



County Executive

Ann Edwards

**Governmental Relations and
Legislative Officer**

Elisia De Bord

Board of Supervisors

Phillip R. Serna, District 1

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Patrick Hume, District 5

County of Sacramento

August 10, 2023

Honorable Senator Ben Allen
State Capitol, Room 6610
Sacramento, CA 95814

Honorable Assemblymember Carlos Villapudua
State Capitol, Room 6340
Sacramento, 95814

Honorable Senator Susan Eggman
State Capitol, Room 8530
Sacramento, CA 95814

Honorable Assemblymember Eduardo Garcia
State Capitol, Room 8120
Sacramento, 95814

Re: Resources Bond Funding Priorities and Potential Projects

AB 305 (Villapudua), AB 1567 (Garcia), SB 638 (Eggman), SB 867 (Allen)

Dear Senator Eggman, Senator Allen, Assemblymember Villapudua, and
Assemblymember Garcia:

On behalf of the Sacramento County Board of Supervisors, we write to advocate for specific provisions in any proposed legislative bond act to fund water resources, flood protection, and other related projects that would provide new resources to our community. Sacramento County respectfully requests your support to include the following priorities as the Legislature continues to discuss a potential 2024 resources bond:

Parks – Lower American River Conservancy Program Funding:

Sacramento County requests \$30 million for the Lower American River Conservancy Program (LARC) as indicated in AB 1567 (Garcia). The Legislature established this Program under a Sacramento County-sponsored legislation (AB 1716 (McCarty, 2016)) to support improvements along the Lower American River, which is designated as both national and state Wild and Scenic River. The American River Parkway receives about 8,000,000 visitor days a year, making it one of the most popular recreational resources in California. It also provides habitat for a variety of wildlife and provides families with a very low-cost recreational resource that connects families to nature. The American River Parkway is also part of our community's flood control system and helps protect water quality.

Water in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta:

Sacramento County requests \$25 million for the removal of commercial abandoned derelict vessels to fund AB 748 (Villapudua), legislation to create a statewide CADV program. Of this \$25 million, \$20 million would fund the removal and destruction of

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CADVs; \$5 million would fund a statewide inventory of CADVs to identify the scope of the problem and to create a state CADV prevention plan. California's waterways (particularly in the Delta) are polluted with CADVs, which contain a high level of hazardous materials from both their construction and use, including petroleum products (i.e., fuel, oil, oily waste, hydraulic fluid and grease), solvents, asbestos containing materials, polychlorinated biphenyls, lead paint, and batteries. CADV removal projects are time consuming and expensive. Removal steps typically include determination of ownership, responsible agency identification, project funding, hazmat assessment/testing, abatement costs estimations, removal and destruction operations (to include diving services, towing, dismantling), and disposal of the solid waste materials.

We also support additional funding for eradication programs for invasive species, including nutria, water hyacinth, and harmful algal blooms.

Allocation for Levees, Roads, and Projects to Address Extreme Weather Impacts

The County requests a separate allocation for climate resiliency efforts to improve levees, roads, evacuation routes, and to safeguard against floods, fire, and to help prepare for drought.

In January 2023, the second highest flow in history was recorded on the Cosumnes River, with flows of more than 65,000 cubic feet per second – second only to the 1997 record. This caused multiple levee breaches, which caused flooding to critical water infrastructure, Dillard Road and Highway 99, diminished habitat values and led to loss of life and major crop damages. Improvements are urgently needed in the area.

Parks Infrastructure as Related to Homelessness:

More generally, the County requests funding for additional public water fountains inside and outside of parks, along with funding for more public bathrooms, and shade structures to provide year-around benefits to our vulnerable communities. Safe drinking water, proper sanitation, and shade, especially amidst extreme weather conditions, would benefit the housed and unhoused in our area.

Water Infrastructure:

Broadly, the County supports a bond that provides significant funding for in-Delta flood management projects and other direct assistance to local Delta communities to address the threats of flood and sea level rise, as well as resources to maintain the existing through-Delta water conveyance system, while protecting the Delta ecosystem. These goals are reflected in the 2009 Delta Reform Act, which established the co-equal goals of water supply reliability and enhancing the Delta ecosystem while protecting the Delta as a place. (Water Code, § 85054.)

Sacramento County requests that the bond establishes competitive grant funding in the following areas:

- Clean Drinking Water
- Protecting Rivers, Lakes, Streams
- Regional Water Security, Climate, & Drought Preparedness
- Statewide Water System Operational Improvement

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- Water Recycling
- Groundwater Sustainability
- Flood Management
- Levee Improvements
- Groundwater Banking

Neutral on Delta Conveyance Project:

The County asks that any bond be neutral on a potential Delta Conveyance Project. This has been a historical practice on bonds since the Delta Reform Act was passed in 2009.

- Language has been included in any final bond proposal that affirms that no direct or indirect funding for the tunnel or any kind of new isolated Delta conveyance, including permit conditions and other mitigation requirements, could be relied upon by or facilitate the tunnel.
- There should be a prohibition on funding for the purchase of flows needed to operate proposed new north Delta intakes or otherwise meet state and federal water project compliance or mitigation requirements.

Sacramento County looks forward to working with your offices to develop a bond focused on water and flood protection for the benefit of our County, State, and climate. Feel free to contact me at deborde@saccounty.gov or 916-874-4627.

Sincerely,



Elisia De Bord,
Governmental Relations and Legislative Officer

cc: Governor Gavin Newsom
Sacramento County State Legislative Delegation
Sacramento County Board of Supervisors
Audrey Ratajczak, Cruz Strategies