

## FAQ's on Proposition 3, the November Water Bond



### What is Proposition 3?

Proposition 3, the Water Supply and Water Quality Act of 2018, is an \$8.877 billion water bond organized through a citizen's initiative for the November, 2018 ballot. California has a long history of using general obligation bonds to fund water projects in the state, with 23 water bonds passed in the last 50 years.

### Why Proposition 3 this year?

The most recent water bond, Proposition 1, has been almost completely allocated. State agencies estimate the funding will be full expended in 2019, at which point these state agencies will lack the necessary resources to make grants for water supply, water quality, and watershed restoration projects. Proposition 68, a parks and water bond, passed on the June 2018 ballot provided some water funding, but there is relatively little overlap between the two measures.

### Speaking of 68, why two water bonds in the same year?

Proposition 68 was a critical measure for open spaces, urban parks, climate resiliency, and water. Unfortunately given the legislature's cap on bonds, Prop 68 only included around \$1.5 billion for water projects, nowhere near enough to meet the state's need. California has a history of multiple water bonds in the same year, and all have passed.

### What is in Proposition 3?

Proposition 3 includes numerous funding areas for grant programs and projects, with benefits to every region of the state. Please see our "Summary of Main Programs" for further details, but Prop 3 includes funding for: safe drinking water, wastewater recycling, stormwater, water conservation, groundwater management, groundwater desalination, infrastructure repair, watershed restoration, fish and wildlife habitat, and flood control.

### Can we afford another water bond?

Yes. The state's fiscal health and debt rating was recently upgraded from "stable" to positive. Our debt-service ratio is currently below 4%, well below the 6% marker for debt-service health.

### Who supports Proposition 3?

Proposition 3 is supported by several hundred organizations from numerous sectors, including conservation, environmental justice, local government, agriculture, business, and other individuals who appreciate the need to invest in our state's water system.

### **How will cities, counties, and other local agencies benefit from Proposition 3?**

All of these groups are eligible for the vast majority of funding categories. These grant funds will help local agencies and cities lower the cost of proposed projects, and pursue projects they otherwise would not be able to afford or would have to delay. Proposition 3 also includes significant funding to help cities and other local agencies meet state and federal water quality mandates. Many of these state grant programs are only funded through state water bonds, and so without Proposition 3 local organizations will have to fund projects solely through taxes and ratepayer fees.

### **Does Proposition 3 raise taxes?**

No.

### **How can I help with Proposition 3?**

Please visit their website, [www.waterbond.org](http://www.waterbond.org), for further information and to contact the campaign. You can also make a contribution at <https://donate.democracyengine.com/Californianscleanwater/contribute>. For specific questions or speaking requests, please contact [Endorse.waterbond@gmail.com](mailto:Endorse.waterbond@gmail.com).