

Informational Hearing: *Framework for a Water Bond*
Thursday, August 15, 2013
Assembly Committee on Water, Parks & Wildlife, Room 4202

Introduction of Framework

Hon. Anthony Rendon

- Current \$11.14 Billion Bond Now on Ballot Will Fail
- CA Water Infrastructure Funding Needs Growing More Urgent
- Need Clean Process, Clean Bond, Clean Water
- Proposed Water Bond Framework
 - Development based on *Principles* and public process
 - Adopt assurances central to bond funding
 - Not using bond as a vehicle for new policy – policy belongs in policy bills
 - Funding: 5 categories from *Principles*; \$1 B each; \$5 B total
 - Delta, regional self-reliance; safe drinking water, watersheds, storage
 - Not rank order – \$1 B each
- Plan For Going Forward – Need Stakeholder Help in Documenting Funding Needs
 - Continue public conversation; 3rd water bond hearing by WPW
 - Documentation of facts on water bond funding needs

DEADLINE: COB, Wednesday, August 21 SUBMIT: WPW Committee

Committee/Working Group Member Comments

Hon. Henry Perea

- Clear that water bond on ballot has price tag that voters may not like
- Opportunity to craft water bond that gets through legislature and appeases voters
- Glad to see commitment to clean and safe drinking water
 - Contaminants that affect communities throughout the State (arsenic, nitrates, etc)
- Storage critical to capture water
 - Critical that storage section of bond allows for building of surface and groundwater storage, and meaningful projects to improve water storage

Hon. Toni Atkins

- Different communities have different issues
- Lack of action on bond caused San Diego to deal with certain issues on its own desalination
- Take record of what different communities have done to be self-reliant
- Agricultural needs as important as clean drinking water

Hon. Richard Gordon

- Legislators must work to serve all Californians

Hon. Adam Gray

- Current water infrastructure fails to meet agricultural, urban, environmental needs
- Water storage caused groundwater pumping leading to overdraft and quality issues
- California needs 21st century solution and investment in water infrastructure
- 50-50 level of investment in infrastructure and storage
- Temperance Flat and Sites Reservoirs important for storage
- Conservation, increased storage, and updating conveyance system all important

Hon. Susan Talamantes-Eggman

- Balance local interests and statewide needs
- Delta serves as a middle ground for all things involving water in California
- Fair and equitable distribution of water across the State, understanding agricultural needs

Hon. Paul Fong

- Ensure that Delta community has a voice because it has the most to lose
- Water bond must address Delta ecosystem protection and restoration
- Consider the effects of climate change on the Delta
- Natural environment is key contributor to growth of state's economy
- Habitat protection is critical to the bond
- Bond should be in line with Co-equal goals of the BDCP

Hon. Raul Bocanegra

- Regional self-reliance important to state water system
- So Cal needs greater self-reliance; Water from Delta will not be adequate
 - Cleaning Southern California groundwater for storage is important
- Looking at state needs and at local needs

Hon. Jim Frazier

- Groundwater/Surface storage is important to California water supply
- Preservation of habitat and Delta ecosystem are critical elements to the bond
- BDCP is mitigation for the federal/state water projects
- Bond can be the fix to Delta issues
- Self-reliance is key component to determining investment
- Agrees with Gray on 50% commitment to storage
- Concerned with contaminants, particularly carbon tetrachloride
- Working group should consider all methods of self-reliance
- Opportunity to achieve common goal

Hon. Mariko Yamada

- Concerns over Delta Sustainability
- New range of activities that bond will have to undertake
- Supports fully participatory process

Other Legislator Comments

Hon. V. Manuel Perez

- Bond must meet California's long term water needs and future sustainability
- Cannot overlook current commitments, such as Salton Sea Restoration
- Funding for current state commitments to water settlements must be in bond
 - Bring litigating parties on commitment cases together and protect the State
 - Cases address not only regional needs but California's needs
 - Without state intervention, commitments would not have been agreed
 - Parties agreed to settle their cases; State must honor those terms
 - These agreements represent contractual agreements that will not go away
- Consider QSA agreement of 2011
- Supports prohibiting earmarks to specific project
- Settlement agreements are different – statewide interests

Rendon/Chesbro Response Statement

- State has legal obligations for these settlements
- Water bond seems appropriate place to meet these obligations

Public Comment

ACWA (Cindy Tuck)

- Look back to 2009 bond
- Next steps include refining amounts for each category
- Prioritize categories where there are broad public benefits
 - \$2.25 billion for Delta sustainability
 - \$3 billion for storage
- Important for disadvantaged communities to get safe drinking water

Contra Costa Water District (Jennifer Allen)

- CCWD has invested in treatment and delivery systems, including upgrades to Los Vaqueros Reservoir
- CCWD priority Areas
 - Levee improvements
 - Ecosystem restoration
 - Protection for water quality and water storage
- Message to public should be that this is the beginning of work on water storage
 - Present voters with funding for near-term and long-term storage

WiLDCOAST (Serge Dedina)

- CA River Parkway program falls under watershed protection
- Parkway programs are restoring rivers that were considered garbage dumps
 - Lower Calaveras, Tuolumne, San Joaquin, Otay
 - Program establishes parks and trails along river
- Bond should reauthorize program and support its funding
- Ensure that voters in San Joaquin and Southern California receive equitable distribution

San Diego Water Authority (Jonathan Clay)

- Key priorities include staying away from earmarks
 - Funding for IRWM program are a good way to achieve this
 - Through IRWM, regions can set priorities on projects
 - IRWM empowers local agencies to undertake meaningful local projects
- Concerns over repurposing of previous bond funds – Wants to see further discussion

Metropolitan Water District (Kathy Cole)

- Co-equal goal
 - Supports 2009 package to achieve Co-equal goals
 - Reduce reliance on Delta through regional self-reliance
 - Southern California has taken important strides toward self-reliance
 - Uncertainty over whether or not bond will fully achieve self-reliance goals
- Savings Clause on Contractual Agreements in Delta
 - Concerned; Wants to ensure no impacts on other contractual agreements
- Storage for Climate Change
 - Bond may be funding source for seismic upgrade for reservoirs, like Lake Perris

California Latino Water Coalition, California Conference of Carpenters & Latin Business Association (Michael Zaragoza)

- Bond should achieve the public good
 - Storage
 - Delta protection
- Continuous appropriation is necessary to protect Delta and have adequate storage
- Include safeguards to ensure accountability
- Water bond can address sustainability needs to grow economy and create jobs

Santa Clara Valley Water District (Tom Martinez)

- Supports funding safe, clean drinking water and groundwater cleanup
- Groundwater cleanup should be in different fund than IRWM
 - Bond should maximize funding for those groundwater cleanup programs
 - Nitrate presents a huge problem in achieving safe, drinking water
 - Groundwater resources are valuable resource
 - Cleaning up groundwater must be essential part of water bond
- Bond should support storage language in 2009 bond, including funding for seismic upgrade and retrofit for existing reservoirs (Anderson Reservoir)
- Bond should also support achievement of Co-equal goals
- Ensure that bond addresses needs of the environment, Silicon Valley and the entire State

California Alliance for Jobs (Andy Fields)

- Water is critical to growing California's economy
- Statewide delivery system is in poor condition
- SJ Valley in danger of not receiving necessary amount of water; tech giants too
- Must improve water delivery system through building south of Delta storage and through protecting the Delta
- Bond funded projects create large numbers of jobs
- Three key priorities: reliable delivery, delta protection and job creation

California State Council of Laborers (Joe Cruz)

- Construction industry stands ready to start projects; golden state because of water
- Water system must improve to meet growing CA needs

Pacific Forest Trust (Paul Mason)

- Watersheds need protection
 - Continue to face pressures from extractive industries
 - Will not necessarily continue to provide high quality/quantity of water
 - Bond must provide funding to support these well-functioning watersheds
 - Klamath-Cascade area ("horseshoe at the top of CA) provides overwhelming amount of freshwater for the Delta and is critical to CA water supply
- Recognize the effects of climate change
- Preserve watershed function; conservation easements are cost-effective

Trust for Public Land (Rico Mastrodonato)

- California lacks effective stormwater capture capabilities
- Permeable surfaces can capture stormwater
- Design modern greenspaces with ways to capture water

California Association of Sanitation Agencies (Mike Dillon)

- Highlight importance of recycled water
- Current bond has \$1 billion for recycled water – recognize that amount not feasible
- Recycled water is low hanging fruit

Northern California Water Association (Todd Manley)

- Protect area-of-origin rights
 - Important to set foundation for development of creative solutions
- Support continuous appropriation for storage; \$3 billion is “right number”
- Protection watersheds and migratory corridors; Salmon and the Pacific flyway

Audubon California & The Nature Conservancy (Christopher Tjernell)

- Keep bond neutral on BDCP
- Investments need to be made in Delta, regardless of planning efforts
- Bond should support inclusion of funding in investment in watersheds
- Bond should support funding to complete State commitments to water settlements
 - Klamath, San Joaquin, Salton Sea
- Strongly supports bond focus on needs of disadvantaged communities
- Supports regional investments and regional self-reliance
 - Less reliance on ecosystems for water alleviates pressure on environment

California Farm Bureau Federation (Danny Merkley)

- Shasta, Sites, Los Vaqueros and Temperance Flats will increase water storage by four million acre-feet
- Conservation is an important facet of water management, but is not the way out of California’s water problems
- Storage is a must to meet state water needs
 - Continuous appropriation imperative to meet climate change and increased needs due to environmental stressors and population growth
- Disadvantaged communities need comprehensive, immediate solutions with comprehensive funding source

Rural County Representatives of California (Kathy Mannion)

- Supports area-of-origin protection, wastewater management, continuous appropriation for storage and funding for disadvantaged communities
- Shovel-ready projects should not take precedence over other “greatest good” projects
- Supports language on IRWM from ACWA document

Riverside County Economic Development Agency (Phil Rosentrater)

- Bond needs to fulfill existing commitments to the Salton Sea
- Bond should fulfill other existing commitments

Imperial Irrigation District (Kendra Diajogo)

- Supports Perez’s comments on settlement cases; Mitigate effects of QSA
- Supports comments of Audubon California/Nature Conservancy

Community Water Center (Omar Carillo)

- Consider needs of disadvantaged communities; previous bonds have not reached them
- Funding for clean drinking water in schools, basic wastewater service public health
- Oppose priority for shovel-ready projects; hurts disadvantaged communities
 - Need planning and technical assistance for their projects to be ready
- Need for targeted funding source for private wells and septic systems
- Regionalization: new strategies to foster collaboration among agencies

Clean Water Action (Jennifer Clary)

- Continuous appropriation for water storage projects is not appropriate
 - Every bond is a policy document, dollars are policy
 - Legislature abdicates to the Administration with continuous appropriation
- Supports funding for disadvantaged communities
 - Definition for “disadvantaged communities”
 - Be sure that funding reaches disadvantaged communities
- Wastewater management desperately needs funding
- Reinforce RCRC comments on shovel-ready projects
- Bond funding is to fulfill state obligations
 - Klamath, Salton Sea, AND human right to water

California Building Industry Association (Richard Lyon)

- Must have plan that addresses storage needs and Co-equal Goals
- Develop local and regional solutions
- Working group is generally on the right track
- ACWA proposal is a good framework too
 - Incorporates basic agreement in 2009; recognizes need to trim bond

California Waterfowl Association (Jeffrey Volberg)

- Appreciates recognition of the importance of wetlands
- Investment in wetlands is highly leveraged among multiple benefits
- Additional storage (Sites Reservoir) helps provide flexibility to benefit wetland

California Rural Legal Assistance Foundation (Noe Paramo)

- Disadvantaged communities needs are critical
- Bond should not prioritize shovel-ready projects

Imperial County (Bill Dohring)

- Ensure that QSA receives funding

California Defenders of Wildlife (Kim Delfino)

- Bond should honor existing and past commitments
 - Salton Sea commitment is very important
 - Also San Joaquin and Klamath
 - Refuge Water through Central Valley Project Improvement Act
- Relying on use of previous bond allocations
 - Previous commitments made in previous bonds should not lose monies

Water Reuse (Richard Harris)

- Recycled water deserves stand-alone category and funding within bond
- 2002 Task Force on Recycled Water Provides Factual Foundation for Bond Funding
- Funding through SWRCB for using recycled water for groundwater recharge

Groundwater Resources Association of California (Rosanna Carvacho)

- Pleased to see emphasis on groundwater
- Supports Gray's comments on groundwater recharge
- Wants to see groundwater recharge addressed in framework

Local Agencies of the North Delta (Osha Meserve)

- Supports focus on regional self-reliance
- Water supply reuse and conservation is a critical facet of water management
- Need "sideboards around commitments" so that BDCP cannot rely on bond funding
- Ensure that public funds are spent in ways that serve habitat and ecosystem health

Friant Water Authority (Louis Brown)

- Pleased with process and progress; bond must be something that voters will pass
- Three areas of focus from guidelines
 - People
 - Work on disadvantaged communities; groundwater cleanup
 - Do not focus on specific contaminants; focus on CA groundwater cleanup
 - Environment
 - Delta protection and restoration
 - Infrastructure
 - Need more storage; climate change or not
 - Stormwater capture and storage
 - Groundwater storage does not work as well without surface storage

California Water Association (Meg Catzen-Brown)

- Supports focus on different strategies to maximize water supply
- Encourages inclusiveness that all rate-payers benefit from bond funds