



California State Senator, Third District

Lois Wolk

News

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**Support builds for Senate water bond uniting proposals to provide reliable statewide water supply**  
*Senate leader, legislators from both houses and throughout state craft bond to meet state's water needs*

SACRAMENTO— Senate leader Darrell Steinberg (D-Sacramento) and legislators from Northern and Southern California and both houses of the State Legislature joined together today to support a Senate water bond that unites proposals to provide a comprehensive approach to address water challenges throughout the state.

The newly amended version of the bond, Senate Bill 848, was crafted to include investments to enhance water supply reliability in every region of the state by author Senator Lois Wolk (D-Davis), and a growing list of co-authors: Senators Steinberg, Kevin de León (D-Los Angeles), Loni Hancock (D-Berkeley), Ben Hueso, (D-San Diego), and Fran Pavley (D-Agoura Hills), as well as Assemblywoman Susan A. Bonilla (D-Concord). Additionally, Assemblymember Jim Frazier (D – Oakley) is in the process of being added as a coauthor.

“As California’s antiquated water infrastructure struggles to weather the driest year on record, each passing month makes clear the urgency to equip our state’s water systems for the demands of the 21st Century,” said Senator Steinberg. “Senator Wolk’s proposal deftly navigates the elusive middle ground of California’s historical geographic and ideological differences over water policy, and meets the co-equal goals of enhancing our water supply while protecting the integrity of the system’s lynchpin of the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta. This is a well-balanced proposal to benefit the entire state.”

“We’ve rolled up our sleeves to develop a water bond that delivers on solutions to California’s water crisis,” said Senator De Leon. “This package addresses the needs of all Californians – whether they are urban or rural, live in the North or the South. SB 848 is an investment to ensure safe and reliable drinking water will be available to all residents for the long-term.”

“This legislation represents a significant improvement from the 2009 bond currently scheduled for the ballot,” said Senator Pavley. “With our state’s water supply under increasing stress, the legislation includes investments in sustainable supplies and regional solutions such as stormwater capture and use, water recycling and groundwater cleanup to reduce the need for water imports. Many stakeholders – myself included – will not be completely satisfied, but this legislation balances the needs of diverse geographic regions and water users for the benefit of all Californians.”

The bill also has a broad range of supporters that includes water agencies, environmental groups and local governments, including those in the San Francisco Bay-Delta region.

“In the coming decade California faces critical water challenges such as ongoing drought and other stresses to our water supply brought on by climate change, communities without access to safe drinking water, outdated infrastructure, and the crisis in the Delta,” said Senator Wolk.

“This amended bond takes a comprehensive approach to provide drought relief, safe drinking water, and water use efficiency in order to sustainably provide for the water needs of communities throughout California. And it does so without harming entire regions of the state, unlike the current water bond or any other water bond proposal. I thank the Pro Tem Steinberg, my colleagues in the Senate and Assembly, and other stakeholders for their work to develop a water bond focused on meeting the broad needs of regions throughout the state and for continuing to work to provide a viable alternative to the contentious bond currently on the November ballot.”

"I am happy to be a part of this incredible collaborative effort to put together a water package aimed at addressing our state's most serious current and ongoing water needs," said Senator Hueso. "This bond is a major step toward improving our water quality, storage and reliability, while safeguarding our environment and economy."

“I am proud to stand with Senator Wolk, as one of the Senate’s Delta representatives, in support of this measure that will protect the Delta and promote sustainability,” said Senator DeSaulnier.

“This bill addresses the needs of the Delta and ensures \$1.3 billion for ecosystem restoration and sustainability projects, which will benefit both the environment and surrounding Delta communities,” said Assemblywoman Bonilla.

The amended bond provides \$10.5 billion in funding for projects that will address California’s critical needs, including:

- \$500 million for urgent drinking water treatment for communities that do not currently have access to safe water;
- \$1 billion for critically needed groundwater treatment projects;
- \$400 million for wastewater treatment to protect California’s rivers, streams and beaches;
- \$900 million for community-supported habitat restoration in the Delta;
- \$400 million for Delta levee stability funding to reduce the risk of levee failure due to flood, earthquake and sea-level rise;
- \$1.9 billion for drought response and regional water supply development, including water recycling, desalination, and water conservation;
- \$3 billion for additional surface and groundwater storage;
- \$500 million for stormwater reuse and capture; and
- \$925 million for watershed restoration throughout California.

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