



PCL INSIDER: News from the Capitol

CEQA Advocacy Day a Success! Report Highlighting Economic Benefits of CEQA Released

On March 12, CEQA advocates from around the state gathered in Sacramento for a CEQA Advocacy Day and [press conference](#). The event, organized by the [Common Ground California](#), was a major success with over a hundred pro-CEQA advocates coming together to show legislators that Californians are united in their efforts to keep California's foundational environmental law strong. The press event featured longtime environmental champions Senators Noreen Evans (author of two [omnibus pro-CEQA bills](#)) and [Senator Hannah-Beth Jackson](#) (who is also pushing positive CEQA reform), as well as pro-CEQA voices from the labor, tribal, environmental and environmental health and justice communities, including several of our [CEQA Works](#) partners. The press event also featured the release of a [new report](#) assessing the economic benefit of CEQA since its passage. Following the press event, key legislative offices were bombarded by the broad-based coalition of CEQA supporters! Our next Insider will feature an update on the 26 CEQA-related bills already introduced this session, including the 10 pieces of legislation that PCL and our environmental and CEQA Works partners had a hand in developing.

PCL Testifies on New Water Bond

At their request, PCL's Jonas Minton testified at the joint hearing of the Senate Natural Resources and Water Committee and the Select Committee on Delta Sustainability regarding a new water bond. Jonas updated them on the work of the [Coalition to Support Delta Water Projects](#), describing several of the near-term projects that can contribute to ecosystem restoration, water supply reliability and preserving the unique values of the Delta region. Jonas pointed out that these widely supported projects are needed regardless of the outcome of longer term planning efforts such as the Bay Delta Conservation Plan. PCL looks forward to actively participating in the bond discussions this legislative session.

Engineers Hear About BDCP Alternative

The Southern California chapter of the American Society of Civil Engineers invited Jonas Minton to describe the [Portfolio Alternative](#) to BDCP. This alternative includes one smaller tunnel, investments in levee strengthening, additional water storage, conservation and recycling. Jonas identified the large number of Congressional representatives, State legislators, Delta County Supervisors, business groups, water districts, and newspapers who have called for in-depth analysis of this alternative. Shortly, BDCP will release its administrative draft of the EIR/EIS; PCL and our environmental and community partners are not optimistic that BDCP will consider this request.

Environmental Leaders Laud Senator Jerry Hill' Appointment to Head of Senate Environmental Quality Committee

On March 5, Senate President pro Tem Darrell Steinberg announced the [appointment](#) of Senator Jerry Hill (D-San Mateo) as the new chair of the Senate Environmental Quality Committee. Senator Hill replaces Senator Michael Rubio, who unexpectedly [resigned](#) from the Senate on February 22 to take a government affairs position with Chevron. Senator Hill has a strong record on environmental protection, including a 97% lifetime score of the [CLCV Environmental Scorecard](#), and receiving a [Legislator of the Year award](#) from PCL at our 2012 Environmental Symposium. The Senate Environmental Quality Committee is going to be one of the most critical forums for the CEQA reform discussion this year, and we look forward to working with Senator Hill in a productive way as this debate moves forward, and express our gratitude to Senate pro Tem Steinberg for [another strong appointment](#) to this Committee.

Meet the Greens Recap

“Meet the Greens,” a chance for legislators and their staffs to chat with leading environmental groups, was a resounding success. The March 12 event, planned by PCL and sponsored by fifteen members of the [Green California](#) coalition, provided an informal opportunity for legislators, key legislative staff, and environmental leaders to meet each other to build relationships, share ideas and explore how to work more effectively together. Nearly 20 environmental organizations and upwards of 40 legislators and staffers packed into Room 125 in the Capitol for pastries from Estelle’s and coffee donated by Chicory. A big thanks to our legislative hosts - Senators Fuller, Jackson and Lara, and Assemblymembers Atkins, Alejo, Chesbro, Dickinson, Fong, Holden, Hueso, Levine, Rendon, Stone, and Williams. Thanks also to other members who stopped by, including Senators Jackson and Monning and Assemblymembers Allen and Quirk. See you again next year! (Photo below: Assembly Majority Floor Leader Toni Atkins and PCL Executive Director Bruce Reznik)



PCL Welcomes New Water Manager

Rebecca Crebbin-Coates joined PCL in February 2013 as our new Water Campaign Manager. She graduated summa cum laude from UC Santa Cruz with a B.A. in Environmental Studies/Biology, where her studies focused on aquatic ecology and policy. Rebecca developed a field-based thesis project on stormwater runoff at Younger Lagoon, and has additional aquatic field experience in the Delta and in eastern Australia. She worked on Gaia Magazine for two and a half years, including a year as Co-Editor-in-Chief. Rebecca also has previous experience in communications and development at an environmental non-profit. In her current work at PCL, she strives to promote sound planning and

sustainable water management in California, focusing on issues surrounding water supply and use.



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