

Press Release - 2013 - Governor Brown's 2013 State Budget Proposal

Sierra Club California Statement on Governor Brown's 2013 State Budget Proposal

By Sierra Club CA, on January 18th, 2013

Contact: Kathryn Phillips

916-557-1100 x 102 (desk); 916-893-8494 (mobile)

SACRAMENTO—Governor Brown released his 2013 budget proposal today. That proposal includes noteworthy items affecting state environmental services, including:

Assigns new revenue generated by a lumber tax passed into law last year. The budget uses the new revenue to provide critical new staffing to review and monitor forest logging proposals, particularly staffing at the Department of Fish and Wildlife.

Provides additional funding for Salton Sea restoration.

Acknowledges the need for additional funding at the Department of Toxic Substance Control to improve hazardous waste protections, foreshadowing future proposals during the budget process.

Sierra Club California Director Kathryn Phillips released the following statement about the proposed budget:

"The Governor's budget includes some good news for the long-term health of California's environment.

"One proposal is particularly commendable, and that is the spending plan for the new lumber tax money.

"The funding will help make sure that logging companies obey the law. It will help keep California forests healthy enough to provide all the crucial services we need—rainfall capture, mountainside stabilization, wildlife habitat, recreation—even as the timber industry thrives. The proposal is good for the environment and the economy.

"There simply haven't been enough Department of Fish and Wildlife staff experts to do the right kind of review and enforcement of timber harvest plans to date. By assigning the tax revenue to beef up staff levels, especially at DFW, Governor Brown is reversing years of neglectful under staffing that began well before he took office."