

Potential Water Bond for the November, 2106 ballot.

Despite the passage of a water bond in November 2014 (Proposition 1), the continuing drought and threat of future droughts demands additional solutions to California's water problems.

The new water bond would match the priorities set in Governor Brown's California Water Action Plan. It would fund parts of the plan which were not adequately funded in Proposition 1, and would fund important Proposition 1 programs whose funds are rapidly being exhausted.

The bond contains the following funding categories:

- Recycling of wastewater for appropriate uses.
- Desalting salty groundwater
- Capturing stormwater and low flows in storm drains and storing the water underground or using it for irrigation and other purposes.
- Water conservation programs, such as replacing thirst lawns with appropriate drought tolerant plantings.
- Eliminating leaks in water distribution systems and in end user systems
- Repairing flood control reservoirs so that they can again capture stormwater and allow it to be stored
- Providing safe drinking water to those who do not have it
- Making better use of flood plains to manage flood waters and improve wildlife habitat
- Better manage watersheds to protect and improve water supplies and water quality
- Store more water underground for use during dry periods
- protect water quality in rivers and in the ocean
- Provide safe drinking water supplies to disadvantaged communities

California can afford this bond act, since our ratio of debt to gross state product, and our percent of the state budget devoted to interest payments are both moderate compared to other states.

Based on conservative estimates, the water bond will produce enough water to serve nearly 8 million people, and the water produced will largely be available during times of drought.

The water bond will also develop water for fish and wildlife, which are very stressed during droughts.

State water bond funding will make local water supply improvement more affordable, avoiding water rate hikes.

Proposition 1 was supported by business, labor, environmental and civic organizations, and local water districts. This measure can expect similar support.