



PCL INSIDER: News from the Capitol

No Certainty on Water Bond Action This Year

The water bond currently scheduled for the 2014 ballot suffers a high price tag of \$11.14 billion, and is widely regarded as unfeasible for both its cost and much of its content. Efforts to rewrite the bond are underway in both houses, but are still relatively disjointed. Senators Wolk and Pavley have been leading discussions since the start of the legislative session, and an Assembly working group recently [developed principles](#) that detail what they believe an amended water bond should incorporate.

The future of the Delta is a prominent subject in these bond discussions. The Assembly principles include "Protect the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta" as a goal of future state investment, and later note a stand-alone principle to "Retain policy prohibiting use of water bond funding for construction or mitigation of new water conveyance facilities in the Delta."

Senate President pro Tem Steinberg recently stated his intent to leverage changes to the Bay Delta Conservation Plan (BDCP) – including resolving concerns about tunnel operations and assurances – before he will support a water bond. A major point of contention is BDCP's plan to build tunnels now and figure out how they will be operated later. At a [press conference](#) last week, Steinberg said that "even though the water bond and the BDCP are functionally separate, in many respects, I think, they have to go together. In part, because... any bond has to provide money for the delta ecosystem, and I want to see some real progress and a resolution on the BDCP side." He also told the [Sac Bee](#), "I don't see supporting a water bond for the remainder of my tenure unless there is a positive resolution of the BDCP."

The primary points and cost of a reworked bond remain unsettled, and there is no word yet on whether the current momentum in the legislature will result in a cohesive proposal for an amended water bond this year. At PCL and PCL Foundation, we remain actively engaged in research and advocacy work on what an affordable and environmentally-sound bond should look like.

Coastal Commission Comings and Goings

There has been a lot of news on the Coastal Commission front over the past few weeks, starting with the [unexpected resignation](#) of Commissioner Steve Blank on June 27. Commissioner Blank, who came to the post with a strong business background, became a strong voice for coastal protection during his tenure—something he addressed passionately

on his ['In Defense of Unreasonableness'](#) blog explaining why he chose to step down.

On July 10, Senate President pro Tem Darrell Steinberg reappointed Chairwoman [Mary Shallenberger](#), as well as Honorable Robert J. Garciato to the Commission. This news was welcomed by the environmental community, particularly as Commissioner Shallenberger is not only one of the agency's strongest voices for coastal protection, but also because she is one of the few remaining members who brings tremendous intuitional knowledge to the Commission, as there has been a great deal of turnover in recent years.

Meanwhile, the news is not as good for longtime coastal champion Esther Sanchez, whose term officially expired on May 20 (but has since been extended). Assembly Speaker Pérez has called for multiple lists to fill that seat (which is designated for an elected official from San Diego County); while nobody has been appointed to the seat yet, it appears Commissioner Sanchez will [not be reappointed](#). PCL's Executive Director Bruce Reznik has served as Commissioner Sanchez' alternate for the past three years, and is thankful to both Speaker Pérez and Ms. Sanchez for the tremendous opportunity. While we are disappointed that it appears Esther will not continue in her vital role on the Commission, we join many environmental groups in urging the Speaker to make a strong appointment to fill that seat.

As highlighted in a [recent column](#) by Dan Morain, the Coastal Commission serves an important role in safeguarding California's unmatched coastline. With so much recent transition at the Commission, the agency is now at a critical juncture. We encourage everyone to contact the Governor, Senate President pro Tem and Speaker of the Assembly to let them know you want to see strong coastal advocates appointed as vacancies come up.

PCL Seeks Membership & Events Coordinator

PCL's Membership and Events Coordinator will be moving on at the end of next month, which means that PCL is looking to hire an energetic, self-motivated individual with communication and event planning experience to direct the Planning and Conservation League's marketing and communications department! The Membership and Events Coordinator will oversee PCL's internal and external communications, coordinate all PCL events and oversee membership relations. For a more detailed job description, please [click here](#). Resumes should be submitted to moyewole@pcl.org by Monday, August 5.

PCL Looking for Outreach & Events Intern

PCL is seeking a passionate and dedicated Outreach & Events Intern to help us plan our annual Environmental Symposium (in February), special fundraising events (two scheduled in fall), regional workshops and trainings, and other small events as needed. This position requires strong oral and written communication skills and attention to detail; a background in outreach, marketing, event management, or non-profit work is desirable. This is a volunteer position that requires a minimum commitment of 10 hours per week. For more information, [click here](#) or contact Michelle Oyewole at moyewole@pcl.org

PCL Honoring the Life and Work of Former California Attorney General John Van de Kamp

Join Us on November 14 in Los Angeles for Celebration

PCL is hosting a reception honoring the lifelong environmental efforts of former Attorney General and long-time PCL Board member John Van de Kamp on Thursday, November 14 at the [LA River Center and Gardens](#) in Los Angeles. Please join the PCL family and special guests as we celebrate John Van de Kamp's tireless efforts on behalf of California's environment, and thank him for his years of leadership and service on the Planning and Conservation League's Board of Directors. We are also proud to present the [LA Conservation Corps](#) with the first ever John Van de Kamp Youth and the Environment Award for their work on The Compton Creek Natural Park project. For more information or to sponsor the event, [click here](#).



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