



February 12, 2024 (updated with additional signers on March 20, 2024)

**RE: Support for \$10 billion in Environmental and Equity Priorities in a 2024 Climate Bond**



Governor Gavin Newsom  
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Assemblymember Robert Rivas  
 Speaker of the Assembly  
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 Senate President pro Tempore  
 1021 O Street, Suite 8518  
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Assemblymember Eduardo Garcia  
 1021 O Street, Suite 8120  
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Senator Ben Allen  
 1021 O Street, Suite 6610  
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Dear Governor Newsom, Speaker Rivas, Pro Tem McGuire, Assemblymember Garcia, and Senator Allen,

On behalf of more than one hundred and fifty undersigned organizations – a coalition of climate, environmental justice, sustainable agriculture, conservation, and other organizations – **we write to urge you to pass a robust and equitable climate bond for the November 2024 ballot** that prioritizes direct and meaningful investments in the California communities and natural resources most impacted by climate change. **We have aligned to recommend \$10 billion in investments that we view as the floor for California to continue making timely progress on its ambitious climate and natural resources commitments.** These recommendations do not represent what our coalition believes should be the total amount of a climate bond. Rather, **it reflects our groups' collective priorities and vision for \$10 billion in investments that we would enthusiastically support in a climate bond.**

The science is clear: bold and sustained climate action is necessary to save California from a future plagued by extreme heat, drought, wildfires, and pollution. Action this decade is vital to prevent the worst and deadliest impacts. Placing a climate bond on the November ballot can preserve decades of California leadership towards a healthy environment and social equity by ensuring communities have crucial resources they need now.

We know you agree: California's future sits on the edge of a knife. We cannot credibly provide Californians with clean water, clean air, healthy lands, and protection from floods, fires, extreme heat, and other devastating climate impacts with a second year of budget cuts and funding delays. You have the opportunity to show the world that climate action is a priority through good budget years and bad. If not, we risk gambling with our children's future and natural heritage found nowhere else.

Because of this, our coalition recommends the following climate investment priorities that align with initiatives championed by the Legislature and the Newsom Administration:

- \$3 billion for safe drinking water and flood protection
- \$2 billion for wildfire prevention and resilience
- \$1.5 billion for nature-based solutions and biodiversity
- \$1.05 billion for extreme heat and community resilience
- \$1 billion for coastal protection and resilience
- \$500 million for sustainable agriculture
- \$500 million for clean air
- \$450 million for parks and outdoor access

These recommended investments, further described in the attached table, were assembled with an emphasis on directly benefiting human health, well-being, and the environment and in consideration of the urgent climate adaptation needs facing California's diverse communities and historically underfunded programs. Critically, **they advance Justice 40 principles by directly allocating more than 40 percent of the total investments to the highest priorities identified by urban and rural disadvantaged communities.**

While General Fund investments should be made in the budget to support relevant climate and natural resources programs, recent and proposed cuts to funding for such programs have prompted consensus that additional bond funding is necessary to ensure priority programs continue beyond this year so we are able to attain the important climate, biodiversity and equity goals established by the legislature and administration.

**Protecting and enhancing our land, air, water, and communities as an essential climate action cannot be reduced to a priority of convenience.** The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's National Centers for Environmental Information recently found a rapid increase in the frequency and cost of weather and climate disasters, including in California where the state averaged 1.8 climate events costing at least one billion dollars each between 2019 and 2023. In its 6th Assessment Report, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change finds that without prompt investment in nature, adaptation options that are feasible today will lose their effectiveness in providing benefits to people in the future. **In other words, the time is now. Later is too late.**

We know, and polling confirms, that California voters want our state government to ensure clean water, clean air, access to open lands and waters, and healthy sustainably grown food. **California voters should have the opportunity to vote for a strong climate bond that equitably invests in protecting communities and nature this November, so they don't have to endure the consequences later.**

We hope that our collaboration helps the Legislature and Administration understand and balance various stakeholder interests and priorities, and we look forward to working together to pass a climate bond with these critical investments to fulfill our urgent responsibility to disadvantaged communities, and to all Californians now and in future generations.

Sincerely,

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## OVERVIEW: \$10 Billion Climate Bond Investment Shared Priorities

Conservation, Environmental Justice & Sustainable Ag Coalition

### Safe Drinking Water & Flood Protection - \$3 billion

Program/Project (Dept/Agency)	Amount
Multi-benefit Land Repurposing Program to protect groundwater resources (DOC)	\$150 million
Watershed Resilience/Urban Streams (DWR/WCB)	\$250 million
Water Conservation/Direct Install Programs for Low-Income Californians (DWR)	*\$100 million
Drinking water/Wastewater Infrastructure for communities and tribes (SWRCB)	*\$1 billion
Salton Sea Restoration (DWR)	*\$450 million
Flood Protection for Disadvantaged Communities (CNRA depts/SWRCB)	*\$300 million
Dam Removal (SCC)	\$100 million
Water Recycling Leveraging the Clean Water State Revolving Loan Fund (SWRCB)	*\$450 million
Water Data including stream gages (DWR/SWRCB)	\$100 million
Streamflow Enhancements to Support Fish and Wildlife (WCB)	\$100 million

### Wildfire Prevention and Resilience - \$2 billion

Program/Project (Dept/Agency)	Amount
Pre-Fire Mitigation Programs (OES)	\$100 million
Local fire prevention, forest health, reduced fire risk (CNRA, departments, conservancies)	\$1.295 billion
Workforce housing	\$100 million
Prescribed Fire Training Center (CalFire)	\$25 million
Technologies for detection/assessment of new fire ignitions (CNRA)	\$30 million
Community Resilience Center Program (SGC)	*\$420 million
Landscape Resilience - Urban & Community Forestry Program (CalFire)	\$30 million

### Nature-based Solutions & Biodiversity - \$1.5 billion

Program/Project (Dept/Agency)	Amount
Wildlife habitat protection and restoration, 30x30 projects, wildlife crossings (WCB)	\$1 billion
Nature-based climate solutions (State Conservancies)	\$390 million
Tribal Nature-Based Solutions program (CNRA)	*\$10 million
Climate Smart Lands Program (DOC)	\$25 million
Climate resilience projects (CDFW)	\$25 million
30 x 30 projects (CNRA)	\$25 million
Zoos and Native Wildlife Rehab support (CDFW)	\$25 million

### Extreme Heat and Community Resilience - \$1.05 billion

Program/Project (Dept/Agency)	Amount
Transformative Climate Communities Program (SGC)	*\$420 million
Urban Greening (CNRA)	*\$150 million
Urban Forestry (CalFire)	*\$120 million
Green Schoolyards (CalFire)	*\$200 million
Extreme Heat Action Plan implementation (CNRA)	*\$50 million
Extreme Heat and Community Resilience Program (OPR)	*\$110 million

## Coastal Resilience - \$1 billion

Program/Project (Dept/Agency)	Amount
Coastal resilience, dam removal, water infrastructure upgrades, sea level rise (SCC)	\$585 million
Sea level rise adaptation, compensatory mitigation data and enforcement (CCC)	\$20 million
Sea level rise adaptation (BCDC)	\$20 million
Ocean resilience, coastal wetlands, kelp recovery (OPC)	\$200 million
Sea level rise adaptation (State Parks)	\$100 million
Climate ready fisheries, island resilience, and kelp management (CDFW)	\$75 million

## Climate-smart Agriculture - \$500 million

Program/Project (Dept/Agency)	Amount
Healthy Soils Program (CDFA)	\$80 million
State Water Efficiency and Enhancement Program (CDFA)	\$50 million
Farm to Community Food Hub Program (CDFA)	\$40 million
Regional Farm Equipment Sharing (CDFA)	\$20 million
Organic Transition (CDFA)	\$30 million
California Underserved Producer Program (CDFA)	\$20 million
Urban Agriculture Program (CDFA)	\$10 million
Beginning Farmers and Ranchers Lands Access, Farmland Conservancy Program, on-farm improvements, RCD projects (DOC)	\$200 million
Agricultural Land Equity Task Force (SGC)	\$50 million

## Clean Air - \$500 million

Program/Project (Dept/Agency)	Amount
Equitable Building Decarbonization (CEC)	*\$400 million
Distributed Energy Backup Assets Program for distributed energy resources in DACs (CEC)	*\$80 million
Medium- and Heavy-Duty Zero Emission Vehicle Charging (CEC)	\$20 million

## Parks and Outdoor Access - \$450 million

Program/Project (Dept/Agency)	Amount
AB 31 Grants (State Parks)	*\$300 million
Deferred maintenance for state, regional and local parks	\$150 million

\* **Environmental Justice priorities: \$4.7 billion**