



For Immediate Release

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Voters Appear to Reject Irresponsible Pay-To-Play Water Bond Measure

SACRAMENTO—California voters have apparently rejected Proposition 3, an \$8.9 billion water bond that would have provided billions in taxpayer funds to wealthy private entities.

Sierra Club California opposed the water bond, which was crafted behind-the-scenes and would have turned important water policy principles on their head.

Fifteen editorial boards at major newspapers around the state, including the Sacramento Bee, San Francisco Chronicle, Los Angeles Times and San Diego Union-Tribune, all agreed that Proposition 3 was an irresponsible bond for California.

The measure reflected a classic pay-to-play bond measure scheme. To attract wealthy investors to fund the Proposition 3 campaign, the bond's developers included in the measure billions of dollars worth of projects that would allow those investors to use taxpayer funds for projects they would otherwise have to pay for themselves. The measure would have undercut "beneficiary pays," the principle that those who receive the benefits of water projects are responsible for paying for those projects.

There were some good provisions in Proposition 3 for water access in disadvantaged communities. But this was a very small part of the bond. The vast majority of the funds would have benefited specific water agencies and industrial agricultural operations.

For more information on Proposition 3, visit: NoProp3CA.com.

Statement by Kathryn Phillips, Director of Sierra Club California:

"Let's hope that voters' rejection of this measure ends the pay-to-play approach to natural resources bonds in the future.

"Water is easily the state's most valuable resource. None of us can live without it. Policies guiding who gets how much and under what circumstances, and who pays for that, must be done in the open, at the legislature or regulatory agencies, where all Californians have an opportunity to be represented."

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Sierra Club California is the legislative and regulatory advocacy arm of Sierra Club's 13 local chapters in California, representing more than 400,000 members and supporters.