



May 29, 2024

The Honorable Gavin Newsom
Governor
1021 O Street, Suite 9000
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Mike McGuire
Senate President Pro Tem
1021 O Street, Suite 8518
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Ben Allen
Senator
1021 O Street, Suite 6610
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Monique Limón
Senator
1021 O Street, Suite 6510
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Robert Rivas
Assembly Speaker
1021 O Street, Suite 4350
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Eduardo Garcia
Assemblymember
1021 O Street, Suite 8120
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Diane Papan
Assemblymember
1021 O Street, Suite 4220
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Support for Funding for Climate Resilient Water Infrastructure in 2024 Climate Bond

Dear Governor Newsom, Pro Tem McGuire, Speaker Rivas, Senators Allen and Limón and Assemblymembers Garcia and Papan:

On behalf of our statewide coalition of water, labor, agriculture, business, local government and social justice organizations, we write you to advocate for the inclusion of key priorities related to water infrastructure and climate resilience in the proposed climate resilience bond currently under consideration. Our coalition has collaboratively developed a comprehensive framework that outlines critical areas where investment is urgently needed to address the water management challenges posed by climate change and ensure the sustainability of our communities, farms, the environment and businesses. These investments will create jobs and provide much needed funding for vital projects.

We are supportive of the overall funding categories included in SB 867 (Allen) and emphasize the importance of investing at least two-thirds of any climate resilience bond in water infrastructure to build durability and adapt to the impacts of a changing climate. The costs of investment in water will only go up. We urge you to consider the priorities outlined below as integral components of the bond to secure a sustainable future for our state. This list of priorities represents \$6.65 Billion or two-thirds of a hypothetical \$10 Billion bond.

Climate Resilient Water Infrastructure:

- Recycling and Desalination: \$1 Billion
- Water Quality and Safe Drinking Water: \$500 Million
- Conservation and Water Use Efficiency: \$400 Million
- Dam Safety: \$700 Million
- Groundwater Management: \$750 Million
- Surface Storage: \$550 Million
- Regional Conveyance: \$600 Million
- Flood Protection and Reactivation \$950 Million
- State Water Project Public Benefits: \$500 Million
- Regional and Coastal Watershed Resilience: \$700 Million

Water infrastructure plays a fundamental role in our state's ability to adapt to and withstand the impacts of climate change. By investing in robust water infrastructure projects, we can enhance our ability to manage water resources effectively, safeguard against flooding and water scarcity, improve fish and wildlife, and improve access to safe drinking water for all communities.

Our coalition recognizes the significance of water infrastructure in bolstering climate resilience, and we urge you to prioritize funding for water-related initiatives in the proposed climate resilience bond. By allocating substantial resources to water infrastructure projects, we can fortify our communities against the challenges posed by a changing climate and lay the foundation for a sustainable and secure future. In addition, focusing on water infrastructure creates jobs, stimulates economic growth, and protects public health and food supplies, —all while building resilience to climate-related risks.

In light of the critical role that water infrastructure plays in climate resilience, we urge you to support inclusion of at least two-thirds for water infrastructure projects in the climate bond. By doing so, we can ensure that our state is well-prepared to address the challenges of a changing climate and create a more resilient and sustainable future for all California. Thank you for your leadership and consideration of this request. We look forward to further collaboration and engagement during the final negotiations.

Sincerely,

Adel Hagekhalil
General Manager
Metropolitan Water District of Southern California

Cindy Tuck
Deputy Executive Director
Association of California Water Agencies

Charlie Wilson
Executive Director
Southern California Water Coalition

Chris Hannan
President
State Building and Construction Trades Council

Kris Murray
Executive Director
Assn. of California Cities – Orange County

Adrian Covert
Senior Vice President Public Policy
Bay Area Council

Martin Ludlow
Founder
Groundswell for Water and Housing Justice

Tracy Hernandez
Founding CEO
Los Angeles County BizFed

David Guy
President
Northern California Water Association

Jon Switalski
Executive Director
Rebuild SoCal Partnership

Richard Lambros
Executive Director
Secure Water Alliance

Jennifer Pierre
Executive Director
State Water Contractors

Mike Roos
President
Southern California Leadership Council

Austin Ewell
Voluntary Executive Director
Water Blueprint for the San Joaquin Valley

David Pedersen
Board President
Watereuse California

Climate Resilience Bond Priorities
Water Infrastructure and Climate Resilience

- A. Recycling and Desalination** **\$1 Billion**
- Small, medium and large-scale water recycling and reuse projects
 - Desalination (See SB 867 (Allen))
- B. Water Quality and Safe Drinking Water** **\$500 Million**
- Clean water, including remediation of PFAS and other contaminants
 - Safe drinking water, for disadvantaged communities and other communities
- C. Conservation and Water Use Efficiency** **\$400 Million**
- Split between urban and agricultural water use efficiency
- D. Dam Safety** **\$700 Million**
- Award of grants for State’s new Dam Safety and Climate Resilience Local Assistance Program
 - Examples include seismic retrofits and implementation of Forecast-Informed Reservoir Operations (FIRO)
- E. Groundwater Management** **\$750 Million**
- Groundwater storage
 - Groundwater management (e.g., banking, conjunctive use)
- F. Surface Storage** **\$550 Million**
- Inflation adjustment funding for Water Storage Investment Program
 - New local/regional smaller above-ground storage projects
- G. Regional Conveyance** **\$600 Million**
- Local or regional conveyance projects
 - Repairs to existing conveyances
 - Does not include Delta Conveyance Project
- H. Flood Protection** **\$950 Million**
- Geographically balanced flood support (e.g., coastal flood management)
 - Flood Subventions Program
 - Floodplain Restoration: Salmon Strategy Portfolio
 - Stormwater Capture
- I. State Water Project Public Benefits** **\$500 Million**
- State Water Project infrastructure improvements and system operations
 - State Water Project renewable energy for State clean energy goals
 - Does not include Delta Conveyance Project
- J. Regional and Coastal Watershed Resilience** **\$700 Million**
- Regional Watershed Resilience
 - Coastal Resilience (e.g., projects to address sea level rise)

\$6.65 Billion total – 2/3 of \$10 B Climate Resilience Bond