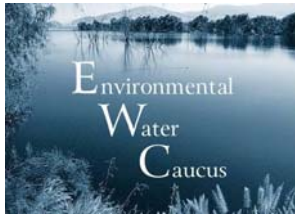


Urban Creeks Council

California Sportfishing Protection Alliance



Forest Issues Group



Truckee River Watershed Council
Collaborative solutions to protect, enhance and restore the Truckee River Watershed



SIERRA FOOTHILLS AUDUBON SOCIETY

September 28, 2007

The Honorable Don Perata
President pro Tempore of the Senate
State Capitol Building
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Most Water for the Least Cost

Dear President pro Tempore Perata:

The undersigned organizations write to express our support for a comprehensive water package that will produce the most water and the greatest benefits to California, for the least cost.

The recent court decision by Judge Wanger regarding the Bay Delta Estuary demonstrates that California's current level of reliance on the Delta is unsustainable. The Delta's ecosystem collapse puts at risk all those that rely on its resources, including its water supplies. We support acting now to invest in proven programs and projects that will help California address these problems as quickly as possible.

We respectfully offer the attached water bond response package. Our water bond response package is designed both to stabilize the Delta ecosystem and increase regional water reliability, including water reliability for areas south of the Delta. State and federal studies, including the California Water Plan, have determined that the options outlined in our bond package have **the greatest water supply potential and are cost-effective**. These options also have the advantage of increasing water supplies within each region of California, thus reducing reliance on unsustainable water exports from the fragile Delta, and decreasing the risks to California's water supplies.

This approach is also consistent with the Delta Vision Blue Ribbon Taskforce preliminary report issued September 12, 2007. The Task Force recommended taking a staged, informed approach to decisions on conveyance, implementing reversible experiments rather than committing to projects that have not yet been proven to be feasible in the long-term or environmentally beneficial. Consistent with that finding our package does not provide funding for new Delta water transfer facilities. Allocating funding for such projects would be premature, would risk wasting taxpayer dollars, and would threaten the continued success of the Delta Vision process.

Senator Cogdill, Senator Ackerman, and Assemblymember Villines recently introduced a \$9.1 billion bond proposal (SB 3XX). Their proposal would irrationally and needlessly allocate over \$5 billion for construction of three costly, damaging dams. While state and federal agencies have studied these dams for years, not one of these dams has been proven to be cost-effective or environmentally acceptable. In fact, state and federal agencies have been unable to find even one willing local partner to contract for the resulting water at the anticipated cost. Taxpayers should not be asked to subsidize projects that so obviously fail the cost effectiveness test. **Our groups affirm our strong opposition to any bond proposal that provides funding for construction of these dams. We therefore oppose SB 3XX.** (We would also oppose any proposal that includes funding for the raising of Shasta Dam, as proposed in the CALFED ROD, due to the effect such action would have on the living Winnemem Wintu Culture).

SB 1XX and 2XX, introduced by Senator Perata on September 19, 2007 propose a much more positive approach, consistent with the approach we outline here. We support SB 1XX and 2XX and will continue to work with Senator Perata and the legislature to ensure more components of our water response package are included in the final bond package.

Again, our groups strongly support advancing a water bond consistent with the attached water response package, but we cannot support and will encourage voters across California to reject any water bond, including SB 3XX, that funds these dams and leads to further degradation of the Bay Delta – even if the bond in question provides significant funding for ecosystem restoration. We urge the Legislature to advance a bond package that ensures that California has the water it needs at a price it can afford.

Sincerely,



Gary Patton, Executive Director
Planning and Conservation League



Steven Aceti, JD, Executive Director
California Coastal Coalition



Barbara Barrigan-Parrilla, Campaign Director
Restore the Delta



Lynn Barris
Butte Environmental Council



Jennifer Clary
Clean Water Action



Joan Clayburgh, Executive Director,
Sierra Nevada Alliance



Lisa Coffman, Executive Director
California Water Impact Network



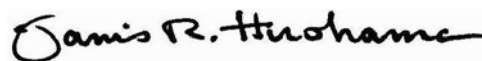
Stevee Duber
High Sierra Rural Alliance



Steve Evans, Conservation Director
Friends of the River



Mark Franco, Headman
Winnemem Wintu Tribe



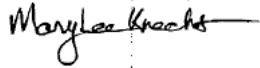
Janis R. Hirohama, President
League of Women Voters of California



Bill Jennings, Executive Director
California Sportfishing Protection Alliance



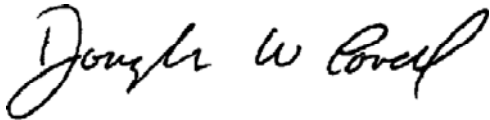
Amanda Jorgenson, Executive Director
California Native Plant Society



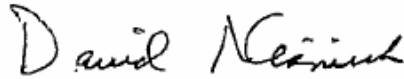
Mary Lee Knecht, President
California Watershed Network



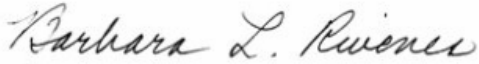
Byron Leydecker, Chair
Friends of the Trinity River



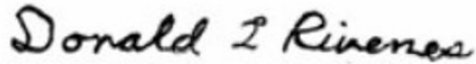
Douglas W. Lovell, Chairman, Bay-Delta
Committee
Federation of Fly Fishers



David Nesmith, Facilitator
Environmental Water Caucus



Barbara Rivenes, Board Chair
Forest Issues Group



Don Rivenes, Conservation Chair
Sierra Foothills Audubon Society



Lynn Sadler, President and CEO
Mountain Lion Foundation



Phil Stevens, Executive Director
Urban Creeks Council



Brian Stranko, Chief Executive Officer
California Trout



Lisa Wallace, Executive Director
Truckee River Watershed Council



Eric Wesselman, Executive Director
Tuolumne River Trust

Water Bond Response Package

September 28, 2007

Water bond funds would be allocated according to the following principles:

- Bond awards must be competitive & judged on ability to solve critical water needs, cost-effectiveness, public benefit & timeliness.
- Bond awards must require appropriate cost shares, based on relative public & local benefits. Cost shares should not be required, or should be significantly reduced where grants will directly benefit a disadvantaged community.
- Appropriate maximum grant amounts should be established to ensure that the most effective projects will be implemented, rather than the most expensive.
- Bond allocation must be targeted to projects that increase regional water supply reliability & that increase the ability to respond to & minimize climate change impacts on water.

Invest in Delta restoration & enhancement (recommended investment of \$1.5-2 billion):

Appropriate expenditures include implementing Delta Vision restoration recommendations including “no regrets” actions, feasibility studies for experimental actions & initial studies for next steps. Construction of unstudied Delta water transfer facilities should not be eligible for bond funds.

Invest in regional water supply reliability & enhanced integration of water management. Appropriate funding levels would yield *millions of acre feet of water* for California:

- **Recycled water (recommended investment of \$250 million)**
 - The Department of Water Resources’ California Water Plan 2005 estimates that enhanced development of recycled water would yield **1.4 million acre feet of water annually**.
 - The State Water Resources Control Board has identified 89 feasible recycled water projects that need funding. The SWRCB estimates that these projects alone have a potential to produce **400 thousand acre feet** of new water per year. Under existing cost sharing structures, the State could leverage this potential for only \$250 million in bond funding.
- **Urban water use efficiency (recommended investment of \$500 million):**
 - The California Water Plan determined that aggressive implementation of urban water use efficiency has a potential to increase water supply by **3.1 million acre feet per year**.
 - Urban water use efficiency is also an effective energy conservation measure & a tool for reducing greenhouse gases.
- **Agricultural water use efficiency (recommended investment of \$500 million):**
 - The CalFed Water Use Efficiency Study found that fully funding agricultural use water efficiency could produce over **4 million acre feet** of recoverable water flows per year.
- **Stormwater capture and local groundwater storage (recommended investment of \$250 million):**
 - In Los Angeles, stormwater projects have been demonstrated to effectively reduce urban runoff, decrease water treatment costs, improve water quality & increase local water supplies. These successes can be replicated around the State.
- **Development & implementation of climate change minimization & adaptation measures for water (recommended investment of \$250 million):**
 - Water use in California consumes 19% of the electrical energy used in the State, 30% of the natural gas & 88 billion gallons of diesel fuel every year.
 - Climate change is already affecting water resources & will likely impact our available water supplies in the future.
 - Investments in response measures ensure that California can meet water needs into the future while also meeting the standards of AB 32.

- **Enhance south of Delta water supply reliability & water quality (recommended investment of \$250 million):**
 - The recent court decision by Judge Wanger demonstrated that current reliance on the Delta is unsustainable. Many areas south of the Delta rely on the Delta for a portion of their water supply. This fund would invest in programs & projects that enhance the reliability of those Delta supplies that are sustainable.
 - Water supplies could be enhanced by between 700 thousand and 1 million acre feet annually.
- **Invest in integrated regional water management (recommended investment of \$1 billion):**
 - IRWMP programs maximize benefits through greater integration of water supply management with other water management sectors, including flood control, stormwater management, watershed restoration, water treatment, & pollution prevention. This integrated approach allows water managers & non governmental groups within each region to increase efficiencies, target multi-benefit projects & design water management portfolios based on the most cost-effective & locally beneficial strategies.
 - IRWMP programs benefit when plans are developed & implemented in collaboration with local groups that have on-the-ground expertise, such as environmental justice groups and watershed groups. Plans that include governing boards & public outreach targeting such expertise should have a preference for grant funding.

Invest in Water Quality, Groundwater Remediation & Water Access (recommended investment of \$1 billion):

- Although most Californian's enjoy clean drinking water, many communities in the State do not have access to this essential resource. Many of California's communities rely on groundwater sources that are vulnerable to pollution, or that have already been contaminated. Investments in infrastructure, research, clean up & protection are necessary to ensure that all Californians have access to clean drinking water. Specifically, there is a need to fund the following programs:
 - Domestic Well Revolving Fund
 - Groundwater Pilot Projects
 - Sustainable drinking water systems reliant on contaminated groundwater sources
 - Remediation of groundwater aquifers contaminated by nitrates and arsenic
 - Groundwater protection programs
 - Outreach & Technical Assistance for disadvantaged communities
 - Emergency Clean Water Grant Fund
 - Small Community Safe Drinking Water Program
 - Infrastructure Rehabilitation Program
 - Small Community Wastewater Grant Program
 - Treatment Research & Technology of nitrates, arsenic and other priority contaminants.

River and Watershed Restoration (recommended investment of \$1 billion):

- Several of California's rivers, including the San Joaquin, the Klamath, the Trinity & Sierra rivers are in critical need of restoration. In many river watersheds, including the Feather River watershed & watersheds in the Sierra, watershed management has been an effective mechanism for improving water quality & supply, as well as improving ecosystem health. Investing in river restoration & watershed management around the state, including in mountain watersheds, secures California's future water supplies.