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Bay Area Council Endorses *The Safe, Clean, and Reliable Drinking Water Supply Act of 2010*

Passing November Water Bond is Vital to Securing Bay Area Water Supply and Protecting California's Economy and Environment.

SAN FRANCISCO, CA – The Bay Area Council voted to endorse the *Safe, Clean and Reliable Drinking Water Supply Act of 2010* (Water Bond) on California's November 2010 ballot. By endorsing the Water Bond, the Bay Area Council joins a broad and diverse coalition of other business organizations, environmental groups, farmers, water agencies, organized labor, community groups and elected leaders.

"Despite heavy rains this winter, California is facing ongoing water supply shortages because we've failed to make adequate investments to maintain and modernize our water infrastructure," said Jim Wunderman, President of the Bay Area Council. "From high tech manufacturing to farming and tourism, the state of our water system is intricately linked to virtually every corner of the California economy.

"But our water system is on the brink of catastrophic failure. The Delta, which supplies water to more than 3 million Bay Area residents, is at risk of environmental and physical collapse. And we lack the physical infrastructure to store and deliver water when and where it's needed. The November water bond will begin reversing decades of neglect by funding vital investments in water storage and other infrastructure, in recycling and conservation, and in restoring the Delta's ecosystem. Maintaining the status quo is not an option. We must act now," concluded Wunderman.

If passed, *the Safe, Clean, and Reliable Drinking Water Supply Act of 2010* will:

- ✓ **Help develop more reliable water supplies** by improving the infrastructure that stores and delivers water.
- ✓ **Restore the Delta.** By fortifying hundreds of miles of levees and restoring the delta ecosystem and habitats, the measure will help protect the delta and prevent a full-fledge collapse of its infrastructure and natural environment.
- ✓ **Clean up drinking water sources** by funding emergency actions to clean up water supplies in at-risk areas, cleaning up groundwater contamination, and protecting rivers, lakes and streams that supply our drinking water.
- ✓ **Protect & restore the environment** by providing vitally needed ecosystem restoration including reviving threatened fish populations, investing in conservation and watershed protections, and cleaning up of rivers, lakes, streams, beaches and the coast.
- ✓ **Increase local water supplies** through funding of local and regional projects to clean up local water sources and reduce dependence on water brought in from other regions by funding advanced treatment technologies to promote water recycling and clean up projects.
- ✓ **Enhance conservation** by funding local water agency conservation efforts to reduce water usage and enhance water-use efficiency.

The measure also contains strong taxpayer protections and strict accountability requirements, including: annual, independent audits of all water bond expenditures; a strict limit on administrative costs to 5%; and a requirement that the bonds be sold slowly over time as our economy and state budget improves, with no more than \$5.57 billion sold before July 1, 2015 – spreading out debt payments from the state's general fund.

For more information, including a list of water bond supporters, visit www.WaterforCA.com

Founded in 1945, the Bay Area Council (www.bayareacouncil.org) develops and drives regional public policy initiatives and researches critical infrastructure issues. Led by CEOs, the Bay Area Council presents a strong, united voice for hundreds of major employers throughout the Bay Area region whom employ more than 500,000 workers, or 1 of every six private sector employees in the Bay Area.