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Contact: Melissa Jones, (916) 651-4003

Wolk applauds passage of affordable, BDCP neutral water bond

\$7.5 billion bond a win for Delta and state, with funding for most critical projects & protections for Delta

SACRAMENTO—State Senator Lois Wolk (D-Davis) today applauded the passage of Senate Bill 866, legislation to replace the existing \$11.14 billion water bond set for the November ballot with a \$7.5 billion water bond crafted by the Governor and Democratic leaders in the State Legislature. The bipartisan agreement, authored by Wolk and Senate leader Darrell Steinberg (D-Sacramento), provides a comprehensive approach to meeting the state's future water needs, in addition to meeting urgent needs in all regions of the state.

“This is a very different bond than the pork-laden one currently on the ballot, which helped some regions of this state, but hurt others. This bond is good for the Delta and all of California, and it’s affordable. SB 866 not only meets the state’s greatest and most urgent water needs, it includes hard-won victories for the Delta including language to ensure this bond is BDCP neutral and includes no funding that can be used to pay for the Delta tunnels or tunnel mitigation projects. Also included are requirements that Delta communities have a voice in decisions on projects in the Delta—as well as first-ever funding for the Delta Conservancy and the opportunity for the Conservancy to demonstrate that it can deliver on the important charge it was given in 2009.

“This bond is a compromise. It isn’t perfect. But it is still a win for the Delta and the state, and it is a bond that voters can support in November.

“I want to thank the Governor, Senate Leader Steinberg, Assembly Speaker Atkins, their staff, and my own, for their dedication and hard work in crafting a fiscally responsible bond that funds critical water needs throughout the state, leaves out pork projects, and includes vital protections for the Delta. I also want to thank Contra Costa, Sacramento, Solano, and Yolo Counties for their support of this measure.”

The bond includes:

- \$900 million total for cleaning up groundwater in the San Gabriel Valley, in the Los Angeles region, on the Central Coast, and throughout the state—the most significant investment in groundwater treatment in California’s history;
- \$2.7 billion for the public benefits of new storage, including storage facilities in the Central Valley;
- Over \$520 million in critically needed drinking and wastewater treatment projects for those communities that cannot currently drink from their own taps; and
- Investments in regional water supplies that will help communities throughout the state respond to drought and climate change, including \$510 million for regional water plans, \$725 million for water recycling, and \$200 million for stormwater capture projects.

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Melissa Jones-Ferguson
Senator Lois Wolk
California State Senate - 5th District
(916)651-4005
(916)323-2304 (Fax)

