



Pacific Flyway amendments to SB 45 and other Climate Resilience bond vehicles

To: Senator Allen, Assemblymember E. Garcia, Assemblymember Mullin, Members of the California Senate and Assembly

From: Audubon California, California Waterfowl Association, Defenders of Wildlife, Ducks Unlimited, Grassland Water District, Point Blue Conservation Science

Date: 3/2/2020

Re: Proposed amendments to SB 45 and other climate resilience bond vehicles – investment strategy for the Pacific Flyway

On behalf of the above-listed organizations, we wish to communicate our support for elements of the Climate Resilience bonds related to investments for the Pacific Flyway, including investments in Central Valley and coastal wetlands, water conveyance and acquisition for public and private managed wetlands and wildlife areas, funding for CDFW programs related to public and private lands management for breeding and wintering habitat, the Salton Sea, investments to groundwater sustainability projects that provide wildlife habitat and support implementation of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act, and more.

We also respectfully urge you to consider the following amendments for inclusion in SB 45 and the various Climate Resilience vehicles being discussed in the Legislature this session.

1. Support investments in a core set of priorities for the Pacific Flyway, including funding for permanent water rights for the Lower Klamath Basin National Wildlife Refuge, funding for infrastructure and water acquisition and conveyance for Central Valley wetlands, incentives to promote winter flooded rice, and funding for the Nesting Bird Habitat Incentive Program and the California Waterfowl Habitat Program (CDFW habitat management programs). We propose the following amendments to SB 45:

Section 80230. The sum of one billion ~~four hundred seventy million dollars (\$1,470,000,000)~~ *seven hundred twenty-five million dollars (\$1,725,000,000)* shall be available for the protection of California's water supply and water quality.

Section 80231.1 Of the funds made available by section 80230, two hundred fifty million dollars (\$250,000,000) shall be made available to the Department of Fish and Wildlife for investments in the Pacific Flyway, including water acquisition and conveyance, infrastructure projects to improve conditions on wildlife refuges and wetland habitat areas, to fund existing habitat programs at the Department of Fish and Wildlife for public and privately managed land, to support dynamic delivery of habitat at critical times, and the creation or protection of permanent wetland habitats. Eligible projects include, but are not limited to, the following:

- a) Sixty million dollars (\$60,000,000) for the acquisition of water rights for the Lower Klamath Basin National Wildlife Refuge on the California-Oregon border and the construction of local solar projects that would generate power to convey acquired water to the wildlife refuge.*
- b) One hundred fifty million dollars (\$150,000,000) for the acquisition and delivery of water from willing sellers, acquisition of water and conveyance rights, and infrastructure projects to improve conditions on wildlife refuges and wetland habitat areas, to achieve full compliance with the terms of subsection (d) of Section 3406 of the Central Valley Project Improvement Act (Title 34 of Public Law 102-575) and other central valley managed wetlands.*
- c) Fifteen million dollars (\$15,000,000) for the Nesting Bird Habitat Incentive Program, pursuant to Section 3480 of the Fish and Game Code.*
- d) Fifteen million dollars (\$15,000,000) for the California Waterfowl Habitat Program, pursuant to Section 3460 of the Fish and Game Code.*
- e) Ten million dollars (\$10,000,000) for the California Winter Rice Habitat Incentive Program, pursuant to Section 3469 of the Fish and Game Code.*

Long-term transfers shall be for a period of not less than 20 years, except for any water transfers for the benefit of subsection (d) of Section 3406 of the Central Valley Project Improvement Act (Title 34 of Public Law 102-575).

2. Support investments in habitat and funding programs for the Wildlife Conservation Board, as outlined in Chapter 4 of SB 45. We propose the following amendments:

80240. The sum of ~~six hundred twenty million dollars (\$620,000,000)~~ *seven hundred fifty million dollars (\$750,000,000)* shall be available for the purposes of this chapter.

80241. Of the funds made available by Section 80240, ~~six hundred million~~ *seven hundred million dollars (\$500,000,000) (\$700,000,000)* shall be available to the Wildlife Conservation Board for the protection of California's fish and wildlife resources in response to changing climate conditions and the highly variable habitat needs of fish and wildlife, as well as for restoration and stewardship projects that restore or manage the land to improve its resilience to climate impacts and natural disasters.

3. Support investments in funding for the Department of Fish and Wildlife to improve the climate resilience of fish and wildlife habitat. We propose the following amendments to SB 45:

80242. Of the funds made available by Section 80240, ~~twenty million~~ *fifty million dollars (\$50,000,000)* (~~\$20,000,000~~) shall be available to the Department of Fish and Wildlife to improve the climate resilience of fish and wildlife habitat. Eligible projects include, but are not limited to, the following:

- (a) Establishment of a statewide system for the collection and analysis of wildlife vehicle collisions that shall be publicly available.
 - (b) Projects identified by the Department of Fish and Wildlife to implement climate resiliency for wildlife, including projects to survey and map plants and vegetation in California and to maintain this information in a standardized and replicable system.
 - (c) Projects identified by the Department of Fish and Wildlife to plan for and implement projects to reduce the risks of fire, flood, inundation, sea level rise, and other risks associated with climate change and for the protection and restoration of infrastructure and natural resources for lands managed by the Department of Fish and Wildlife.
4. Support investments in coastal wetlands and coastal resilience as identified in SB 45, Chapter 6, Sections 80260, 80261 and 80262.
 5. Support investments in the Salton Sea. We suggest the following amendments:

Section 80233 (b) ~~Of the funds made available by subdivision (a), the sum of one~~ *One hundred eighty five million dollars (\$185,000,000)* ~~Three hundred million dollars (\$300,000,000)~~ shall be available to the Natural Resources Agency and allocated as follows:

- (1) ~~One hundred sixty five million dollars (\$165,000,000)~~ *Two hundred and eighty million (\$280,000,000)* for outlay projects and operations that provide air quality and habitat ~~benefits and benefits, including projects identified in the Eastern Coachella Valley's Action Plan for Climate Resilience or~~ that implement the Natural Resources Agency's Salton Sea Management Program.
 - (2) *(\$20,000,000) to the Salton Sea Authority for purposes consistent with the New River Water Quality, Public Health, and River Parkway Development Program, as described in Section 71103.6.*
6. Support investment in the California desert ecosystem, which includes critical migratory bird habitat that is suffering from the impacts of climate change. We propose the following amendments:

80241 (m) Projects to acquire, preserve, restore, and enhance desert habitat consistent with the conservation strategies approved by the department or board, including the California Desert Biological Conservation Framework, issued December 2016.
 7. Support investments in the Sustainable Groundwater Management Program, as identified in SB 45, Section 80232 and 80232.5.