org>

Membership in PCL is \$35 a year, and includes a subscription to CALIFORNIA TODAY.

Periodicals postage paid at Sacramento, CA.
POSTMASTER: Send address changes for CALIFORNIA TODAY to the PCL Office:
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Dear Friends,

It's time to change the climate in California! The political climate. I hope you will join hundreds of others from around the state at the PCL 2006 Environmental Legislative Symposium, to be held in Sacramento on Saturday April 29th.

PCL's objective is to forge a working alliance with environmental groups from around the state, and to help make that alliance into a powerful force in Sacramento for the kind of political changes that are absolutely required if we're going to preserve and protect the California environment.

California's rivers remain at risk. Our marine and coastal environments are still in danger. The natural and open space lands that provide habitat for California wildlife and for native plants are threatened by sprawl, pollution – and global warming. In areas like the Central Valley, air pollution is getting worse, not better, and we're losing our most productive agricultural lands. State water policies need revision. We need more parks and recreation facilities, and specifically in our urban areas, and we especially need to send a "stop loss" notice to state and local government, so the last great places in California aren't compromised and destroyed by the big developers.

But the challenges we face go beyond the dangers to our natural environment. Air pollution, water pollution, and toxic pollution pose daily public health dangers in both urban and rural communities. The environmental movement today is, and must be, a movement that focuses in on the environmental challenges that Californians confront every day in the places where they live. We need legislative enactments and administrative actions that respect both the natural environment and the health and integrity of our local communities, and that help Californians achieve their social equity goals. That means, not least, that we need a new system for land use planning, and a new approach to transportation!

Our April 29th Symposium will be a place to learn about these challenges – and to organize ourselves for the actions we need to take. As we face the real dangers of global warming, we need to change the climate in California – the political climate!

Gary A. Patton, Executive Director
Planning and Conservation League

PCL Legislative Symposium Panels: Not Business As Usual!

PCL's 2006 Environmental Legislative Symposium will feature thirteen break out panels organized by three unifying themes: The Elements of Change; Legislating Change; and Taking Regional Action. As always, our panels will be "action-oriented," focusing on finding legislative and administrative solutions to California's most pressing environmental problems. The following panels are just three examples from the day's program:

Shifting Gears: Better Energy and Transportation Policies

Energy and Transportation decisions in California often happen as part of broad sweeping policy shifts, fundamentally changing the course of the state in a single vote. Such decisions have profound impacts on how we live our lives; how we get around, how reliant we are on deregulated markets, and how we either degrade or revitalize the environment and our communities for decades to come.

California is on the verge of another major shift. Policy makers are debating the issuance of multi-billion dollar bonds to fund infrastructure projects across the state. Many have suggested fundamental reforms to the way we spend taxpayer money on power and transportation projects. Others focus on organizing the affected communities to bring more voices to the table to demand that their needs are considered. This panel will discuss decision-making successes and current hot topics so that you can help California shift gears.

Business Best Practices for the 21st Century

What will business in California look like in fifty years? Will it be flexible, technologically innovative, and embracing of sustainability principles? Will it be distinguished by solid economic returns, genuine stewardship of the environment, and careful attentiveness to the needs of employees and the community? Or will it be business as usual?

How California answers these questions depends on the ability of individuals from diverse backgrounds to work together, so for our "Business and the Environment" panel we've assembled a group of experts from all walks of life. You'll hear from business owners, a government representative, a forest advocate, a union leader, and a consumer campaign coordinator, all striving to engender better business practices. They'll explore the opportunities and barriers faced by sustainable businesses in the Golden State as well as techniques for "greening" existing businesses. They'll present inter-business, local, regional and statewide solutions to implement good policies that ensure that business in the twenty-first century is not business as usual.

Urban California: A Regional Perspective

The higher density living associated with urban areas has historically played a vital role in community cohesion and environmental protection. With jobs and cultural amenities in walking distance or at the end of a tram line, the buzz of urban life has provided communities with a forum to retain their identities while mixing with their neighbors. But since the rush to the suburbs in the 1950's many Californians have forgotten the promise of our cities and turned a blind eye to the disproportionate impacts that many of California's urban communities now suffer because of environmental problems such as air quality, toxics, and unsafe public spaces.

Tomorrow's movement will come from people fighting for a better environment where they work, play, go to school and raise a family.

Our panelists include a doctor, attorneys, water board members, and environmental justice activists. Join them as they grapple with the complexities of Urban California proposing progressive policies and solutions to improve the political potential for reform.

We have a new address!
The Planning and Conservation League
PCL Foundation
1107 9th Street, Suite 360
Sacramento, CA 95814

2006 Symposium: A Climate of Change



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national experts to offer insights into how we might deal with our challenges more effectively.

This year, we are also going a step further than in year's past. This year the Symposium will explore not only the policy solutions, but also the political strategies necessary to implement those solutions. After all, what's the point of devising good environmental policy if we can't convince our elected officials to stand up for them?

We're also excited that this year's event will feature four "regional" panels to explore solutions to California's environmental and public health challenges from a regional perspective. Because of the state's size and diversity, many regions face a unique set of issues and concerns. This year, the Symposium will bring together leading experts from the Sierras, the Coast, the Central Valley, and Urban California to talk about ways that each region can effectively develop and implement far-reaching environmental protection policies.

Additionally, for the first time, the Symposium will be offering several panels that will provide continuing legal education credit for attorneys. At PCL, we know that the passage of good environmental policy is only part of the battle, and that dedicated attorneys from both the public and private sector are crucial to the effort of making sure those policies get enforced. That's why we'll be offering attorneys from throughout the state the opportunity to come hear what some of the foremost environmental lawyers are doing in the area of enforcement.

Importance of "Changing the Climate" Has Never Been Greater

California has been blessed with an abundant array of precious natural resources. With this blessing has come the challenge to care for these resources responsibly. In many respects, we are failing. Evidence is mounting that we are wreaking irreparable harm on California's natural environment. We are putting in peril not only our environment, but our economy and our ability to meet our social equity goals.

As our climate changes, it is imperative that politicians at every level of government join with business, labor, public health, education, social equity, and environmental leaders to devise and implement solutions that will afford long-lasting protection for our local communities, and for the natural environment that sustains every aspect of our economy and social life.

The Planning and Conservation League has been on the frontlines of the battle for environmental protection in California for more than forty years. We know that climate change is a serious problem, and that our state is facing serious challenges in the areas of land use, water, transportation, air quality, toxic contamination, and environmental justice. Now is the time to address these challenges. Now is the time to change the climate for statewide policymaking, and to forge solutions that address these problems.

The future of our natural environment, our economy, and our ability to reach our social equity goals are all at stake. We can't afford a political climate that continues to give polluters a free pass. We can't afford a political climate that doesn't make environmental protection a priority.

Come join PCL and committed individuals and organizations from around California, as we begin laying the foundation for an effective program of change, to protect and restore our state's natural environment, to sustain our local and state economy, and to advance our social equity goals.

News from the Capitol: Environmental Infrastructure?

Continued from page 1

enough in ensuring that the investment our state makes in new infrastructure won't result in more pollution, more sprawl, and more public health impacts, especially in California's most underserved communities.

To address these concerns, PCL has been leading the effort over the past several months to bring environmental, environmental justice, public health, and community leaders together to send a strong and clear message to the Governor, the legislature, and ultimately the people of California.

The message is pretty simple: The right kind of infrastructure program can strengthen the California economy, advance social equity, protect public health and restore California's

environment. The wrong kind of program will make our economy worse, not better; it will make it harder, not easier, for our state to achieve its social equity and environmental goals; and it will lead to serious and adverse impacts on public health.

So what does the "right kind" of infrastructure program look

like? Over the past few months, that's exactly what we've been working out. The right kind of infrastructure program protects existing environmental laws, like CEQA, and the rights of citizens and communities to be involved in the decisions that affect them.

The right kind of infrastructure program will encourage "smart growth," prevent sprawl, and make our cities more, not less, livable. It will result in more affordable housing options for Californians, and ensure that new educational infrastructure is built in accord with the highest

The right kind of infrastructure program can strengthen the California economy, advance social equity, protect public health and restore California's environment.

environmental and public health standards. The right kind of infrastructure program will ensure that more transportation options are available to all Californians; that these transportation options don't simply mean more roads, more air pollution, and more disproportionately high public health impacts in our most underserved communities. In



fact, the right kind of infrastructure program will actually improve, not worsen, the critical air quality concern that impacts so many residents of the state deal with every day.

An infrastructure package that we can support will improve existing water facilities and enhance water quality, especially in economically disadvantaged areas. It won't simply saddle the taxpayers of the state with the bill for

water projects that benefit only those that stand to profit from selling water. The right kind of infrastructure program will ensure that flood control projects are undertaken in an environmentally sustainable way. It will ensure that flood control plans are integrated into multi-benefit projects that contribute to ecosystem and habitat restoration.

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PCL Response: Infrastructure Bond Proposal

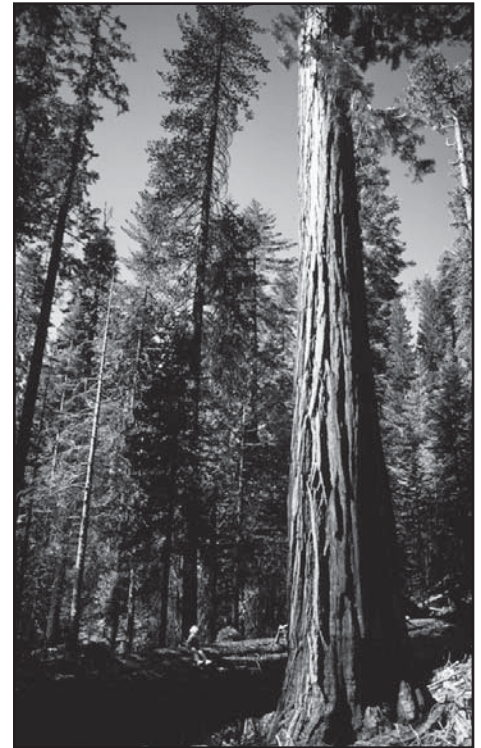
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And, of course the right kind of infrastructure program will make a significant investment in our “natural infrastructure.” More bricks and mortar may be needed to improve our state’s infrastructure. We understand that. But without an adequate investment in our most precious resources – our “natural infrastructure” – no other types of investment are sustainable in the long term. Therefore, any infrastructure program must include significant investment in our parks, rivers, forests, and marine resources.

This is what the “right kind” of infrastructure program looks like. And this is exactly what we announced to the legislature, the Governor, and the public on Thursday, February 23 on the west steps of the State Capitol. With a broad array of leaders from

the environmental and public health community, we unveiled our proposal for the right kind of infrastructure bond. With more than fifty (and still counting) groups signed on to the plan for “What Our State Needs In An Infrastructure Bond,” we’re confident that the legislature will pay close attention to our demands.

Collectively, the groups we have brought together around the infrastructure bond represent hundreds of thousands of Californians – all who care deeply about the health of our communities and our environment. It may take this many voices to convince the legislature that we won’t stand for an investment in infrastructure that doesn’t take our concerns into account. If such an infrastructure plan provides for what we are asking, that’s okay, because now our voices



are unified on what infrastructure funding should look like going forward.

By the time this is in your mailbox, we may be well on our way to seeing the legislature pass an infrastructure plan that is good for all of California. If so, we’ll be rejoicing with our coalition partners about the impact that we can have when we come together. And if not, well then at least from PCL’s perspective, we’ll be doing everything we can to stop any infrastructure proposal that moves our state in the wrong direction. We’ll keep you posted.



MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Accommodations, Travel, and Directions: All you need to know about getting to the PCL Legislative Symposium!

PCL Membership Coordinator Rebecca Wender has been busy coordinating facilities, equipment rentals, catering, and audio/visual equipment, but she still has found time to pull together a list of hotels for our members. Remember the April 29th PCL Legislative Symposium is the same date as the Democratic State Convention, so book your reservation soon. The Symposium will be held at the Sacramento Municipal Utilities District Customer Service Center: 6301 S Street, Sacramento.

MIDTOWN HOTELS:

Econo Lodge Sacramento
711 16th St.
(916) 443-6631
from: \$53.99

Quality Inn Sacramento
818 15th St.
(916) 444-3980
from: \$85.99/night

Holiday Inn Express Sacramento
728 16 St.
(916) 444-4436
from \$122/night

DOWNTOWN HOTELS:

Hyatt Regency Sacramento
1209 L St.
(916) 443-1234
from: \$161.00

La Quinta Inn Downtown
200 Jibboom St.
800-346-8357
from \$109/night

Radisson Sacramento
500 Leisure Ln.
800-346-8357
from \$104/night

Ramada Limited Discovery Park
350 Bercut Dr.
800-346-8357
from \$85/night

Sheraton Grand Sacramento Hotel
1230 J St.
(916) 447-1700
from: \$159.00

EAST SACRAMENTO HOTELS: (Close to SMUD – Symposium Site)

Doubletree Hotel Sacramento
2001 Point West Way
800-346-8357
from \$106/night

Good Nite Inn Sacramento
25 Howe Ave.
(916) 386-8408
From approx. \$55/night

Red Lion Hotel Sacramento
1401 Arden Way
Sacramento, CA 95815
800-346-8357
from \$89/night

Residence Inn By Marriott
1530 Howe Ave
Sacramento, CA 95825
800-346-8357
from \$99/night

Rebecca has also pulled together information on how to get around Sacramento by bike, rail, bus, or hired car.

CAB COMPANIES & SHUTTLES: - (916) Area Code

Ambassador Taxi -- 849-0766
Associated Cabs -- 455-1966
California Co-Op Cab -- 448-4777
Gold Dust Shuttle -- 944-4444
Greyhound Taxi Cab -- 929-2121
Luxury Cab Co -- 421-9800
Sacramento Cab -- 331-4141
Sacramento Taxi -- 391-2149
Shamrock Taxi -- 456-2222
United Cab Company -- 456-4945
Yellow Cab -- 444-2222
TDD only -- 444-9650

SUPER SHUTTLE -- 800 (258-3826)

FROM AIRPORT BY BUS:

Yolo Bus Line #42 will take you to Downtown Sacramento (stops along J, K, and L Streets between 4th St. and 15th St.). This bus leaves approximately every hour, with the first bus leaving at 5:41 am and the last at 10:17pm. \$1.50/person

Please visit <http://www.yolobus.com/m3.html> for more information.

Connection to Light Rail: Exit Bus #42 at J St. and 12th St. Walk one block to K St. between 11th and 12th St. (across from St. Rose of Lima Church) for Light Rail station. Light Rail fare is \$1.75.

LIGHT RAIL TO SMUD:

SMUD is located at the University/65th Street Light Rail stop, on the Folsom-bound Line.

For further Sacramento public transportation information, visit www.sacrt.com.

DRIVING DIRECTIONS:

Airport to SMUD:

- Drive SOUTH on AIRPORT BLVD toward AIRPORT EXIT. (1.6 miles)
- Merge onto I-5 S. to SACRAMENTO / YUBA CITY. (9.7 miles)
- Take the US-50 E exit toward CA-99 / FRESNO. (0.8 miles)
- Take the I-80 BUSINESS RTE E exit on the LEFT. (0.3 miles)
- Merge onto US-50 E. (3.5 miles)
- Take the 59TH ST. exit. (0.3 miles)
- Turn LEFT onto 59TH ST. (<0.1 miles)
- Turn RIGHT onto S ST. (0.3 miles)
- End at 6301 S St, Sacramento

If you need driving directions from other areas, please call Gerald Perez at (916) 448-1789.

A Quenchable Thirst: PCL Symposium Experts Ask and Answer The Difficult Questions About California's Water

California's water woes are many and well known. Our population, at 35 million and growing, demands water for the economy, the people and the environment. Our Bay Delta Estuary is experiencing an unprecedented ecosystem collapse, caused in part by excessive freshwater exports. Even in 2006, hundreds of Californians still lack access to water, and thousands more have access only to water that is not safe to drink. Our aging levees must hold back rising seas and larger flood flows. Climate change is melting away our largest reservoir—the Sierra snow pack—earlier in the year than ever before.

The silver lining to our dark skies is that more and more Californians are realizing that we have enough water to meet our needs. Increased efficiencies and greater integration have demonstrated enormous potential for making the most of what we have. California's new Water Plan Update demonstrates that we have more options than ever to meet California's needs.

However, the first step in addressing our problems is to admit that the status quo simply is not working. We cannot work to solutions if we never ask the difficult questions or make the difficult choices.

The greatest demonstration of that is in California's Bay Delta Estuary. This Estuary is the largest on the West Coast of the Western Hemisphere. It is home to over 800

DWR courtesy of the Water Education Foundation



species of birds, fish, plant and other aquatic life. The Estuary's rich soils support a multi million dollar agricultural industry. The Estuary's water and wildlife attract millions of boaters, sports people and other recreation enthusiasts that fuel a vital economy. It also

provides the natural conveyance and exchange point for exporting northern Californian water to the south.

Yet, the Delta and all that it provides is in imminent peril. Years of massive exporting of freshwater has severely altered the natural ecosystem. The past five years have seen numerous fish populations plummet at the same time freshwater exports have reached historic highs. Agricultural islands protected by eroding levees are actually sinking while sea level rises. Water quality continues to degrade and invasive species have run rampant.

What to do? At PCL's Legislative Symposium our panel of experts will take these hard questions head on. They will discuss the difficult problems we face and then discuss the even more difficult paths to solutions. Should we keep relying on the Bay Delta Estuary for water supply? Should we bypass the Delta all together? Or are the real solutions already being implemented in, of all places, water thirsty Southern California?

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