





ORANGE COUNTY
CONSERVATION CORPS



the nat

SAN DIEGO
NATURAL HISTORY
MUSEUM



Sacramento Regional Conservation Corps



SAN JOSE
CONSERVATION
CORPS + CHARTER
SCHOOL



RESOURCE
CONSERVATION
DISTRICT
Greater San Diego County



McMullin Area
Groundwater Sustainability Agency



SIERRA-FOOTHILL



CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF
RESOURCE
CONSERVATION DISTRICTS



• CONSERVANCY •



Silver Lake Reservoirs
Conservancy



JOHN MUIR
LAND TRUST

February 25, 2025

Senator Scott Wiener
Chair, Senate Budget & Fiscal Review Committee
1020 N Street, Room 502
Sacramento, CA 95814

Senator Ben Allen
Chair, Senate Budget Subcommittee #2
1020 N Street, Room 502
Sacramento, CA 95814

Assemblymember Jesse Gabriel
Chair, Assembly Budget Committee
1021 O Street, Suite 8230
Sacramento, CA 95814

Assemblymember Steve Bennett
Chair, Assembly Budget Subcommittee #4
1021 O Street, Suite 8230
Sacramento, CA 95814

Subject: Request to Amend Governor's Budget Proposal Regarding Proposition 4 Funds

Dear Chair Wiener, Chair Gabriel, Chair Allen, and Chair Bennett:

The undersigned organizations represent the primary funders of the Yes on Proposition 4 Campaign, along with a broader coalition of organizations that support achieving the initiative's goals. Together, we are dedicated to advocating for the thoughtful and efficient implementation of Proposition 4.

We want to thank you for your leadership in the historic \$10 billion investment in the Safe Drinking Water, Wildfire Prevention, Drought Preparedness, and Clean Air Bond Act of 2024. This funding is critical to protecting the state against climate disasters like the devastating firestorms we experienced in Los Angeles last month, supporting critical climate resilience projects across key industries throughout the state and helping California to achieve its 30x30 goals.

However, we write to express our concerns regarding the Governor's proposed budget, specifically the plan to backfill \$273 million in General Fund commitments with Proposition 4 funds. We respectfully urge the Legislature to reject this proposed shift and ensure that Proposition 4 funds are used as outlined in the voter-approved initiative.

Proposition 4 was designed to provide new dedicated funding for climate resiliency projects. Repurposing these funds to backfill General Fund obligations risks undermining the integrity of voter-approved initiatives. Ensuring that these funds remain dedicated to their approved use is essential to maintaining public trust and upholding the commitment made to voters.

As important as ensuring that Proposition 4 funding is used as the voters intended, is distributing the funding to the programs identified as intentionally and expeditiously as possible. We understand that there is potential concern about the regulatory requirements for programs in the bond that may extend the process for implementing bond dollars. The Governor's proposed trailer bill language includes an exemption from the Administration Procedures Act (APA), which provides additional assurance of the state's ability to implement dollars efficiently. Should this exemption be deemed necessary, we are strongly supportive of its inclusion in a budget trailer bill.

We appreciate your leadership in crafting a responsible and equitable state budget. We look forward to working with you to ensure that Proposition 4 funds are distributed in accordance with the voter-approved initiative and preserved for their intended use while also supporting the necessary administrative flexibility provided through the APA exemption.

Thank you for your consideration of this request, we look forward to continuing to work with you to ensure California remains at the forefront of climate resiliency. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions or require additional information.

Sincerely,

John Howell, Chief Executive Officer
Arroyos & Foothills Conservancy

Bridget Fithian
California Council of Land Trusts Action Fund

Julia Bishop Hall, State Legislative Director
Association of California Water Agencies

Doug Johnson, Executive Director
California Invasive Plant Council

Jeannette Tuitele-Lewis, President/CEO
Big Sur Land Trust

Rachel Norton, Executive Director
California State Parks Foundation

Kim Kolpin, Executive Director
Bolsa Chica Land Trust

Nancy Wahl-Scheurich, Executive Director
CARCD

Nicholas Mueller, President
California Association of Local
Conservation Corps

Jennifer M. Capitolo, Executive Director
California Water Association

Caroline Godkin, Executive Director
California Council of Land Trusts

David Weaver Corps Director
Cesar Chavez Environmental Corps

Tessa Nicholas, Executive Director
Civicorps

Enrique Huerta, Legislative Director
Climate Resolve

Mary Alice Escarsega-Fechner,
Executive Director
Community Services Employment Training
Sequoia Community Corps

Dan Knapp, Executive Director/CEO
Conservation Corps of Long Beach

Sabrina Landreth, General Manager
East Bay Regional Parks District

Mark Drew, Executive Director
Eastern Sierra Land Trust

Dan Silver, Executive Director
Endangered Habitats League

Shawn Riggins, Director
Fresno EOC Local Conservation Corps

Michael Wellborn
Friends of Harbors Beaches and Parks

Jordan Grimes, State & Regional Resilience
Manager
Greenbelt Alliance

Linus Eukel, Executive Director
John Muir Land Trust

Luke Hoekstra, Executive Director
Kings River Land Trust

Wendy Butts, CEO
LA Conservation Corps

Doug Parker, CEO
Land Trust of Napa County

Sarah Newkirk, Executive Director
Land Trust of Santa Cruz County

Melissa Sparks-Kranz, Legislative Affairs Lobbyist
League of California Cities

Tori Kjer, Executive Director
Los Angeles Neighborhood Land Trust

Matthew Hurley, General Manager
McMullin Area Groundwater Sustainability Agency

Ana M. Ruiz, General Manager
Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District

John Wentworth CEO/Board President
MLTPA Foundation

Belén Bernal, Executive Director
Nature for All

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Ojai Valley Land Conservancy

Katharyn O. Muniz, Chief Executive Officer
Orange County Conservation Corps

Charles Thomas, Executive Director
Outward Bound Adventures (OBA)

Gordon Clark, President
Peninsula Open Space Trust

Anthony L. Firenzi Director of Strategic Affairs
Placer County Water Agency

Jeff Darlington, Executive Director
Placer Land Trust

Iman Sylvain, PhD. Western Regional Director
Rails to Trails Conservancy

Jim Elias, executive director
Redwood Coast Land Conservancy

Ann Baldridge, Executive Director
Resource Conservation District of Greater San
Diego County

Anne Sanger, Government Affairs Manager
Department of Utilities, City of Sacramento

Paula Birdsong - Executive Director
Sacramento Regional Conservation Corps

Judy Gradwohl, Christy Walton President
and CEO
San Diego Natural History Museum

Makeda Okolo
Vice President Government Relations
San Diego Zoo Wildlife Alliance

Dorsey Moore, CEO
San Jose Conservation Corps

Kellyx Nelson, Executive Director
San Mateo Resource Conservation District

Andrea Mackenzie, General Manager
Santa Clara Valley Open Space Authority

Ted Clement, Executive Director
Save Mount Diablo

Sam Hodder, President and CEO
Save the Redwoods

Rachel Dann, Director of Government
Relations
Sempervirens Fund

Adam Livingston, Director of Planning
and Policy
Sequoia Riverlands Trust

Emily Blackmer, Director of Government
and Community Affairs
Sierra Business Council

Bridget Fithian
Sierra Foothill Conservancy

Jenny Hatch, Executive Director
Sierra Nevada Alliance

Cynthia Hubach, Vice President
Silver Lake Reservoirs Conservancy

Kathleen Hitt, Executive Director
Siskiyou Land Trust

Nicole Braddock, Executive Director
Solano Land Trust

Eamon O'Byrne, Executive Director
Sonoma Land Trust

Christine Kuehn, Executive Director
Sonoma Resource Conservation District

Stacy Gorin, Executive Officer
Southern California Mountains Foundation

Rich Deitchman, Regional Counsel, Pacific Region
The Conservation Fund

Tim Wigington, VP Finance & Policy
The Freshwater Trust

Kaila Dettman, Executive Director
The Land Conservancy of San Luis Obispo County

Devin Rothman, Director of Land Conservation
The Land Trust for Santa Barbara County

Darcie Goodman Collins, PhD, CEO
The League to Save Lake Tahoe

Liz Forsburg Pardi, Director of External Affairs
& Policy
The Nature Conservancy

Frazier Haney, Executive Director
The Wildlands Conservancy

Joshua Golka, Head of State Government Relations
Valley Water

Melissa Baffa, Executive Director
Ventura Land Trust