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### **Top Water Policy Experts Urge Stakeholders To Engage in Shaping New State Water Bond**

Three top Sacramento water policy experts today urged California water agencies, agriculture interests, and water-reliant industries to gear up their appeals right away for funding in the oft-delayed state water bond now being crafted by state legislators for the 2014 ballot.

“The latest chapter in California’s long, complicated history of water politics is unfolding right now so it is urgent for interested water stakeholders to engage in the process,” said Linda Adams, formerly California Secretary of Environmental Protection and now part of Clean Tech Advocates, a new Sacramento firm that helps a range of government and agency clients navigate the complex water policy environment.

Adams, who also served previously as director of the State Department of Water Resources, and led several landmark water bond efforts, said, “a number of water interests, ranging from water agencies and agriculture to water-dependent industries will vie for position on the elements to be funded through the new bond measure if it is approved by voters.”

“In a matter of just a few weeks, the legislature will begin considering numerous bills that could shape the future of California water for years to come,” said Patrick Leathers, a veteran attorney/lobbyist on water issues who also is part of Clean Tech Advocates. “There is no time to waste.”

Elaine Berghausen, former California Resources Agency Deputy Assistant Secretary Agency for bonds and grants is the third water expert at the new firm. She says the sooner stakeholders get involved, the more likely it is that their needs will be considered during deliberations on the bond legislation.

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“This bond measure was originally certified for the 2010 ballot, moved to 2012, and finally to 2014, so it is likely that the new version being developed will feature a number of differences from the original language,” said Berghausen. “This means that stakeholders have another chance to make their voices heard.”

“From long experience with water bond legislation, I know how important it is to get involved, rather than waiting to see what comes out at the end,” said Adams. “This bond will have many of the elements of the measure certified more than two years ago, but with a new governor and a reconfigured legislature, it is very likely to undergo some significant changes.”

Leathers said possible changes in the measure include adjusting the current \$11.1 billion revenue goal, altering the bond’s scope, and modifying the list of projects to be funded.

“California must meet a great many water needs and even \$11 billion will not cover all of them,” Leathers said. “That is why it is so important for water stakeholders to get involved as the priorities are determined.”

For more about Clean Tech Advocates and water bond issues, contact Patrick Leathers at 916-503-1600, or go to [www.cleantechadvocates.com](http://www.cleantechadvocates.com).