

Standing in the way of progress

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Recent polls ([Field Poll](#) and [PPIC](#)) have found that Proposition 1, the water bond on the November ballot, is supported by a nearly two-to-one margin among likely voters. Both polls also found that as voters learn more about the bond, they are more likely to support it.

That's good news for Californians mired in an historic three-year drought. The bond includes \$7.545 billion to invest in drought preparedness, watershed protection, groundwater cleanup, new water storage infrastructure and a number of other much needed investments for California's water future.

The bond was a rare bipartisan effort in the Legislature. In fact, out of 135 members in the California Senate and Assembly, only two legislators opposed the bond measure (one a Republican and one a Democrat). That's about as bipartisan as a bond measure gets. Which begs the question: with so much support and documented need, why are Delta activists and fishing interests opposing the bond?

A rag tag group of organizations, led by Restore the Delta and the California Sport Fishing Alliance (CSPA) are actually opposing the bond and its efforts to protect the Delta and its fisheries. This may be unbelievable, but it's not necessarily unexpected.

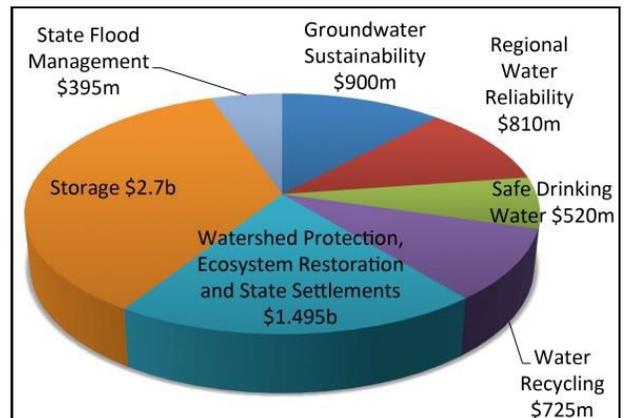
These are the same groups that have vocally opposed any and all progress in creating a sustainable Delta ecosystem and a reliable water supply for California.

Restore the Delta, is a NIMBY (Not In My Backyard) group opposed to any actions that might provide a comprehensive water solution for all regions of the state. Proving its name a complete misnomer, Restore the Delta has repeatedly opposed any and all efforts to restore the 95 percent of native Delta habitat that has been destroyed by local farming and urban encroachment.

CSPA is another group that puts its own narrow interests ahead of the Delta and its native species. CSPA has opposed regulations to regulate the populations of its favorite sport fish, the non-native striped bass, which has been proven to be a major factor in the decline of native endangered salmon runs in the Delta.

Proposition 1 includes nearly \$5 billion in funding for local water projects throughout the state that would clean up polluted aquifers, provide more efficient usage of water and reduce reliance on Delta water exports. The bond also will assist in the funding of construction of new reservoir storage, which will be needed even more in the future as projections for a warmer climate suggest we will be dealing with more rain and less snow in the winter. Proposition 1 also includes \$295 million for much needed investments in Delta levees, an investment in the region these opposition groups claim to represent. The measure also provides \$200 million for enhanced stream flows to protect fish, wildlife and Delta water quality.

It's difficult to fathom how anyone can justify delaying prudent investments to improve California's water system any further, as the current drought highlights the failings of our current water infrastructure. A few self-serving groups have no business standing in the way of progress for the entire state. Californians should support this responsible measure to begin shoring up the state's water supply and, it appears, a majority of them are prepared to do just that.



Contents of Proposition 1—The Water Quality, Supply and Infrastructure Improvement Act of 2014 (Courtesy of ACWA)



Delta Watch

A Project of the Coalition for a Sustainable Delta

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