



A Statement to California Land Trusts and Our Partners

By the Board of Directors of the
California Council of Land Trusts

On Wednesday, April 28th, the California Council of Land Trusts' Board of Directors voted unanimously to support the water bond on the November 2010 ballot. CCLT believes that the water bond will benefit conservation and Californians of this generation and for generations to come.

California's existing water infrastructure has been neglected for decades. The real possibility of a catastrophic failure could have devastating consequences for Californians and the environment as the state is compelled to provide water at any cost. Likely climate change impacts (e.g., changes in precipitation and snow pack and increased water demand due to higher temperatures) mean that we need to increase our capacity to capture and store water as well as implement better use and reuse of water supply. Failing to respond to a changing future could mean much harder choices between people and the environment in the coming years.

The water bond confronts these challenges. It makes a large down-payment on the first coordinated effort to halt and begin reversing the Delta ecosystem collapse, the largest natural estuary on the West Coast. It provides significant dollars for land and watershed conservation which is has been a top priority for our organization since its inception. It provides funding for numerous projects that will advance water quality and supply, including water conservation, water recycling and groundwater cleanup. It will make directed investments in water storage projects which prevail through a competitive process and may include groundwater recharge, off-stream reservoirs and other options. It is time to start fixing California's water system.

The CCLT Board of Directors realizes that the water bond reflects compromise but ultimately it moves the state in the right direction. We recognize that the bond does not contain enough funding to accomplish all the projects and programs proposed; matching funds and significant investment from federal and local government, water agencies, the private sector and beneficiaries will be required. And, while no one has a crystal ball for

the future, we find that the advance of Delta restoration, water programs, conservation funding and the safeguards and required processes included in the water bond warrant CCLT's full support.

The Board of Directors reached its unanimous decision after six months of in-depth analysis and discussion. Our Policy Committee hosted special meetings in which neutral water experts, supporters and opponents of the measure discussed the water bond, as well as reviewing the bond language, analysis by others, media reports, polling results and other information. An 11-page paper reflecting the Committee's work was issued in early February summarizing the contents of the bond and presented the primary issues in a Q&A format; an update on developments between late January and late April is attached. CCLT widely distributed the report and sought feedback from our members and at regional meetings. "We are very pleased with the thoughtful deliberations and thorough process that CCLT conducted on this important ballot measure," stated Ann Muscat, Ph.D., Co-Chair of the California Council of Land Trusts.

Our paper with its addendum, a summary of the water bond, the complete bond language, and other information can be viewed at www.calandtrusts.org. Please contact us for further information at 916.497.0272.