

## ACWA's 2009 Legislative Symposium

### "Water Policy Priorities in 2009"

Senator Fran Pavley, Chair of Natural Resources and Water

- She is sponsoring SB 229 and SB 736 as part of her Green Initiative.
- Global warming has caused: infrastructure issues, sea level rise (Delta and its restoration), and long-term financing of projects.
- Her committee has had four hearings: recycling & 5-tier rate study, Delta Vision, history of water rights, and paying for CA water infrastructure.
- Her committee has the following working groups: drought response, governance & stewardship, Delta plan.
- After the budget, water is the number one issue: 7 bills on Delta, 2 bills on conservancy, 2 bills on conservation and 3 bills on water recycling.

Assembly Member Jared Huffman, Chair Water, Parks & Wildlife

- His committee has had hearings on: Delta Vision, salmon issues, federal stimulus money, CA cash flow scenario, and fish & game reform (maybe time to reform water board).
- Federal stimulus money looking at weatherization (high-efficiency toilets & shower heads, light bulbs, etc.).

Assembly Member Jean Fuller, Vice-Chair Water, Parks & Wildlife

- 847,000 acres of farmland to be fallowed this year causing a loss of 90,000 jobs statewide.
- Lack of time & resources and public apathy are obstacles to fixing problem.
- Her priorities are: Delta mitigation/conservation, origin water rights, water storage (reliable/sustainable water), and conveyance of water without impacting environment.
- We need to be consistent in our policies.
- We need to work with this Governor because he wants to fix problem and we do not know about the next Governor.

Senator Dave Cogdill, Vice-Chair Joint Legislative Committee

- We have enough water in CA; it is just not managed correctly.

Questions:

1. What is the amount of water used per capita? Guessing 60gal/day
2. Comment by audience – 20x20x20 Plan “One size does not fit all” on conservation. Panel agrees and said there is a need for smart meters and billing more frequently.
3. Comment on financing “beneficiary pays”. Panel commented that because of fiscal crisis in CA, we have to place a hold on this for now. \$25-30B is needed for infrastructure repairs/improvements.

### "Can a Water Bond Finally Advance?"

Senator Lois Wolk, Chair Revenue and Taxation

- She is sponsoring SB 456 (a water bond and Delta vision).
- We need a policy in place before funding.
- The Delta is not a blank slate; it is a functioning entity with people, fish, and agriculture.
- No peripheral canal until a policy & funding structure is in place.

Senator Joe Simitian, Chair Environmental Quality

- His 3-legged stool for the Delta: assurances to northern CA, water quality to 24M people in the south, and maintain environmental quality.
- He feels that conveyance should be paid with revenue bonds.
- He feels that the Delta fix should be paid with general obligation bond money because of the water and environmental restoration needs.

- His bill (SB 12) would impose a per-acre-foot fee on water diversions within the Delta watershed and a fee on any water conveyed through or around the Delta.

Assembly Member Anna Caballero, Chair Local Government

- She is sponsoring AB 1187; a \$10B bond measure that is negotiable in amount.
- The breath of AB 1187 is: sustainability, quality, fisheries, levees, etc.
- There is a dire cash flow problem; hundreds of contractors not getting paid causing a delay/stoppage of many projects.
- She is looking at a water user-fee.

Questions:

1. What is best way to pay for Delta? Panel stated that there is remarkable agreement on what to fund, but a vast disagreement on how to fund (General or otherwise). Cogdill's bond measure (SB 371) and Wolk's bond measure (SB 456) both provide \$10B.
2. Why 5 bond measures? Panel – Devil is in the details (Governor and Sen. Feinstein are very involved); eventually one bond will succeed. State is being held hostage until the Delta is fixed.
3. Can all the Senators surrounding the Delta come together and decide what they need to fix the Delta? Panel – No answer, but has to happen. People are really talking about the Delta now.

#### “Retrofit on Resale”

Dan Carney – Water Conservation Manager for Marin County

- Marin County has 150,000 rate payers and have replace 48,000 toilets.
- There is too much un-measured water savings.
- Direct-to-consumer toilet replacement is best to guarantee it happens.

Senator Alex Padilla, Chair Energy, Utilities and Communications

- He is sponsoring SB 407. The intent of this bill is that public entities enact ordinances that require the retrofitting of outdated, high water use plumbing fixtures with the transfer of real estate.

Marsi Steirer City of San Diego

- All new construction requires low-flow toilets and shower heads.
- All resale homes require low-flow toilets and shower heads.
- It is very labor intensive to run their retrofit program. The \$10 certificate charge is not enough to recover costs; it should be more like \$100 or more per certificate.
- Over one-third of the certificates are returned; it has been hared to find out why.

Phil Hawkins represents the real estate workers

- Homes built after 1992 already have low-flow toilets.
- He does not believe point-of-sale is the way to achieve low-flow toilets.
- The rebate programs are working in his opinion.

Questions:

1. Does “one size fit all”? Panel – Yes based on toilets and showers.
2. Any statistics on savings? Panel – not known.
3. Who should pay for bank owned homes? Panel – They’ll fall through the cracks.
4. Why shouldn’t toilets/showers be sanitation districts responsibility? Panel – Needs to be equal sharing.
5. Comment on water use as well as limited use. Panel – They still believe we should have plants grown for a green world.