



**EDMUND G. BROWN JR., Governor**  
**JOHN LAIRD, Secretary for Natural Resources**

March 20, 2014

The Honorable Frank R. Wolf  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice,  
Science and Related Agencies  
Committee on Appropriations  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Chaka Fattah  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice,  
Science and Related Agencies  
Committee on Appropriations  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman and Mr. Fattah:

As the subcommittee considers Fiscal Year 2015 appropriations for Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies, I urge the you to consider the following requests for funding for several programs important to California's – and the nation's – ocean and coastal resources.

Drought Crisis and Science

California is grappling with one of the driest periods in our recorded history. Governor Brown declared a drought emergency in January and, working with the Legislature, signed legislation earlier this month to provide \$687 million to support drought relief assistance for drought-affected communities. California has been responding to this crisis by working closely with federal, local, and municipal agencies and others. We have taken difficult actions to deal with this unprecedented challenge. We have also crafted a comprehensive plan for our future water management, including storage, conservation, recycling, water transfers and other actions.

We appreciate the federal government's recognition of the significance of this drought crisis in California and in other parts of the western United States. We strongly supported the recent reauthorization of the National Integrated Drought Information System (NIDIS) and to fund it at \$13 million annually. California supports efforts and resources to improve our resilience to drought conditions and the effects of our changing climate.

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#### California's Ocean and Coastal Perspective

California has the largest ocean economy in the United States in terms of jobs and gross state product, valued at more than \$40 billion per year. Our coastal and ocean resources support jobs and diverse economic activities ranging from commercial fishing to a multibillion dollar tourist industry, as well as providing habitat to countless aquatic species that depend upon a healthy environment. Protecting our nation's ocean and coastal resources not only benefits our natural resources, our ecosystems, and human health, but it is a critical factor for a thriving economy. Californians have taken responsibility for ocean and coastal protection seriously for decades. This is a responsibility that we share with states along the West Coast and with the federal government.

California continues to lead the nation in safeguarding the Pacific Ocean through the California Ocean Protection Council, which has invested nearly \$100 million over the past decade on innovative projects to protect ocean and coastal resources and the significant economic benefits that they bring to our nation. California has established a system of marine protected areas developed through one of the most comprehensive science-based, stakeholder-driven processes in the United States. California also works closely with the states of Oregon and Washington to develop regional solutions through the West Coast Governors' Alliance on Ocean Health.

#### Coastal Management Grants

California's three federally recognized coastal zone management programs, operated by the California Coastal Commission, the California Coastal Conservancy, and the San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission (BCDC) epitomize the value of federal/state partnerships in our efforts to maintain ecologically healthy coasts and oceans and support the local communities that rely on these resources. Each year, the state of California, through these agencies, more than matches the level of funding provided in National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) grants to tackle some of the most urgent issues facing coastal states, such as protecting the public and infrastructure from increasingly devastating storms.

Increases in competing ocean and coastal uses require proactive and effective coastal zone management and we support the investments for coastal zone management grants to promote coordinated coastal science and management activities. There is a distinct opportunity to focus management and planning efforts on the growing interest in spatially explicit ocean uses, such as offshore aquaculture, offshore renewable energy, and artificial reefs. Funding for a comprehensive marine spatial planning and evaluation program would enable the federal and state management entities to proactively track, monitor, and assess competing ocean uses and promote a thoughtful and deliberate approach to offshore and coastal management.

While we appreciate level funding was provided for the Coastal Zone Management funding in FY 14, we believe the funding needs are much greater for this program especially in light of the fact that there have been many years of funding that did not keep up with the rate of inflation.

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We are grateful that the Coastal Zone Management funding did not decrease even more in FY14 during these times of historically difficult budgetary conditions, however, I believe increased funding for these programs is critical to NOAA's ability to provide technical assistance, data and informational tools for on-the-ground management, hazard and flood prevention, and disaster response. I urge you to fund the Coastal Zone Management grants within the NOAA budget consistent with the President's request of \$71.146 million for FY15.

#### Regional Ocean Partnerships

The states of California, Oregon, and Washington are committed to working together to improve ocean health off the West Coast. Six years ago, the states released the West Coast Governors' Ocean Action Plan, which uses a collaborative approach to address some of our region's most pressing ocean and coastal management challenges, such as preparing coastal communities for the effects of sea-level rise and ocean acidification.

We respectfully urge the subcommittee to restore funding to at least \$10 million in the NOAA budget for the regional partnerships in the United States. The regional ocean partnerships across the nation are not only addressing issues that are important to their own region, but are furthering many priorities of the federal government. Additionally, we support appropriation language stating that 10 percent of the total funding be divided equally among existing partnerships for operations support and that the remaining funds be allocated through a competitive grants process to support projects that address the priorities identified in the regions. Regional approaches advance federal interests in ocean management through coordination with other levels of government by providing direct resources to address the unique needs of a region, as well as integrated, efficient, and effective management of ocean resources.

#### Ocean Observation

With rising seas, damaging extreme storms, frequent algal blooms, diminishing fish stocks, increasing ocean acidification and spreading dead zones, the need for the US Integrated Ocean Observing System has long been recognized. California's regional IOOS systems, SCCOOS and CeNCOOS, collect and disseminate the information needed to address these challenges, allowing for effective and efficient response to hazardous spills, safe and efficient marine commerce, targeted search and rescue operations, and monitoring of water quality and long-term ecosystem changes. In 2005, California invested more than \$21 million to design and build a real-time monitoring system of ocean currents that is operated as part of the state's regional IOOS systems. This investment in the land-based high-frequency radar (HFR) surface current mapping system has made California a leader on the national stage of ocean observing. In order for this program to continue to provide these critical services, we ask you to provide \$40.5 million for Regional IOOS in fiscal year 2015, and \$6.5 million for the IOOS program office within NOAA's budget.

#### Ocean Acidification

Ocean acidification is changing the very chemical nature of our oceans, harming a multitude of important species today and threatening more in the future. California is working in partnership with the other Pacific Coast states to protect fishermen, shellfish farmers, ecosystems and coastal communities from this emerging threat. Federal research dollars can help avert impacts

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by deepening our scientific understanding of the problem, enabling local businesses to remain productive through awareness and adaptation, and active planning on next steps, both locally and nationally.

We support the President's request of \$15 million for ocean acidification research in the FY15 NOAA budget. This program will enable our federal and state scientists to inform both a West Coast and national response to this challenge, and allow us to work with local communities and sectors that will be affected. Funding for Integrated Ocean Acidification in the Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research within NOAA will provide desperately needed resources and make sure we address one of the most critical threats to coastal communities and oceans today.

#### Climate observation- Tropical Ocean Atmosphere Array

In the face of extreme weather events as a result of a changing climate, the need for climate monitoring is great. The Tropical Ocean Atmosphere array, developed after the devastating El Niño of 1982-1983, has established itself as vital and indispensable to climate forecasters in the U.S. and around the world. Since 2012, budget cuts have led to reductions in array maintenance and currently only 40 percent of the array is reporting data. The array supports climate research, provides basic data for seasonal weather forecasts, and provides a fundamental data set that serves as the observational cornerstone of El Niño research and forecasting. Climate models are beginning to suffer from the lack of data, and consequences could be catastrophic if a major El Niño were to arrive while the system is in disrepair. Shifts in weather associated with El Niño can have significant impacts on public safety, the economy, fisheries, and agriculture. Insight from the array can help support preparedness actions that protect people and infrastructure and generate cost savings for the government and communities.

We strongly support an increase in funding for NOAA's National Weather Service for the operations and maintenance of the Tropical Atmosphere Ocean buoys to increase the functionality of the array. Funding could help to assure that optimal observations are provided for forecasts and predictions related to El Niño phenomena and for climate change models.

#### Marine Debris

Marine debris is a global problem that affects the environment, human safety, and commerce. The NOAA Marine Debris Program continues to play a pivotal role in addressing this issue through research, prevention, and reduction. The NOAA Marine Debris Program offers several nationwide, competitive funding opportunities for marine debris projects. NOAA funding also supports the Interagency Marine Debris Coordinating Committee, a multi-agency body responsible for streamlining the federal government's efforts to address marine debris. With the help of NOAA's support and on-going collaborations, California is well-positioned to meet the challenges and complexities surrounding the issue of marine debris. We support continued funding for the NOAA Marine Debris Program to reduce marine debris and to ensure a safe and clean coastline.

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Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund

Congress established the Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund (PCSRF) to protect, restore, and conserve Pacific salmon and steelhead populations and their habitats. Since that time the PCSRF has helped improve the status of ESA listed species and has reduced the likelihood of extinctions.

California joins with other Pacific Coast states and Native American tribes to support the President's request of \$50 million in NOAA's Ocean and Atmospheric Research program to continue prior funding appropriated for this successful regional effort. Salmon and steelhead populations aided through the PCSRF are supporting jobs and providing economic benefits that will help achieve the overarching goal of full recovery and sustainability

Ocean and Coastal Research and Management

Ongoing and adaptive ocean and coastal scientific research is the cornerstone of sound and effective marine management policies. We strongly support the significant investments in ocean and coastal research and increased support for habitat and species conservation activities that are essential to restoring and maintaining healthy, sustainable oceans. Beyond the research investment, we urge increased budget allocations to the Regional Fisheries Management Councils (RFMCs) to support improved management and coordination. The RFMCs are one of the primary vehicles for the science-based implementation of the Magnuson Stevens Act, Endangered Species Act, and Marine Mammal Protection Act. In addition, the RFMCs are critical to effective partnerships and coordination that are part of the core mission of the National Marine Fisheries Service. Increased funding to the RFMCs would help maintain the link between science and policy by supporting the increased obligations on the states to comply with federal laws and growing monitoring and analytical requirements.

Thank you for your consideration of these ocean and coastal resources requests for the fiscal year 2015 Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies appropriations bill.

Sincerely,



John Laird  
Secretary of Natural Resources  
State of California

cc: Members of the California Congressional Delegation



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Chairman  
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Dear Mr. Chairman and Mr. Moran:

As the subcommittee reviews fiscal year 2015 appropriations for the Interior, Environment and Related Agencies, I respectfully urge you to consider the following requests for programs that are of critical importance to both California and the nation.

### Drought Crisis

California is grappling with one of the driest periods in our recorded history. Governor Brown declared a drought emergency in January and, working with the Legislature, signed legislation earlier this month to provide \$687 million to support drought relief assistance for drought-affected communities. California has been responding to this crisis by working closely with federal, local, and municipal agencies and others. We have taken difficult actions to deal with this unprecedented challenge. We have also crafted a comprehensive plan for our future water management, including storage, conservation, recycling, water transfers and other actions.

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### Catastrophic Wildfire and Forest Protection

As our drought crisis continues, the threat of catastrophic wildfire in 2014 will continue to be a significant issue of concern throughout California and for the foreseeable future. In fact, the 2014 fire season in the West is predicted to be very similar if not worse than the 2013 fire season. With historic drought conditions, the fire season has the potential to be very active and will likely stretch federal, state and local resources in California to their limits.

Fire season in California has become virtually a year-round event. We face severe fire conditions due to changing climatic conditions, dangerous fuel loads, and insect infestations that have eroded the resilience of our forests to withstand catastrophic wildland fire threats. Already in the first quarter of 2014, we have experienced a number of large historically uncharacteristic wildfires.

California joins other western states to support the President's plan to address the ongoing issue of "fire borrowing" between the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) and Department of the Interior (DOI) by funding a portion of the agencies' wildfire suppression costs through a budget cap adjustment similar to that currently utilized by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for other major natural disasters. It is reported that one percent of the largest fires consume 30 percent of the federal government's wildfire budget. Under the proposal, suppression costs exceeding 70 percent of the 10-year average for wildland fire suppression would be moved outside the agencies' baseline budget, and funded through a separate disaster account.

Since 2000, the USFS and DOI have run out of annually budgeted fire suppression dollars to fight emergency fires on at least eight separate occasions and has borrowed from vital fire prevention programs to fill the funding gap. Last year alone, USFS and DOI transferred a total of \$636 million from crucial fire-prevention work such as thinning forests and clearing underbrush before the onset of the fire season. This short-sighted borrowing not only disrupts the federal government's ability to effectively manage its own lands, but it also negatively impacts state budgets and the work of other land management partners, such as state forestry agencies and private forests. It is critical to end the disruptive cycle of borrowing from non-fire programs to pay the suppression costs incurred by the USFS and DOI. We support allowing these federal agencies to carry out critical programs that help ensure sustainable management on our nation's forested lands.

### Aviation

The state of California and USFS Region 5 have a long history of cooperative fire protection, including an integrated air attack program. Air attack bases have been located throughout California based on maximum 20-minute response time to any location, including both SRA and national forest lands. California owns and operates a fleet of 23 small to medium sized air tankers, which, when mixed with the previously assigned larger federal air tankers, provided a spectrum of aircraft to meet our joint attack goals ranging from small to large fires.

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The reduction in the number of federal air tankers – from 43 in 2000 to 8 in 2013 – has resulted in significant impacts on this integrated system and places an increasing burden on California aircraft

to respond to fires on national forest lands. Small and large fires on federal lands are increasing the flight hours on California's air tankers and reducing our availability for response to new fires. We advocate for increasing federal capacity in California to deal with the more severe and prolonged fire season. While the Department of Defense is in the process of transferring C-130 aircraft to the Forest Service to act as air tankers in the future, those aircraft will not be converted to air tankers in time for this year's fire season. USFS Region 5 should be augmented with fixed-wing aviation to meet the projected increase in severity in California.

At the same time, the availability of federal heavy (Type-1) firefighting helicopters in California needs to increase, or at least maintain current levels of response capability, in order to meet the heightened wildfire threat created by the drought. Simply put, circumstances require more aircraft available for a longer period than in normal years.

#### State Fire Assistance

California relies on the continued support of federal funding for the State Fire Assistance (SFA) program. California uses the SFA program to develop new fire prevention and suppression technologies and provide training to state and local firefighters. SFA appropriations have been used to provide many fuel treatment projects as well as provide funding for California to participate in training and policy development at the national level. Without this funding, California will not be at the table during critical policy decision making. The President's fiscal year 2015 budget proposes to maintain SFA assistance funding at \$78 million. Given the importance of this program, California supports this continuing funding for the SFA program at no less than the fiscal year 2014 amount.

#### Volunteer Fire Assistance

The Volunteer Fire Assistance (VFA) program provides financial assistance to organize, train and equip local forces in rural areas and communities. This assistance, aimed at communities with populations under 10,000 people, helps them to prevent, control and suppress fires threatening life, resources and other improvements.

Following the devastating Southern California fires in 2003, the need for many rural fire agencies to obtain and/or upgrade personal protective equipment and standardized communications equipment was identified. Over ten years later, requests for the personal protective equipment and communications equipment continue to dominate the majority of funding that is allocated to these small agencies. Another portion of the requests is basic firefighting tools that these small departments cannot afford to purchase without funding assistance. The President's proposed fiscal year 2015 funding of \$13 million maintains prior year funding levels and California supports the maintenance of funding for this vital program.

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### Cooperative Forestry

The President's budget proposes an overall funding level of \$229 million for State and Private Forestry. The \$229 million for State and Private Forestry in this year's budget maintains the 2014 funding level, but it is very important to restore funding to the 2012 levels so as to maintain the momentum of the important cooperative forestry work in California.

Federal funding for cooperative forestry programs such as Forest Health, Forest Stewardship, and Urban and Community Forestry is becoming increasingly important as state funding has been reduced over time. With California is facing its third successive dry year, and possibly the worst drought in our recorded history, these programs are critical in addressing forest health issues such as the gold spotted oak borer, mountain pine beetle, polyphagous shot hole borer, and other aggressive primary mortality agents. The gold spotted oak borer (GSOB) alone was reported to recently kill approximately 80,000 oak trees in San Diego County in 2011, and with Southern California oaks under extreme moisture stress conditions, significant increases in mortality are almost certain, resulting in significant economic, ecological, cultural and aesthetic impacts. Unfortunately, GSOB has recently spread to Riverside County. Further spread of this pest creates the potential for hundreds of millions of dollars in losses. We recommend that FY15 funding for Forest Health be increased to at least \$48 million, and funding for Forest Stewardship be increased to \$29 million.

Urban and Community Forestry programs are vitally important to California, where 95 percent of residents live in urban areas. Providing strong federal funding for Urban and Community Forestry will deliver significant environmental, social and economic benefits to the vast majority of Californians. We request that the fiscal year 2015 funding level of Urban and Community Forestry not be reduced, but instead increased to at least the \$31 million dollar level of 2012.

### Forest Legacy

We are very pleased and supportive of the President's proposal of using \$53 million from the discretionary budget and \$47 million from the Land and Water Conservation fund to support the Forest Legacy Program (FLP). The California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) has several projects on the proposed 2015 FLP project list. They are the 597 acre Rainbow Ridge (Wherrit tract) near Mt. Shasta, the 5,438 acre Lost Coast Forestlands tract in Humboldt County near Whitethorn, the 761 acre Grizzly Creek Ranch, near Grizzly Creek State Park in Humboldt County, the 29,572 acre Eel River Peninsula Phase 3 in Mendocino County near Willits, the 13,367 acre University Hill tract in Trinity/Humboldt Counties near Hyampom, and the 17,450 acre Roseburg Sacramento Canyon-Phase 1 (Soda Creek Project) in Siskiyou and Shasta Counties. Support for a robust 2015 FLP budget is necessary so as to keep these working forests from being subdivided and developed. Federal funds invested in Forest Legacy projects typically leverage substantial amounts of state and private funds.

The Forest Legacy Program provides a broad range of valuable ecological, environmental and financial benefits to California. Conservation easements protect working forestlands from the development pressures of the encroaching subdivision of adjacent timberland. Among other benefits, keeping forestlands out of development ensures that their ongoing net carbon

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sequestration capacity will not be replaced with development projects that are net greenhouse gas emitters.

#### Forest Fuels Reduction

Many rural California communities are located within or adjacent to the boundaries of the National Forest System. The checkerboard pattern of land ownership between federal and private lands requires inter-agency planning and implementation of fuels reduction projects to assure a balance between resource benefits and protection of these communities. Additionally, fuels reduction investments are critical for protecting and lowering risk of wildfire impacts to major water supplies. As evidenced by the catastrophic Rim Fire impacting Yosemite National Park this past August, the drinking water supply for the city of San Francisco is now subject to both short and long term watershed impacts. Fires of this magnitude are bound to affect the direct protection areas of local, state, and federal land managers. With the significant reduction of forest fuels treatments and commercial timber harvesting in California over the past twenty years, many thousands of acres are in dire need of fuel treatment work.

Without investments in the reduction of forest fuels, many communities will remain at an unacceptable level of risk. Further, drought related mortality of forest, range and shrub dominated landscapes has created "tinder box" conditions that must be addressed to provide for public safety, ensure the integrity of public utility infrastructure, and unique irreplaceable natural landscapes. Unlike other projects, fuels grow back and require maintenance over the long term. Any reduction in funding means that new projects will not be treated, and that areas that have already been treated will revert back to their pre-treatment state. At a minimum, California supports increased funding levels for fuel reduction and encourages Congress to consider prioritizing funding to allow for maintenance of existing projects.

#### Forest and Rangeland Research

Presently, the state of California is at a particularly critical time with the need for enhanced forest and rangeland research. With the high levels of uncertainty surrounding our forests today due to exotic insects and diseases, a changing climate, increasing numbers of listed species, and growing fire risk, more research and science is required to help reduce uncertainty and provide answers. Recent work by the Pacific Southwest Research Station focused on the Sierra Nevada has helped to shed light on critical technical, social, and economic challenges in managing these lands and to inform management planning process. Additional research is needed to better understand the expected change in forest hydrology that is anticipated to occur with declines in snowpack as the climate warms. Also, recent research progress in the area of urban forestry has brought important benefits to our cities by providing a better understanding of their significant economic, environmental, and social values. Funding for Forest and Rangeland Research should be increased over the funding levels of recent years.

Climate change and Greenhouse Gas Reduction research is also needed as it relates to the 11 bioregions in California. California's range and forested ecosystems all respond differently to climate change and vegetation treatments to enhance fire resiliency is becoming increasingly important. Research is needed to help land managers determine the most effective types of treatments and the best areas to apply treatments to address climate change.

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#### Forest Inventory and Analysis

Forest Inventory and Analysis (FIA) is critical for assessing trends in forest resources, and the state of California relies on a base level of continuity from year to year. FIA is the only comprehensive

forest inventory system for California and the nation. It provides essential data for monitoring forest health, growth, species composition, and forest carbon stocks. It is also a critical data source for the development of the state Forest Action Plan. While the President's budget calls for funding at the \$67 million level, we respectfully urge continued support of this important program at no less than the previous 2011 funding level of \$72 million.

As we increasingly try to understand and manage our forests as ecosystems, rather than just aggregations of individual trees, FIA has the potential to play an expanding role in measuring ecosystem characteristics of our forests. FIA has already made some progress in this area, but there is the opportunity to do more. As California works to meet a new legislative mandate to develop ecological performance for our managed private forestlands, we are keenly interested in seeing FIA funding increased to allow more capture of ecosystem elements as a part of regular FIA data collection. The State is very interested in partnering with FIA on this work.

#### Forest Planning

California, like other states, is required by federal law to conduct five-year state Forest Action Plans. Development of the data and analysis required for these periodic plans is an ongoing effort. California is currently preparing the 2015 State Forest Action Plan. As California and other states prepare these plans, we have a particular need for additional resources to support assessing forest and shrub land vulnerabilities to climate impacts.

In addition to providing guidance to state programs, the state Forest Action Plans provide important information and priorities for the USFS to incorporate into their National Forest planning efforts. To enable states to comply with the federal mandate for state Forest Action Plans, it is essential that the USFS have the resources to regularly fund these state efforts. We recommend that the fiscal year 2015 budget specifically authorize and appropriate funding for the USFS to support state preparation of Forest Action Plans at the level of \$7 million.

#### Renewable Energy and Transportation Siting

California and the nation's ambitious renewable energy goals will require a concerted effort by federal land management agencies to plan for and expedite the siting of renewable energy facilities and transmission, especially on the vast federal land holdings in the western United States. This effort requires sufficient funding to the Department of the Interior and Department of Agriculture to ensure resources for this purpose. In particular, I urge full funding for the Bureau of Land Management's state and regional offices who are working with the state of California on expanding renewable energy opportunities.

The President's fiscal year 2015 proposal decreases funding increases for the Department's renewable energy development activities and related transmission infrastructure from previous funding of including \$100 million. The President's comprehensive Climate Action Plan challenged DOI to re-double efforts on the renewable energy program to increase capacity by

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an additional 10,000 megawatts of renewable energy production on public lands and waters by 2020. California would recommend further investment in this program to develop renewable energy facility sitings, especially in light of the overabundance of biomass feedstocks available on public and private lands.

#### Land and Water Conservation Fund State Assistance Program

The Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF), generated by drilling leases in the Outer Continental Shelf, provides vital funding for national parks, forests, and wildlife refuges, and matching funds for states to acquire and protect natural resources and provide recreational access.

States like California use LWCF to make strategic, long-term investments in our natural infrastructure and outdoor economy to support jobs, preserve natural and cultural resources, bolster outdoor recreation opportunities, and protect wildlife.

The President's budget proposal proposes \$47 million funding from LWCF to support Forest Legacy projects. California believes that this investment is critical in helping to stem the tide of increasing numbers of timberland conversions. Since California is the most urbanized state in the nation, pressures to convert important forested watershed to non-forest uses, makes it difficult to maintain these areas for high quality water production, especially in light of the severe drought conditions.

#### Ocean Acidification – Environmental Protection Agency

Ocean acidification is changing the very chemical nature of our oceans, harming a multitude of important species today and threatening more in the future. California is working in partnership with the other Pacific Coast states to protect fishermen, shellfish farmers, ecosystems and coastal communities from this emerging threat. Federal research dollars can help avert impacts by deepening our scientific understanding of the problem, enabling local businesses to remain productive through awareness and adaptation, and active planning on next steps, both locally and nationally.

We respectfully request support for ocean acidification research at the Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). The California Ocean Protection Council is currently working with the USEPA's Office of Water to develop a joint strategy to respond to the impacts of ocean acidification, specifically the role of land-based sources of pollution. Increased funding for the Oceans and Coastal Protection Division in the Office of Wetlands, Oceans and Watersheds within the Office of Water will provide desperately needed resources and make sure we address one of the most critical threats to coastal communities and oceans today.

#### Wetlands – Environmental Protection Agency

California was one of the first states in the nation to commit to a "no-net loss" policy for wetlands. Wetlands serve California and the nation by providing important ecological and human services including flood control, water quality enhancement, coastal resilience, recharge of groundwater, habitat for waterfowl, and breeding and feeding areas for resident and migratory fish, birds, and other wildlife. Consequently, we support \$14.7 million for USEPA's existing Wetlands Program Development (WPD) Grants and \$10 million for the proposed Coastal

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Wetland Restoration Grant Program. WPD grants provide states and tribes with the opportunity to conduct projects that promote the coordination and acceleration of research, investigations, experiments, training, demonstrations, surveys, and studies relating to the causes, effects, extent, prevention, reduction, and elimination of water pollution.

#### Lake Tahoe and Aquatic Invasive Species

California and Nevada are recommitted to working together to restore the economic and environmental health of Lake Tahoe. With the detection of quagga mussels in California and Nevada water bodies, and a heightened awareness of aquatic invasive species (AIS) among federal, state, and local partners, addressing the threat of AIS is a top priority at Lake Tahoe. Ranked alongside forest health, preventing AIS from establishing in Lake Tahoe are one of the region's highest funding priorities. In recent years, funding generated through the Southern Nevada Land Management Act (SNPLMA) has helped implement a prevention program consisting of mandatory boat inspection and decontamination stations, a successful Asian clam pilot eradication project, and the creation of an early detection and rapid response program. As SNPLMA funding declines, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service needs new resources to continue their vital role at Lake Tahoe.

#### State and Tribal Wildlife Grants Program

The State and Tribal Wildlife Grant Program provides federal funding for developing and implementing programs that benefit wildlife and their habitats, including species that are not hunted or fished. For California and many western states, these grants are an important program used for "species of greatest conservation need" with the focused intent to keep non-game species – like the Greater sage-grouse – off the endangered species list. California and other western states are working hard to ensure that many populations of threatened species recover and rely upon the assistance of grant programs to leverage other investments. At \$50 million, the president's request for State and Tribal Wildlife Grants is \$8.7 million below the 2014 level. We urge sufficient funding of this critical conservation program at the fiscal year 2014 level so that western states can perform the species and habitat research, surveys, and monitoring work required to meet federal and state goals of fish and wildlife conservation.

#### Landowner Incentive Program

The critical Landowner Incentive Program (LIP) is designed to assist state agencies with conserving at-risk species and habitat on private lands. LIP is a very effective and popular program in California. We urge sufficient LIP funding to protect the sizable investments in conservation already made by the states and federal government.

We thank the Subcommittee on Interior, Environment and Related Agencies for consideration of the state of California's appropriations request for the 2015 fiscal year. We look forward to working with you as you address our natural resources and wildlife, bolsters public safety, nurtures economic growth and renewable energy production.

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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "John Laird". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J" and a distinct "L" and "A" in the last name.

John Laird  
Secretary for Natural Resources  
State of California

cc: Members of the California Congressional Delegation



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The Honorable Mike Simpson  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development  
Committee on Appropriations  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Marcy Kaptur  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development  
Committee on Appropriations  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman and Ms. Kaptur:

On behalf of the state of California, I respectfully urge the Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development to consider the following fiscal year 2015 requests that are of significant importance to California and our nation.

#### Drought Crisis

California is grappling with one of the driest periods in our recorded history. Governor Brown declared a drought emergency in January and, working with the Legislature, signed legislation earlier this month to provide \$687 million to support drought relief assistance for drought-affected communities. California has been responding to this crisis by working closely with federal, local, and municipal agencies and others. We have taken difficult actions to deal with this unprecedented challenge. We have also crafted a comprehensive plan for our future water management, including storage, conservation, recycling, water transfers and other actions.

We appreciate the federal government's recognition of the significance of this drought crisis in California and in other parts of the western United States. We strongly supported the recent reauthorization of the National Integrated Drought Information System (NIDIS) and to fund it at \$13 million annually. California supports efforts and resources to improve our resilience to drought conditions and the effects of our changing climate.

#### Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Restoration

A healthy Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta is vital to the economy and environment of our nation, but the Delta is very much in crisis. It is in jeopardy of collapse as a result of the California's increasing population, demand for water and changing environmental conditions, as well as other factors. Restoring and protecting the Delta's fragile ecosystem is a primary goal of the

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The Honorable Marcy Kaptur  
March 20, 2014  
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Brown Administration, and the President's fiscal year 2015 budget proposal correctly continues investments in the safety, reliability, efficiency, and sustainability of the Delta and its vital water infrastructure.

The Bay Delta Conservation Plan (BDCP), a collaborative state and federal effort, will ensure that the co-equal goals of restoring the Delta's ecosystem and protecting California's water supply is achieved. Continued congressional support for this state-federal partnership is necessary to address the challenges facing the Delta, home to the West Coast's largest estuary and location of California's state and federal water projects. California and our federal partners have formally released draft environmental documents for construction of a water conveyance facility designed to repair the Delta's environmental and economic health to protect species and provide a reliable water supply for 25 million Californians. An economic study that outlines the anticipated impacts of the BDCP's proposed water delivery facility and habitat restoration finds that the BDCP offers a net gain of more than 12,000 jobs in the region and 137,000 full-time jobs statewide over the 50-year life of the Plan.

#### Levee and Flood Protection

Improving flood risk management is vital to California and will remain a central goal of Governor Brown's administration. California continues to work with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and other federal agencies and local governments to reduce risk to lives, property, and the ecosystem due to aging or inadequate flood management facilities. We must also confront new threats such as increased risk due to expanding urbanization in floodplains and the adverse impacts due to changing climate patterns affecting the western United States. In November 2013, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and California Department of Water Resources released *California's Flood Future* report. Based on detailed conversations with 142 flood management agencies across the state, the report highlights the exposure to flooding of 1 in 5 Californians and more than \$580 billion in physical assets.

This represents an unacceptable level of risk that can be reduced through immediate and long-term investments in local, state, and federal flood management systems. *California's Flood Future* estimated that more than \$100 billion is needed to bring the current level of exposure to more acceptable federal standards of protection. Given the extensive long-term consequences of flooding associated with events such as Hurricane Katrina, Hurricane Rita and Superstorm Sandy, the benefit in proactively addressing California's flood risk will easily exceed the costs of these investments.

A more detailed plan to make these flood risk reduction investments in the Central Valley was outlined in the 2012 Central Valley Flood Protection Plan (CVFPP). The CVFPP employs a systemwide integrated approach to improve flood risk management of the joint federal-state flood management system in California's flood-prone Central Valley. This approach balances traditional flood protection investments while promoting natural ecosystem functions and multi-benefit projects in order to achieve broad public support for a more resilient system. The CVFPP will reduce economic flood damages and life loss risk by 66 percent and 50 percent respectively, while improving levels of protection throughout the Central Valley. Urban areas will

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achieve a 200-year protection, many small communities may achieve the Federal National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) 100-year protection, and the remaining rural areas will reduce both current levels of risks while addressing many of the chronic system deficiencies that have driven up their annual maintenance costs to non-sustainable levels. The system improvements, such as bypass expansions, address the long-term resiliency of the flood management system to meet the future demands placed on the system related to climate change and continued urbanization of the state. The estimated costs of meeting the objectives of the CVFPP are \$14-17 billion. This estimate includes the nearly \$2.8 billion of state funds that have already been spent on flood risk reduction projects.

The state of California respectfully asks that the subcommittee fully fund the following flood control projects in California to continue the longstanding state/federal partnership that provides vital flood management for California's Central Valley and furthers the flood risk reduction goals in the *California's Flood Future* report and CVFPP. The Department of Water Resources can provide any information needed regarding these projects and will continue to provide the state's share of the costs and assist local agencies to meet their financial commitments to protecting California's population and assets.

#### Flood Management Projects

- American River Watershed Common Features Project
  - General Reevaluation Report
  - Remaining Water Resources Development Act sites
  - Natomas Basin
- Central Valley Integrated Flood Management Study (CVIFMS); formerly the Sacramento and San Joaquin Comprehensive Basin Study
- Delta Islands and Levees Feasibility
- Folsom Dam Modifications Project
- Folsom Dam Raise
- Hamilton City Flood Damage Reduction and Ecosystem Restoration, including Preliminary Engineering and Design
- Lower Cache Creek Feasibility Study
- Merced County Project, including General Reevaluation Report
- Middle Creek Flood Damage Reduction and Ecosystem Restoration Project
- Napa River Project
- Sacramento River Bank Protection Project
- San Joaquin River Basin, Lower San Joaquin Feasibility Study
- Santa Ana River Mainstem
- Sutter Basin – Levee South of Laurel
- Sutter Basin Feasibility Study, including Preliminary Engineering and Design
- West Sacramento Levee Reconstruction Project, including General Reevaluation Report
- Yuba River Basin Project (Marysville Ring Levee), including General Reevaluation Report

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#### Salton Sea Restoration

The Salton Sea provides critical habitat for over 400 species of migratory and resident birds throughout the Pacific Flyway. While the final path forward for the restoration of the failing ecosystem of the Salton Sea remains to be agreed upon, the state of California and the federal government should work together to protect this unique environmental asset. There are no-regret choices that can be funded today as part of the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) authorization that will start the long-term restoration of the Salton Sea ecosystem.

#### Klamath River Restoration

California fully supports the funding identified in the president's budget for the implementation of actions that address water supply enhancement and restoration of natural resources that support the Klamath Basin Restoration Agreement and the Klamath Hydroelectric Settlement Agreement. The Klamath agreements reflect the culmination of a stakeholder driven process to address decades of water supply and natural resources issues in the Klamath Basin. The president's budget include \$18 million to supports studies and initiatives to improve water supplies to meet the competing demands of agricultural, tribal, wildlife refuge and environmental needs along with facilities operations and maintenance activities. As a signatory to the Klamath agreements, the state of California fully supports this proposed funding level.

#### State Energy Program

States have an important role in planning, implementing and overseeing many, if not most, of the energy priorities identified by Congress. The State Energy Program (SEP) is the primary mechanism for federal support for states' energy efficiency, renewable energy planning and training, and alternative energy demonstration, as well as technical assistance for local energy efficiency code enforcement. California's use of SEP resources has provided the foundation for our world-leading building and appliance efficiency standards, which is a significant factor in California's per capita electricity use remaining flat over the last 40 years while the rest of the country's use continues to rise. SEP also helps build California's clean energy economy because it leads directly to jobs in the energy efficiency and renewable energy technology fields. We urge the subcommittee to nationally fund the State Energy Program at \$50 million.

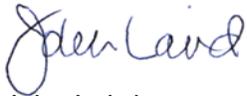
#### Abandoned Mines Restoration

California's rich mining history has resulted in approximately 47,000 abandoned mines, many of which present physical and chemical hazards to the public and drinking water supplies. Unfortunately, states like California that do not produce coal do not currently qualify to receive federal funds under the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act. In recent years, the Recovery Act provided federal agencies like the Bureau of Land Management and the National Park Service with additional funding to address this critical concern on their respective federal lands. We urge these federal agencies to further collaborate and partner with California's abandoned mine land office to address the state's priority sites of federal responsibility. Additionally, we respectfully ask for consideration of \$15 million to help fund highest priority abandoned mine lands environmental hazard remediation projects, which have been identified and do not lie on federal land.

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We thank the Subcommittee on Water and Energy Development and Related Agencies for consideration of the state of California's appropriations request for the 2015 fiscal year. We look forward to working with you as you work to fund critical national security, jobs, and infrastructure priorities for our nation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "John Laird". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J" and a long, sweeping underline.

John Laird  
Secretary for Natural Resources  
State of California

cc: Members of the California Congressional Delegation



# California Legislature

March 18, 2014

The Honorable Harold Rogers, Chairman  
Committee on Appropriations  
Room H-305, The Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Nita M. Lowey  
Committee on Appropriations  
1016 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Frank Wolf, Chairman  
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice,  
Science and Related Agencies  
Room H-309, The Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Chaka Fattah  
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice,  
Science and Related Agencies  
1016 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

## **RE: SUPPORT FOR INTEGRATED OCEAN ACIDIFICATION FUNDING**

Dear Honorable Members of Congress,

As members of the California State Legislature who are invested in the long-term health of California's oceans and sustainable commercial fisheries, we are writing to express our support for President Obama's proposed \$15 million funding amount for ocean acidification research to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) in FY15. It is crucial for Californians to have more scientific evidence to better inform policy decisions moving forward and to prevent a degradation of the rich and beautiful marine environments resulting from ocean acidification. Ongoing research not only sets up a framework to face this challenge in the long term, it allows commercial fisheries and aquaculture to remain productive by adapting and actively planning in the short term.

Due to California's narrow continental shelf and coastal oceanic upwelling that brings cold and acidified water to the surface layers, the state is at risk of experiencing the negative effects of ocean acidification if the issue is not sufficiently addressed. By fostering a better understanding of ocean acidification and finding solutions to the problem, we can ensure that future generations can enjoy our beautiful and productive marine environments.

California has been on the forefront of ocean conservation through the enactment of the Coastal Act and the implementation of successful Marine Protected Areas (MPA) that are protecting the state's marine life, habitats, and ecosystems. Yet, ocean acidification is a growing threat to our effective policies that safeguard precious natural resources.

We greatly appreciate last year's appropriation of \$6 million for FY14. However, we believe increased federal funding support for this program is critical to allow NOAA to keep existing programs running, improve and expand existing regional shared ocean acidification experimental facilities; continue assessing acidification effects on commercial and recreational marine species; and develop synthesis and visualization products responsive to stakeholder needs. With an increase in the programmatic funding for Integrated Ocean Acidification to \$15 million, NOAA will be able to take these concrete actions to more effectively tackle the economic and local implications of ocean acidification.

California's ocean economy annually accounts for over \$40 billion and approximately a half a million jobs. Tourism, scuba diving, recreational and commercial fishing, and shellfish aquaculture all directly depend on coastal water quality. Healthy ocean resources are integral to the way of life in California, and it is for these reasons that we urge your support for Integrated Ocean Acidification program funding.

Thank you for your time and consideration of our request.

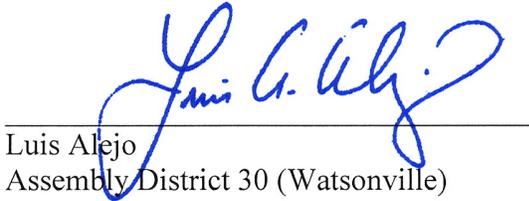
Sincerely,



Mark Stone  
Assembly District 29 (Monterey Bay)  
Chair, Select Committee on Coastal Protection



Katcho Achadjian  
Assembly District 35 (San Luis Obispo)



Luis Alejo  
Assembly District 30 (Watsonville)



Tom Ammiano  
Assembly District 17 (San Francisco)



Majority Leader Toni Atkins  
Assembly District 78 (San Diego)



Jim Beall  
Senate District 15 (San Jose)



Marty Block  
Senate District 39 (San Diego)



Richard Bloom  
Assembly District 50 (Santa Monica)



Susan Bonilla  
Assembly District 14 (Concord)



Rob Bonta  
Assembly District 18 (Alameda)



Joan Buchanan  
Assembly District 16 (Alamo)



Majority Leader Ellen Corbett  
Senate District 10 (Hayward)



Brian Dahle  
Assembly District 01 (Bieber)



Mark DeSaulnier  
Senate District 07 (Concord)



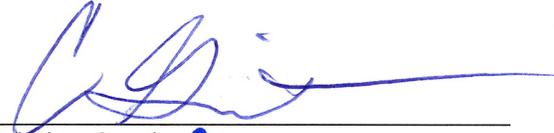
Roger Dickinson  
Assembly District 07 (Sacramento)



Noreen Evans  
Senate District 02 (Santa Rosa)



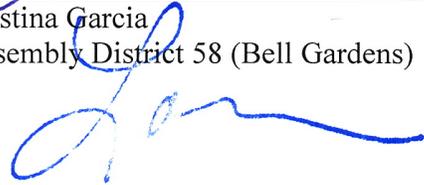
Paul Fong  
Assembly District 28 (San Jose)



Cristina Garcia  
Assembly District 58 (Bell Gardens)



Mike Gatto  
Assembly District 43 (Los Angeles)



Lorena Gonzalez  
Assembly District 80 (San Diego)



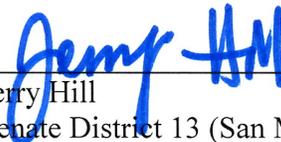
Rich Gordon  
Assembly District 24 (Menlo Park)



Loni Hancock  
Senate District 09 (Berkeley)



Roger Hernández  
Assembly District 48 (West Covina)



Jerry Hill  
Senate District 13 (San Mateo)



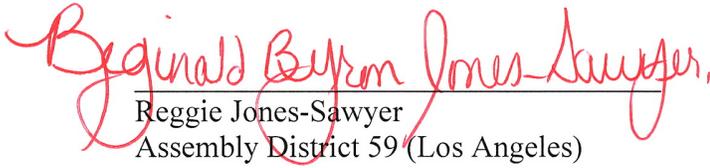
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Ben Hueso  
Senate District 40 (San Diego)



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Hannah-Beth Jackson  
Senate District 19 (Santa Barbara)



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Reggie Jones-Sawyer  
Assembly District 59 (Los Angeles)



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Ricardo Lara  
Senate District 33 (Bell Gardens)



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Mark Leno  
Senate District 11 (San Francisco)



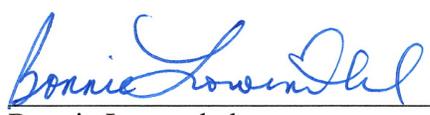
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Marc Levine  
Assembly District 10 (San Rafael)



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Carol Liu  
Senate District 25 (La Canada Flintridge)



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Bonnie Lowenthal  
Assembly District 70 (Long Beach)



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William Monning  
Senate District 17 (Carmel)



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Kevin Mullin  
Assembly District 22 (South San Francisco)



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Al Muratsuchi  
Assembly District 66 (Torrance)



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Brian Nestande  
Assembly District 42 (Palm Desert)



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Fran Pavley  
Senate District 27 (Agoura Hills)



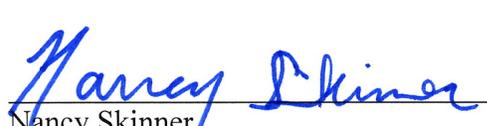
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V. Manuel Pérez  
Assembly District 56 (Coachella)



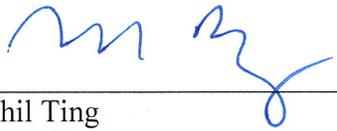
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Anthony Rendon  
Assembly District 63 (Lakewood)



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Nancy Skinner  
Assembly District 15 (Berkeley)



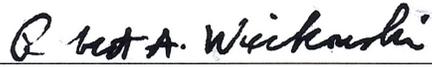
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Phil Ting  
Assembly District 19 (San Francisco)



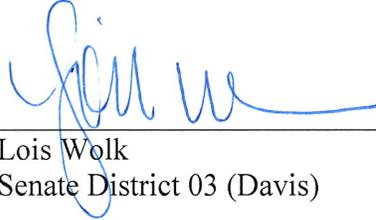
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Das Williams  
Assembly District 37 (Santa Barbara)



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Bob Wieckowski  
Assembly District 25 (Fremont)



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Lois Wolk  
Senate District 03 (Davis)

cc Senator Mikulski, Senate Appropriations Chairman  
Senator Shelby, Senate Appropriations Ranking Minority Member