

**Alliance of Californians for Community Empowerment · American Civil Liberties Union · Asian Pacific Environmental Network · California Bicycle Coalition · California Coastal Protection Network · California League of Conservation Voters · California ReLeaf · California Wilderness Coalition · Center for Environmental Health · Clean Water Action · Coalition for Clean Air · Coastal Environmental Rights Foundation · Community Water Center · Courage Campaign · Environment California · Environmental Justice Coalition for Water · Environmental Working Group · Equal Rights Advocates · Equality California · Friends Committee on Legislation of California · Friends of the River · Lutheran Office of Public Policy—California · NARAL Pro-Choice California · National Stewardship Action Council · Natural Resources Defense Council · Physicians for Social Responsibility—Los Angeles · Planning and Conservation League · Trust for Public Land · Sierra Club California · United Food and Commercial Workers Western States Council · Western Center on Law and Poverty · Wholly H2O**

November 18, 2016

The Honorable Jerry Brown  
Governor of California  
State Capitol Building  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**Re: Appointment of Attorney General**

Dear Governor Brown:

Now that Attorney General Kamala Harris has been elected to the U.S. Senate, you will be responsible for appointing her replacement until the next general election.

On behalf of the undersigned organizations, together representing hundreds of thousands of Californians, we respectfully offer these thoughts about the characteristics that will be needed in the next Attorney General (AG).

The nation is entering what could become a very dangerous era. Given the pronouncements during his campaign for president, and additional statements since his election, Donald J. Trump may take a series of actions once he is inaugurated that could elevate social inequities, rattle immigrants with fear of deportation or harassment, subject people of color, members of the LGBT community and women to greater and more overt discrimination, and cast aside important laws and regulations designed to protect civil rights, social justice, public health and the environment. He has made it very clear that he denies climate change and intends to increase dependence on fossil fuels.

The values the president-elect is espousing are anathema to most Californians. We celebrate diversity, and do not condemn it. We aspire to greater social equity and economic opportunity. We lead on climate change policy and a range of other environmental issues. And we depend on all of these characteristics to help make sure one of the nation's most populous states remains livable.

To protect our values, the next AG should have the following key characteristics:

- A desire and preparedness to aggressively defend and enforce California's laws and challenge federal efforts to restrict California's ability to craft forward-looking policy. The next AG must be intellectually tough and have a strong background in state and federal public law.
- A willingness to call on and collaborate with experts and outside counsel. The Trump Administration is signaling that it will attack a broad range of issues. It will be necessary to reach out to and engage the best minds in the state and nation, with expertise in specific fields, to help California lead the fight against these attacks. The next AG should be willing and able to identify and collaborate with those best minds.
- A strong political acuity. It will be necessary for the leadership and members of the California legislature, as well as the general public, to have confidence in the next AG's actions. Garnering that confidence will test the next AG's political skill and resolve.
- Experience. Perhaps this goes without saying, but this is going to be a big job for anyone in normal times, and it will be particularly demanding and challenging in these times. An AG who has experience leading teams, collaborating, and navigating political waters will be more successful. The next AG must be able to hit the ground running. There will be no opportunity to settle in before taking bold action.

We appreciate your consideration of these characteristics as you mull over the list of potential appointees. Also, please know that all of our organizations stand ready to help the next AG successfully protect California's values and its environment.

Sincerely,

Kathryn Phillips  
Sierra Club California

Dan Jacobson  
Environment California

Amy Everitt  
NARAL Pro-Choice California

Michael Herald  
Western Center on Law and Poverty

Colin Bailey  
Environmental Justice Coalition for Water

Laurel Firestone  
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