



The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California

NEWS RELEASE

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METROPOLITAN BOARD APPROVES SUPPORT FOR PROPOSITION 1, THE REVISED STATEWIDE WATER BOND

Scaled-down \$7.5 billion bond goes before voters on Nov. 4 general election ballot

Metropolitan Water District's Board of Directors today ratified support for Proposition 1, a statewide bond measure on the Nov. 4 ballot that would provide funding for a wide range of water and resource management programs and projects throughout California.

If approved by voters, the proposed general obligation bond measure—"The Water Quality, Supply and Infrastructure Improvement Act of 2014"—would make \$7.545 billion in financing available to advance Gov. Jerry Brown's California Water Action Plan.

The proposed bond represents the largest investment in California water infrastructure in decades. The measure includes funding for reservoirs and other storage projects, wetland and watershed improvements, groundwater sustainability, flood control and water recycling.

"In the midst of record drought and extraordinary public awareness of the dry conditions throughout California, the water bond couldn't come at a more crucial time in state history," Metropolitan board Chairman Randy Record said.

"Proposition 1 will not only provide a fiscal foundation for the sustainable management of California's water resources, funding from the bond's passage will help improve and balance water supply reliability with ecosystem sustainability and restoration. Those are among the reasons why our board supports the bond," he said.

Record added that passage of the bond measure would leverage non-state funding to advance conservation, regional programs of self-reliance and integrated water management to prepare for long-term drought conditions in the future.

Proposition 1 is a rewrite of a previous \$11.14 billion water bond, which was part of a sweeping package of water reform legislation passed by the state Legislature in November 2009. Originally scheduled to appear on the November 2010 general election ballot, the measure was twice delayed by the Legislature.

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After more than five years of negotiations, the Legislature on a bipartisan vote in August approved the retooled, smaller bond, which was signed by Gov. Brown.

The proposed bond is comprised of seven categories: water quality improvements (\$520 million); ecosystem and watershed protection and restoration (\$1.495 billion); regional water security, climate and drought preparedness (\$810 million); statewide water system operational improvements and drought preparedness (\$2.7 billion); water recycling (\$725 million); groundwater sustainability (\$900 million); and flood management (\$395 million).

If the bond is approved, Metropolitan and its 26 member public agencies would be eligible to compete for Proposition 1 funding for water projects. Record noted that the bond measure also could help co-fund projects that reduce future statewide reliance on supplies delivered through the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta, as called for under the original 2009 legislative Delta reform and water management package.

Formed where the rivers of the Sierra Nevada merge before heading toward San Francisco Bay, the Delta is a critical component of the state's water supply, helping sustain two-thirds of California's residents and an agricultural industry that grows about half of the nation's fruits and vegetables. About 30 percent of Southern California's total supplies in a year moves across the Delta to the state-operated pumps and aqueduct system.

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The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California is a cooperative of 26 cities and water agencies serving nearly 19 million people in six counties. The district imports water from the Colorado River and Northern California to supplement local supplies, and helps its members to develop increased water conservation, recycling, storage and other resource-management programs.