

## APPROACH THREE "YOU CAN'T FOOL MOTHER NATURE!"

The central problem is that *California's water management system is too uncoordinated and too political*. We need an unbiased water management system where decisions are based on science.

### What Needs to Be Done?

- Create an **independent water clearinghouse**...this is the single most valuable water system in the world, and it deserves careful management
- Actively plan and prepare for dramatic changes in the **Delta ecosystem**.
- Reform and clarify **water rights** provisions in the California Constitution to state that all surface water and groundwater belongs to the people
- **Food production** in California is a national security priority, so effective and efficient water management in support of food production is essential
- Integrate **flood management** into the state-wide water clearinghouse to balance risk and opportunity
- Use **taxpayer dollars** to fund public benefits, like ecosystem investments, and let water users pay to expand their supplies

### What Are Some Drawbacks?

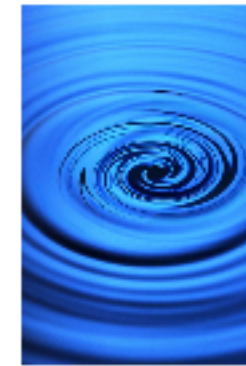
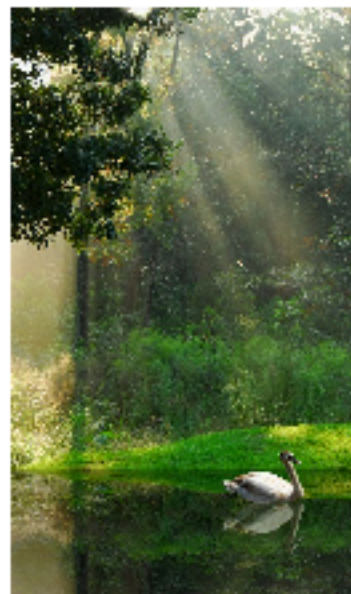
- We don't need another **bureaucracy** to make decisions about water...our current methods are serving the needs of most water users
- The actions in this approach don't increase the supply of water, nor do they decrease the use of water...coordination is **not enough**

### Would You Be Willing to Accept Any Trade-offs?

Would you support Approach Three EVEN IF it meant that people with water flowing through their land ended up with water shortages?

### Leadership Needed in Approach Three

Leadership with agile response to change and a commitment to coordination...Approach Three requires non-partisan and coordinated leadership in the science of water management.



## UNCERTAIN WATERS Navigating California's Water Priorities

A Non-partisan Public Conversation

Our problems with water are many: there's not enough or at other times there's too much; it's too polluted or too salty or too far away or it's owned by someone else; it's not flowing enough to support some natural fish species or it's supporting the spread of invasive species. In this forum, we will examine several approaches to enacting more effective policies in a more timely fashion for a more secure water future.

- "Federal water managers said they plan to cut off water, at least temporarily, to thousands of California farms...."
- "How we respond to the drought will offer us a template of how to respond to global climate change."
- "Today, the Delta is at a tipping point—its systems are unstable and headed for major change."
- "The current system of governing water in California...just does not work and needs to be changed."
- "For too long there has been a false debate between 'conservation' and 'construction' to address the water crisis—both are needed."
- "No more fear mongering over drought declarations—just a clear acknowledgement that we are living beyond our water means."

Drought, continued population growth, ecosystem deterioration, and the emerging consequences of climate change are making it clear that we have neglected long-term planning, coordination, efficiency and personal responsibility for far too long.

The Delta is in an ecological tailspin. Invasive species, water pumping facilities, urban growth and urban and agricultural pollution are degrading water quality and threatening multiple fish species with extinction.

An eight-year drought in the Colorado River basin has reduced the water supply to Southern California with greater cuts coming in each of the next few years.

But...we need to talk about how we make water decisions in California too. A growing sense among Californians agrees that "the current governance structure of water and the Delta has failed." In California water policy, everyone is involved but no one seems to be in charge.



## APPROACH ONE “JUST ADD WATER”

The central problem is that *California's water infrastructure doesn't store or carry enough water*. We need to expand our storage capacity, and fix the Delta as an essential ecosystem and supply hub.

### What Needs to Be Done?

- Start immediately in building a **peripheral canal** to move water around the Delta to satisfy both economic and environmental goals
- Spend the remaining \$2.6 billion from the 2006 **state water bond** and propose a new bond measure to fund much needed projects
- Invest in new above-ground and underground **water storage projects**, including new dams and the use of recharge ponds that allow water to filter into groundwater basins, or aquifers.
- Modernize the federal **Endangered Species Act** and other laws and regulations to allow water-related projects to proceed while protecting species and their habitats
- Evaluate long-term threats to **Delta levees** and pursue actions to reduce risks to the state's water supply and the environment
- Defend California's water rights on the **Colorado River** and oppose changes that would limit the California water share during droughts

### What Are Some Drawbacks?

- Adding more canals and dams will take a major investment in time and money with *no guarantees* that the dams will be in the right places or that any water will be available to flow through the canals
- Adding water capacity without unbiased, science-based water management will only intensify the *political competition* for water

### Would You Be Willing to Accept Any Trade-offs?

Would you support Approach One EVEN IF it meant that the increased taxes and bond expenses would slow our economic recovery?

### Leadership Needed in Approach One

Effective bi-partisan state legislative leadership...Approach One requires effective top-down leadership.



## APPROACH TWO “GOOD TO THE LAST DROP”



The central problem is that *Californians routinely waste a lot of water*. We need to create a culture of wise water use and reuse, and a goal of decentralized, local water self-sufficiency.

### What Needs to Be Done?

- Reduce California's **dependence on transported water**
- Mandate **state-wide water conservation** standards for everyone, setting water efficiency standards, and state-wide installation of water meters on all surface and groundwater users with tiered rate schedules
- Assess new housing development **“impact fees”** to charge the costs of expanded water-treatment facilities and increased supply needs
- Run **desalination plants** to supply water to local communities all along the Pacific Coast, and expand opportunities for public-private partnerships
- Maximize **local water self-sufficiency** in all areas of California to create sustainable, reliable water supplies and to protect rivers and streams
- Implement the comprehensive **water recycling** policy, including water quality safeguards and a streamlined process for using recycled water for irrigation and groundwater recharge

### What Are Some Drawbacks?

- Our *water needs* are too great...we can't conserve our way out of this huge water crisis
- Decentralization is good for those areas that already have abundant water resources, but it doesn't serve the drier and more *isolated areas* very well

### Would You Be Willing to Accept Any Trade-offs?

Would you support Approach Two EVEN IF it meant that some private entrepreneurs would end up making lots of money?

### Leadership Needed in Approach Two

Innovative and entrepreneurial leadership at the local level...Approach Two requires effective bottom-up leadership.