The Committee for Clean Water, Natural Resources, & Parks

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Lawmakers Release Climate Bond to Move California Toward Climate Resilience Despite State Budget Shortfall

SACRAMENTO, CA – Last night California lawmakers released a climate bond that would provide funding for a wide-range of climate resilience efforts across the state.

The Committee for Clean Water, Natural Resources, & Parks (CWNRP), along with environmental advocates across California, celebrate this significant milestone as the California Legislature has taken the next step towards putting a climate bond measure in front of California voters. Next, the Legislature must pass the bond in both houses with a two-thirds vote and the Governor must approve the measure by July 3 to be placed on the November 2024 ballot.

This achievement comes after over a year and a half of diligent effort and collaboration spearheaded by a number of climate leaders, including Senator Ben Allen, Senate President pro Tem Mike McGuire, Assemblymember Eduardo Garcia, and Assembly Speaker Robert Rivas. Over the last several months, they and their colleagues worked to form consensus and make critical decisions about what could be included in the final $10 billion bond proposal.

"This is a critical step for the CWNRP Coalition and for all Californians who want clean water, clean air, protection from wildfires and flooding and the preservation of our natural resources," said Sam Hodder, President and CEO of Save the Redwoods League and Co-President of the CWNRP Coalition.

"We commend the Legislature for taking bold action and recognizing that extreme weather and other climate risks won't wait for a better budget year."

With the bond measure now likely to be on the November ballot, Californians will have the opportunity to vote on a critical investment in the state's environmental future. Recent polling suggests that more than 58% of likely voters would support a climate bond if provided the opportunity to vote on it.

What other bond supporters are saying…

"The Committee thanks the Legislature for their dedication to fashioning an effective and equitable climate bond over the course of many months." said Rachel Norton, Executive Director of California State Parks Foundation and CWNRP Board member. "We urge the immediate passage of the bill. Then it will be up to the voters to ensure that California continues to lead on sustaining and protecting our environment."

"In addition to taking action to improve California's climate resilience, the bond supports efforts to prioritize workforce development, particularly for our young people from some of the most climate impacted and under-resourced communities." said Stacy Gorin, Executive Officer, Urban Conservation Corps of the Inland Empire. "We are grateful for the partnership of many legislators who worked day and night to deliver a bond."

"The investment in wildfire resilience in the climate bond is a critical down payment on the actions we must take to protect Californians from loss of life and property and begin to control insurance costs and stabilize utility rates." said Steve Frisch, President of the Sierra Business Council.

"The Legislature must take action to pass the climate bond for the Governor's approval by July 3." said Tori Kjer, Executive Director, Los Angeles Neighborhood Land Trust. "The Committee and its partners stand ready to educate voters about the importance of supporting the climate bond and its many benefits for California's environment and communities."

About CWNRP

The Committee for Clean Water, Natural Resources, and Parks (CWNRP) consists of public-interest groups representing urban and rural communities, coastal and inland neighborhoods, conservation non-profits, purposeful businesses, and others united to ensure that all Californians have access to a better place to live. CWNRP brings diverse interests and stakeholders to an inclusive table to create the best possible policy results and organizing efforts.