

● **Board of Directors**
Communications, Outreach and Legislation Committee

January 8, 2002 Board Meeting

8-6

Subject

Support proposed water bond initiative, "Water Security, Clean Drinking Water, Coastal and Beach Protection Act of 2002"

Description

It is clear that there will continue to be a need for major public spending on water supply and water quality infrastructure for the foreseeable future. However, given the state's current financial difficulties, it is becoming less likely that the Legislature will pass a comprehensive water bond over the coming year.

That reality is spurring a voter initiative campaign to qualify the "Water Security, Clean Drinking Water, Coastal and Beach Protection Act of 2002" for the November 2002 ballot.

The proposed initiative would authorize the issuance of \$3.4 billion in state bonds for: (see [Attachment 1](#))

- Water security (\$50 million)
- Clean water and water quality (\$370 million)
- CALFED (\$825 million);
- Safer drinking water (\$435 million);
- Coastal and wetlands protection (\$950 million);
- Desalination (\$100 million);
- Colorado River (\$70 million); and
- Integrated Regional Water Management (\$640 million)

This bond issue would provide substantial funds that could be obtained by member agencies and Metropolitan to develop local supply projects and a variety of water quality improvement projects. There also would be substantial funding provided for the CALFED Bay-Delta program, including necessary funds to advance surface water storage proposals and south Delta conveyance improvements, and for implementation of projects with the California Colorado River Water Use 4.4 Plan that, together with the bond-funded local projects, will help assure long-term SB 221 compliance in our region.

Clean water and water reliability bond measures have enjoyed strong support from voters in the past and are expected to continue to be supported next year, even in the face of a projected state budget deficit.

Policy

Source Water Quality Protection adopted on February 10, 1998.

Colorado River Basin Management Policy Principle adopted on January 11, 1999.

CALFED Bay-Delta Process Policy Principle adopted on November 15, 1999.

Watershed Management Policy Principles adopted on April 11, 2000.

California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)

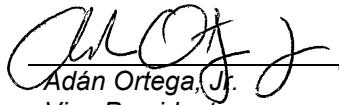
CEQA determination for Staff Recommendation:

The proposed action is not defined as a project under CEQA because it involves Board support for the submittal of proposals (i.e., proposed water bond initiative) to the vote of the people of the state (Section 15378(b)(3) of the State CEQA Guidelines). In addition, where it can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that the proposed action in question may have a significant effect on the environment, the proposed action is not subject to CEQA (Section 15061(b)(3) of the State CEQA Guidelines).


The CEQA determination is: Determine that the proposed action is not subject to the provisions of CEQA per Sections 15378(b)(3) and 15061(b)(3) of the State CEQA Guidelines.

Staff Recommendation

Adopt the CEQA determination and express Board support for the "Water Security, Clean Drinking Water, Coastal and Beach Protection Act of 2002".


Adán Ortega, Jr.
Vice President

12/20/2001
Date


Ronald R. Gastelum
Chief Executive Officer

12/20/2001
Date

Attachment 1 – Water Security, Clean Drinking Water, Coastal and Beach Protection Act of 2002

**WATER SECURITY, CLEAN DRINKING WATER,
COASTAL AND BEACH PROTECTION ACT OF 2002**

| | |
|--|--------------------------|
| 1. WATER QUALITY | \$955 million |
| (a) Water Security | \$50 million |
| • Monitoring and warning systems | |
| • Protective structures | |
| • Emergency interconnections | |
| • Communication systems | |
| (b) Safe Drinking Water | \$435 million |
| • Small system upgrades | |
| • Treatment and contaminant removal | |
| • Drinking water source protection | |
| • Revolving loan fund (not less than 60 percent of funds shall be available to Southern California water agencies to meet the state's reduction of Colorado River water use) | |
| (c) Clean Water and Water Quality | \$370 million |
| • Pollution prevention, reclamation, blending and exchange | |
| • River parkways that provide water quality benefits | |
| • Lake Tahoe water quality projects | |
| • Coastal, inland waterway and groundwater protection (funds would also be made available to mitigate pathogen risk at drinking water reservoirs) | |
| • Sierra Nevada water quality projects | |
| (d) Contaminant and Salt Removal Technologies | \$100 million |
| • Desalination projects | |
| • Treatment projects for MTBE, arsenic, chromium, etc. | |
| • Treatment tech development | |
| 2. CALFED BAY-DELTA PROGRAM: | \$825 million |
| • Storage planning and feasibility studies | |
| • Water conveyance | |
| • Delta levee restoration | |
| • Interim water supply reliability | |
| • Ecosystem restoration | |
| • Watershed protection | |
| • Conservation and efficiency projects | |

3. REGIONAL PROJECTS:**\$710 million****(a) Integrated Regional Water Management**

\$640 million

- Water supply reliability
- Storm water management
- Wetland restoration, pollution reduction
- Groundwater recharge, salt removal and reclamation
- Water banking and exchange
- Integrated flood management
- Fish and wildlife enhancement
- Conservation and efficiency programs
- Treatment technology
- Groundwater monitoring (eligible projects must be consistent with adopted integrated water management plans and include matching funds or donated services from non-state sources)

(b) Colorado River

\$70 million

- Canal lining
- Ecosystem restoration requirements

4. COASTAL PROTECTION**\$950 million****(a) Watershed Protection and Restoration**

\$200 million

(includes specified funding for conservancies)

(b) Wetland Restoration and Protection

\$750 million

- SF Bay wetland restoration
- Southern California wetland and watershed protection

TOTAL:**\$3.44 billion**