WRPI
and the
Water Bond

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Introduction

The CSU’s Water Resources and Policy Initiatives (WRPI) is working diligently to secure funding through the Water Bond in order to serve Disadvantaged Communities (DACs) and also the CSU Community. Our intention is to form a California Higher Education System DAC Center.

Click here to view Water Bond source material for reference.
What is the Water Bond?
The passing of Proposition 1 allows the state to redirect $445 million in unsold bonds and sell $7.1 billion in additional bonds, for a total of $7.545 billion in general obligation bonds. The funds shall be used to manage water supplies, protect and restore wetlands, improve water quality, and increase flood protection.

$721 million is specifically allocated to assist Disadvantaged Communities, but various organizations and departments throughout the CSU could apply for Water Bond grants for projects related to other parts of the bond as well.
Funding for CSU Projects Beyond DACs

• Up to 10% of funds in each program may be used for planning and monitoring of design, selection, and implementation of projects. (79704)
• Special consideration will be given to projects that employ new or innovative technology or practices. (79707 e)
• Measurement and monitoring of success is important (LAO).
• Potential for facility and or living laboratory type projects (storm water, drought relief).
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Bond Sections

• Clean, Safe, and Reliable Drinking Water (79720)
• Protecting Rivers, Lakes, Streams, Coastal Waters, and Watersheds (79730)
• Regional Water Security, Climate, and Drought Preparedness (79740)
• Statewide Water System Operational Improvement and Drought Preparedness (79750)
• Water Recycling (79765)
• Groundwater Sustainability (79770)
• Flood Management (79780)
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Clean, Safe, and Reliable Drinking Water (79720)

- $520,000,000 total has been allocated for projects that improve water quality or help provide clean, safe, and reliable drinking water to all Californians.
- $260,000,000 for grants for wastewater treatment projects, with priority given to DACs. (79723)
Clean, Safe, and Reliable Drinking Water (79720)

• $260,000,000 for public water system infrastructure improvements to meet safe drinking water standards and/or ensure affordable drinking water in DACs. (79724 a 1)
• Up to $25,000,000 for technical assistance to DACs. (79724 b)
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Protecting Rivers, Lakes, Streams, Coastal Waters, and Watersheds (79730)

$1,495,000,000 total has been allocated:

• $327,500,000 for multi-benefit water quality, water supply, and watershed protection and restoration projects in regions throughout the state. (79731)
• $200,000,000 to Wildlife Conservation Board for projects that result in enhanced stream flows. (79733)
• $100,000,000 for projects to protect and enhance an urban creek and its tributaries. (79735 a)
• $20,000,000 available to fund multi-benefit watershed and urban rivers enhancement projects that increase regional and local water self-sufficiency. (79735 b 1)
• 25% of the $120,000,000 in section 79735 ($30,000,000) allocated for DACs. (79735 c)
$475,000,000 for the Natural Resources Agency to support compliance with goals of statewide significance, restores natural aquatic or riparian functions, or wetlands habitat for birds and aquatic species, restoration of endangered or threatened species, enhances reliability of water supplies on a regional or interregional basis, regional or statewide economic benefits. (79736)
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Protecting Rivers, Lakes, Streams, Coastal Waters, and Watersheds (79730) (Continued)

• $285,000,000 for Department of Fish and Wildlife for statewide watershed restoration projects. (79737)
• $87,500,000 for Department of Fish and Wildlife for water quality, ecosystem restoration, and fish protection facilities that benefit the Delta. (79738)
Regional Water Security, Climate, and Drought Preparedness (79740)

- $810,000,000 total has been allocated for projects that are part of an integrated regional water management plan and responds to climate change and contributes to regional water security.
- Not less than 10%, or $81,000,000, for projects that directly benefit DACs. (79742 d)
- Of 79740, $510,000,000 allocated to specific regions as part of the California Water Plan. (79744 a) Of this amount, 10%, or $51,000,000 expended to ensure the involvement of DACs. (79745)
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Regional Water Security, Climate, and Drought Preparedness (79740) (Continued)

- $100,000,000 for direct expenditures, grants, and loans for water conservation and water-use efficiency plans. (79746)
- $200,000,000 for grants for multi-benefit storm water management projects. (79747)
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Statewide Water System Operational Improvement and Drought Preparedness (79750)

- $2,700,000,000 continuously appropriated for public benefits associated with water storage projects that improve the operation of the state water system, are cost effective, and provide a net improvement in ecosystem and water quality conditions. (79750 b)
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Water Recycling (79765)

- $725,000,000 total has been allocated for grants or loans for water recycling and advanced treatment technology projects.
- Technical and grant writing assistance available to DACs. (79765 f)
- 50% cost share may be suspended or reduced for DACs. (79766)
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Groundwater Sustainability (79770)

• $900,000,000 total has been allocated for projects that prevent or clean up contamination of groundwater that serves or has served as a source of drinking water. (79771)
• $80,000,000 for grants for treatment and remediation activities that prevent or reduce contamination of groundwater that serves as source of drinking water. (79772)
• $100,000,000 for projects that develop and implement groundwater plans and projects. (79775)
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Groundwater Sustainability (79770) (Continued)

• At least 10% of total, or $90,000,000, shall be allocated for projects serving severely DACs. (79774 d)
• Funding shall include technical assistance to DACs. (79774 e)
Flood Management (79780)

- $395,000,000 has been allocated for statewide flood management projects and activities.
- Of these funds, $295,000,000 shall be available to reduce the risk of levee failure and flood in the Delta. (79781)
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Bond Fund Allocation Process

• Should be competitive grant based
• May require match
• Agencies identified to run grant programs
• Agencies release draft RFP for their program
• Agency holds three public meetings to get input
• Agency releases competitive RFP’s
In January 2014, Governor Edmund Brown created the California Water Action Plan to mitigate the effects of our current drought with the goals of Reliability, Restoration, and Resilience.

This drought has been especially difficult for DACs, many of which rely, at least in part, on contaminated water. The methods in the action plan will improve the organization of water quality programs and create new tools to help ensure that every Californian has access to safe water. (Page 2)
California Action Plan (Continued)

The Plan includes ten actions to improve and sustain the state’s water future for generations to come:

1. Make conservation a California way of life (79730, 79740)
2. Increase regional self-reliance and integrated water management across all levels of government (79740, 79770)
3. Achieve co-equal goals for the Delta (79730, 79750, 79780)
4. Protect and restore important ecosystems (79730)
5. Manage and prepare for dry periods (79740, 79750)
6. Expand water storage capacity and improve groundwater management (79750)
7. Provide safe water for all communities (79720)
8. Increase flood protection (79780)
9. Increase operational and regulatory efficiency
10. Identify sustainable and integrated financing opportunities
California Action Plan (Continued)

The Action Plan addresses the most pressing water issues in California and will utilize much of the funding available through various chapters of the Water Bond.

The administration will provide technical assistance and tools, and allocate dedicated funds to under-represented and economically disadvantaged communities to promote greater participation and success in regional grant programs. (Page 6)
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California Action Plan (Continued)

Provide Safe Water for all Communities (Page 15)

• Consolidate Water Quality Programs – will better restore and protect water quality and public health for DACs
• Provide Funding Assistance for Vulnerable Communities
• Manage the Supply Status of Community Water Systems
California Action Plan Implementation

In accordance with the Action Plan, the Legislature has already begun taking steps to utilize funding from the Water Bond.

With the goal of incorporating the drinking water program with other surface and groundwater quality programs, the drinking water program was moved from CDPH to the State Water Board effective 7/14. (Page 10)
California Action Plan Implementation (Continued)
In 2015, the new Division of Drinking Water will develop a Safe Drinking Water Plan for California to:
• Assess overall quality of state’s drinking water
• Identify specific water quality problems
• Analyze known and potential health risks associated with drinking contaminated water
• Recommend ways to improve drinking water quality
• Work with local governments, communities, and water agencies to develop strategies for addressing governance, technical assistance, capital improvements, and operations/maintenance costs to bring public water systems in small DACs into compliance with state and federal regulations. (Pg 10)
California Action Plan Implementation (Continued)

The State Water Board will continue to provide grant and loan funding to assist public water systems in providing safe drinking water to Californians. (Page 10)
Legislative Analyst Office Recommendations

While the Governor’s proposals are generally consistent with the intent of the bond, LAO recommends steps to better ensure that the most cost-effective projects are selected for funding and that sufficient oversight and evaluation is provided. Some key recommendations include:

- **Ensure funding targeted to state-level public benefits.** Since bonds will be repaid with state tax revenues, funds should be directed to projects that provide benefits to the state as a whole, not private beneficiaries. LAO recommends the Legislature specify what portion and type of activities should be considered as providing state-level public benefits.
LAO Recommendations (Continued)

- **Require robust cost-effectiveness criteria for project selection.** LAO recommends that administering departments follow certain practices to evaluate cost-effectiveness, such as requiring grantees to use consistent evaluation methods.

- **Require departments to submit staffing plans for all bond-related activities.** Only some of the administration’s proposals for positions to support Proposition 1 activities specify whether they took declining workload from other bonds into account when determining how many positions to request.
LAO Recommendations (Continued)

• Facilitate oversight of projects, programs, and outcomes. LAO recommends that the Legislature require departments, prior to finalizing program guidelines, to identify how the data they are collecting will allow the Legislature and the public to hold departments accountable for their outcomes.
Awarding Funding

• Series of legislative hearings
• Each agency required to hold three public meetings (79706 b)
• The State is currently developing the schedule for the development of the program, with many public workshops commencing in March, 2015. There are 27 programs being developed, with additional updates coming.
Draft for Public Review

Each organization will be required to hold three public meetings, clearly communicating:

- Funding available
- Eligible applicants
- Eligible projects
- Funding priorities
- Project evaluation criteria
- Minimum project requirements
- Project solicitation, application, and award process
- Performance monitoring and reporting
Awarding Funding Draft Schedule (Continued)

Public Workshops:

- Small Community Wastewater (79723) (State Water Resources Control Board) – March 2015
- Protecting Rivers, Lakes, Streams, Coastal Waters, and Watersheds (79731) (Regional Conservancies) – March 2015 – May 2015
- Stream Flow Enhancement (79733) (Wildlife Conservation Board) – March 2015
- Watershed Restoration and Delta Water Quality and Ecosystem Restoration (79737 a & 79738 b) (Department of Fish and Wildlife) – March 2015
CSU Approach

Awarding Funding Draft Schedule (Continued)

Public Workshops:
• Water Recycling (79765) (State Water Resources Control Board) – April, 2015
• Clean, Safe, and Reliable Drinking Water (79724 a 1) (State Water Resources Control Board) – May 2015
• Integrated Regional Water Management (79744 a) (Dept. of Water Resources) – July – Aug 2015
• Groundwater Plans (79775) (Dept. of Water Resources) – July – Aug 2015
• Water Use and Efficiency, Urban & Ag (79746 a) (Dept. of Water Resources) – August 2015
• Water Storage Investment (79750 b) (Water Commission) – November 2015
Published Schedule for Public Meetings

- **State Water Resources Control Board, March 24, 26, and 30. (79720)** These meetings will focus primarily on Small Community Wastewater, but will also discuss funding opportunities for projects related to Water Recycling, Stormwater, Groundwater Sustainability, and Clean, Safe, Reliable Drinking Water.

- **California Department of Fish and Wildlife, April 1, 3, and 6. (79730 – several subsections)** Watershed Restoration Grant Program: water quality, river, and ecosystem/watershed/fish protection and restoration projects.

- **State Water Resources Control Board, April 14, 16, and 21. (79765)** The Division of Financial Aid - Water Recycling Funding Program (WRFP) will discuss funding for recycled water projects.
Public Meetings Dates and Locations

- **79720 State Water Resources Control Board**
  - March 24 – Fresno
  - March 26 – Riverside
  - March 30 – Sacramento

- **79730 California Department of Fish and Wildlife**
  - April 1 – Sacramento
  - April 3 – Redding
  - April 6 – Los Alamitos

- **79765 State Water Resources Control Board**
  - April 14 – Fresno
  - April 16 – Perris
  - April 21 – Sacramento
How Can You Be Involved?

Attend the public meetings to learn more about available grants. While the WRPI is focused on the DAC Center, funding is also available for projects that could be conducted by faculty and institutes throughout the entire CSU system.
Conclusion

- WRPI is looking for partners in developing the DAC Center
- WRPI is a resource for the entire CSU system to track available bond funding for various water-related projects.
- We need your involvement in order to generate a strong presence of the CSU system.
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