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CONTACT: Kathy Fairbanks
kfairbanks@bcfpublicaffairs.com
www.WaterForCA.com

California Council of Land Trusts Endorses 2010 Water Bond

SACRAMENTO, CA – Today, the coalition in support of the November 2010 water bond announced that the Board of Directors of the California Council of Land Trusts (CCLT) voted unanimously to support the water bond on the November 2010 ballot. The Board of Directors reached its decision after six months of in-depth analysis and discussion. By endorsing the water bond, CCLT joins a growing and diverse coalition of environmental organizations, including The Nature Conservancy and Audubon California, as well as farmers, business, labor, water agencies and others. [Click here](#) for a current list of water bond supporters.

The California Council of Land Trusts acts as a unified voice for more than 150 land trusts working in local communities throughout California. Together, land trusts share a common vision for protecting natural areas, farmlands, parks, and clean water and air.

“The California Council of Land Trusts believes the water bond will benefit conservation and Californians,” said Darla Guenzler, Executive Director of the CCLT. “The water bond makes a large down-payment on the first coordinated effort to halt and begin reversing the Delta ecosystem collapse, and provides significant dollars for land and water conservation which has been a top priority for our organization since its inception. It also provides funding for numerous projects that will advance water quality and supply, including water conservation, water recycling and groundwater cleanup. This bond helps carefully balance the needs of our environment and economy. We cannot wait any longer to start fixing our water system.”

A myriad of problems plagues our water system, including:

- **Contamination & Pollution of Rivers, Lakes, Streams and Groundwater.**
- **An Environment at Risk.** In areas critical to our water supply, entire ecosystems and watersheds are threatened because of contamination and changes in natural water flows.
- **The Delta in Crisis.** The Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta (Delta) - which delivers water to more than 25 million people and which is the largest natural estuary on the West Coast – faces a host of environmental and infrastructure problems that threaten our water supply and the environment.
- **Severely Limited Supplies of Water.** California faces many challenges storing and moving sufficient water supplies to meet the needs of our economy and population, challenges that have been worsened after three straight years of drought.
- **Crumbling & Aging Infrastructure at Risk of Failure.** California’s network of water storage and delivery infrastructure (pipes, canals, surface and groundwater storage) is outdated and inadequate to meet California’s water supply and environmental needs.

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If passed, *the Safe, Clean and Reliable Drinking Water Supply Act of 2010* will:

- ✓ **Protect & restore the environment** by providing vitally needed ecosystem restoration including reviving threatened fish populations, investing in conservation and watershed protections, and cleaning up of rivers, lakes, streams, beaches and the coast.
- ✓ **Restore the Delta.** By fortifying hundreds of miles of levees and restoring the delta ecosystem and habitats, the measure will help protect the delta and prevent a full-fledge collapse of its infrastructure and natural environment.
- ✓ **Enhance conservation** by funding local water agency conservation efforts to reduce water usage and enhance water-use efficiency.
- ✓ **Clean up drinking water sources** by funding emergency actions to clean up water supplies in at-risk areas, cleaning up groundwater contamination, and protecting rivers, lakes and streams that supply our drinking water.
- ✓ **Help develop more reliable water supplies** by improving the infrastructure that stores and delivers water.
- ✓ **Increase local water supplies** through funding of local and regional projects to clean up local water sources and reduce dependence on water brought in from other regions by funding advanced treatment technologies to promote water recycling and clean up projects.

The measure also contains strong taxpayer protections and strict accountability requirements, including: annual, independent audits of all water bond expenditures; a strict limit on administrative costs to 5%; and a requirement that the bonds be sold slowly over time as our economy and state budget improves, with no more than \$5.57 billion sold before July 1, 2015 – spreading out debt payments from the state's general fund.

The Alliance for Clean Water and Jobs is a growing coalition of environmental groups, business and labor, farmers, water agencies and others supporting the November 2010 water bond. Key members of the coalition include the California Alliance for Jobs, Association of California Water Agencies, Audubon California, California Building Industry Association, Natural Heritage Institute, California Chamber of Commerce, California Latino Water Coalition, Milk Producers Council, WiLD Coast, Orange County Business Council, San Jose/Silicon Valley Chamber of Commerce, Southern California Water Committee, Bolsa Chica Land Trust, State Building & Construction Trades Council, The Nature Conservancy California, Western Growers Association and other regional and statewide organizations.

For more information visit www.WaterForCA.com.