



THE  
TRUST  
*for* PUBLIC  
LAND

CONSERVING LAND FOR PEOPLE

August 21, 2013

Assemblymember Anthony Rendon, Chair  
Water, Parks and Wildlife Committee  
State Capitol, Room 160  
Sacramento, CA 94249-0063

Dear Chairman Rendon,

The Trust for Public Land would like to thank you again for work on the next water bond a narrowly comment on the need for investments in land conservation around rivers lakes and streams. We believe it is imperative that source watersheds are included in any water bond or Framework designed to ensure water quality and supply for the State of California.

For example, the Sierra Nevada region represents a 25 million acre area of statewide significance as it is the source of more than 60% of California's developed water supply and up to 50% of the water that flows into the Delta. A new water bond should strive to provide a safe, reliable water supply that meets the needs of all users and is resilient enough to survive disruptive events - extreme weather, large, damaging wildfire, flood, drought, or earthquake - and continue to thrive. Failure to include investments that protect and restore the source of water would be a significant omission in a comprehensive package of solutions for California's water issues.

Lakes, rivers and streams whether in the North Coast or the Sierra Nevada are complex, and interconnected. Source watersheds are the keystone of the natural infrastructure that collects, connects, filters, regulates and transports the State's freshwater through the interconnected system over time. While much of our precipitation falls and is stored in the less populated areas during the winter months, most of the state's water use occurs in late spring, summer, and early fall in the agricultural areas below the Delta and heavily populated urban areas along the coast. In essence, land around our lakes, rivers and streams act as natural reservoirs for California, capturing fresh water where it falls and storing it for distribution through the natural system later in the year.

Investing in natural infrastructure, such as improving forest and watershed health, restoring meadows and streams in the upper watersheds, addressing water quality

issues such as mercury contamination, preserving lands to prevent conversion to other uses and reducing the risk of large damaging fires are essential to ensuring water supply and quality for all California communities.

To achieve these ends, please consider the following suggestions on the Framework (changes are highlighted):

VI. Protecting Rivers, Lakes, Streams and Watersheds (\$1B)

A. Purpose: Environmental and Economic Benefits of Watersheds, Fishery & In-stream Flow

B. Funding

1. Broad Range of Activities – land conservation around rivers lakes and streams, wetlands, water quality
2. Remove Barriers to Fish Passage
3. Collaboration with Federal Gov't on Anadromous Fish Protection/Salmon
4. Protection and Restoration of source watersheds

VII. Climate Change Preparedness & Regional Self-Reliance for Water (\$1B) add:

B. Funding

3. Specific Program Allocations Within Integrated Regional Water Management
- d) Protection and restoration of source watersheds

VIII. Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Sustainability (\$1B)

B. Describe programs broadly and include protection and restoration of the source of fresh water that flows through the Delta

Thanks again for your consideration and work, and we continue to look forward to the opportunity to further comment and refine the crafting of our next water bond.

Sincerely,



Rico Mastrodonato  
Senior Government Relations Manager