

2009-2010 California Public Policy Advocacy Program Proposed Policy Priorities

Legislative Priorities

The Districts top three legislative policy priorities are:

1. To work with a growing statewide coalition of local agencies, non-profit organizations, business and labor groups and other allies to respond to the state's fiscal crisis as it affects the District's natural resource projects and our local communities.
2. To identify new funding sources for District Strategic Initiatives.
3. To work with the land trust, land stewardship and restoration communities to ensure that California's laws honor and support our investment in protecting and stewarding lands via purchase, easements, Williamson Act programs and other land protection designations.

In order to accomplish these goals, the District will focus on the following priorities as we enter the first round of 2009 policy hearings and the most recent round of budget deliberations:

2009-2010 California Budget Issues

- Work with the Legislature, relevant state agencies, the State Treasurer's Office and other entities to resolve the budget and project completion problems caused by the December 2008 "freeze" on all general obligation bond funded natural resource projects by the Pooled Money Investment Board and the California Department of Finance.
- Monitor the state budget process – and in particular the budget subcommittee process – to inform the District on potential funding opportunities for District projects that are a priority in the Acquisition Plan.

2009-2010 Legislative Priorities

- District Legislative Priorities (in bill order)

Please note: The following list of bills can change as Consultant identifies newly introduced or amended legislation. There are also many issues (such as water and natural resource bond measures) that have multiple authors seeking to accomplish either the same objective or makes changes to similar areas of the law. Consultant will prepare a monthly report to the District that will likely result in the District bringing an expanded bill position list to the Board for approval.

SB 553 (Wiggins)

Purpose: As a response to the bond funding freeze and the impact on grantees, this bill makes changes to the Prompt Payment Act to require the state to make timely payments on overdue invoices for any nonprofit or local agency that is funded under a grant agreement.

Proposed Position: Support

Senate Bill 555 (Kehoe)

Purpose: Establishes notice requirements and a higher threshold for condemning land protected by a conservation easement.

Proposed Position: Support

Assembly Bill 444 (Caballero)

Purpose: Authorizes non-profits to hold endowments for mitigation properties.

Proposed Position: Watch

AB 881 (Huffman)

Purpose: Authorizes the Sonoma County Transportation Authority (SCTA) to implement programs and projects in Sonoma County to support the mandate of the California Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006 (AB 32) to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in California. The District currently participates in the county-wide Regional Climate Protection Coordination Program led by SCTA.

Proposed Position: Support

Assembly Bill 929 (Blakeslee)

Purpose: Creates a second track for acquiring agriculture properties within the Department of Conservation. Provides potential funding for future acquisitions.

Proposed Position: Watch

AB 1187 (Huffman)

Purpose: The Safe, Clean, Reliable Drinking Water Supply Act of 2010 would authorize over \$10 billion in general obligation bond funding for financing specified water supply reliability and water source protection programs.

Proposed Position: Support

AB 1364 (Evans)

Purpose: Creates various changes in state budget law to allow for state agencies to protect our investment in natural resource projects that have been subject to stop work orders and funding freezes due to the state's 2008-2009 financial crisis.

Proposed Position: Support

Involvement in State Administrative Proceedings:

In many cases, some of the most important work going on at the state level is actually occurring in administrative proceedings. Some of these are quasi-judicial or formal proceedings, and some are more informal in nature. The following is a description of the first administrative proceedings that the District would like Consultant to monitor and represent the District's position. As with our proposed legislative agenda, the District may bring additional administrative priorities to the Board for consideration and approval.

- **California Air Resources Board (CARB) Programs Related to the Implementation of AB 32 (Nunez and Pavley) The Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006**

Local governments are essential partners in achieving California's greenhouse gas (GHG) reduction goals. They have broad influence and, in some cases, exclusive authority over significant emission sources through their planning and permitting processes, local ordinances, outreach and education efforts, and municipal operations. The CARB has initiated a special set of programs entitled "Land Use and Local Initiatives," and there are a set of contemplated actions for land management agencies such as the District.

Specific Responsibilities:

- Consultant shall assist District staff in participating in the development of the "**Local Government Toolkit**" that would provide strategies to achieve Green House Gases reduction goals.
- Consultant shall advise District on opportunities for **recognizing and crediting "early action" in a potential "Cap and Trade" program**. The state is currently developing policies to allow entities taking voluntary early actions to document those actions so that the reductions can be considered for credit against AB 32 obligations once the full program is in place. The CARB will later determine the appropriate credit to be given for voluntary early actions and the conditions under which voluntary reductions may be used to comply with mandatory requirements.