



TWO COMPLEMENTARY WATER BONDS WILL GO BEFORE VOTERS IN 2018

As securing California's water future becomes increasingly challenging, ensuring funding to mitigate the results of climate change, aging infrastructure, natural disasters and population growth are more important than ever. In response to those challenges, voters will have the opportunity to approve two general obligation bonds in 2018. One measure will appear on the June 2018 ballot, and the other measure will likely appear on the November 2018 ballot.

The two measures are complementary and, if approved, would work together to fund water-related projects intended to provide safe drinking water to disadvantaged communities, improve water supply reliability, help implement the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) and restore watersheds.

In recognition of the need for this funding, the Association of California Water Agencies (ACWA) Board of Directors voted unanimously to support both bonds.

The California Drought, Water, Parks, Coastal Protection, and Outdoor Access for All Act of 2018, will be placed on the June 2018 ballot as Proposition 68. This legislative bond measure resulted from the passage with bipartisan support of SB 5 (de León, 2017). This measure would authorize \$4.1 billion in general obligation bonds to finance water and park projects, climate change preparedness, coastal protection, and outdoor access.

Examples of its water project funding include money for safe drinking water for disadvantaged communities and funding for SGMA implementation.

The State Water Supply Infrastructure, Water Conveyance, Ecosystem and Watershed Protection and Restoration and Drinking Water Protection Act of 2018 (the November bond) is an \$8.9 billion water bond initiative measure. Initiative backers are currently completing the signature collection process to qualify the measure for placement on the November 2018 ballot. This bond would fund a wide range of water projects from safe drinking water projects to SGMA implementation and watershed improvements.

Though two separate measures, both would work together as a complementary pair to appropriate funding to a variety of needed projects. Together, they would provide more than \$10 billion for drought preparedness projects, flood protection, safe drinking water, implementation of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act, and other projects that will improve water supply reliability and ecosystem health.

The Association of California Water Agencies Board of Directors voted unanimously to support both bonds.

INVESTMENT IN THE CALIFORNIA WATER ACTION PLAN

The California Water Action Plan of 2014, was a major step in the right direction during California's most severe drought in recent history. The multi-prong plan, whose roots stem from ACWA's Statewide Water Action Plan (SWAP), outlines priority actions addressing water conservation, groundwater management, ecological restoration, Delta conveyance solutions, water storage, safe drinking water and more.

Since 2014, the Water Quality, Supply, and Infrastructure Improvement Act of 2014 (also known as Proposition 1) has provided much needed investment in water supply reliability and ecosystem health projects and has also leveraged local and federal cost share funds.

Much like Proposition 1, both 2018 bonds, if approved, would result in an influx of local investment. Except for the storage component, pending qualification for bond funds, it's expected most of the money from Proposition 1 will be committed by 2019. As such, Proposition 68 and the November bond will help replenish the soon-to-be depleted funding source.

ACWA believes the two bonds are complementary initiatives that would serve California tremendously and help build upon the successes of Proposition 1. Enactment of the measures would secure further investment in the California Water Action Plan.





FUNDING THE FUTURE OF SUSTAINABLE GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT

The Sustainable Groundwater Management Act of 2014 (SGMA) established a new program for management of California's groundwater. SGMA required the formation of local Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSAs). It requires GSAs to develop and implement Groundwater Sustainability Plans (GSPs) that are consistent with Department of Water Resources' GSP regulations. This is a complex program that is very challenging and costly to implement.

The Legislature passed SGMA and the bill (AB 1471, Rendon, 2014) that became Proposition 1 (the 2014 Water Bond) in the same year. Because the bills that comprised SGMA and AB 1471 were being written and

moved through the Legislature at the same time, the funding for SGMA implementation was added late in the bond negotiation process. As a result, Proposition 1 included only \$100 million for SGMA implementation. The Legislature recognized then that more funding was needed. Essentially all of the remaining Proposition 1 SGMA funding is being committed in 2018.

The writers of Proposition 68 and the November bond recognized that additional bond funding was needed for SGMA implementation. Proposition 68 and the November bond would provide \$50 million and \$640 million, respectively, for SGMA implementation.

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WATER BONDS FUNDING COMPARISON

Funding Category	Proposition 68 \$4.1 B (June Ballot)	November Bond \$8.9 B
	Funding in Millions	Funding in Millions
Forest Protection	\$110	\$120
Recycled Water and Desalination	\$80	\$800
Safe Drinking Water (and Wastewater)	\$330	\$750
SGMA Implementation	\$50	\$640
Conservation	\$20	\$365
Flood Management	\$550	\$500
Stormwater	\$100	\$400
Oroville Dam Safety	\$0	\$222
Madera & Friant-Kern Canals Improvements	\$0	\$750

This is a highlight comparison of the funding categories in the two water bonds. This is not a complete list of the funding categories.

This publication is intended to provide general information about how Proposition 68 and the proposed November water bond would affect ACWA member agencies. Readers are encouraged to research the opponents' and proponents' views on both bonds.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Questions about the two water bonds may be directed to ACWA Deputy Executive Director for Government Relations **Cindy Tuck** at cindyt@acwa.com.