

## Memorandum

To : The Conservancy  
The Advisory Committee

Date: April 26, 2010

From :   
Joseph T. Edmiston, FAICP, Hon. ASLA, Executive Director

Subject: **Agenda Item 9(f) : Consideration of resolution supporting The Safe Clean and Reliable Drinking Water Supply Act of 2010.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Conservancy support The Safe Clean and Reliable Drinking Water Supply Act of 2010.

Legislative Authority: Section 33211(c) of the Public Resources Code.

Background: California's water system is outdated and straining to meet the needs of its residents, farms, businesses and environment. Designed 30 years ago to serve 16 million residents, our water system now serves more than 38 million. The challenges facing our water system are significant: severely limited supplies of water; rivers, lakes, streams, groundwater and other sources of drinking water threatened with contamination; and risk to our environment. Unless action is taken, experts warn that our state will face continued water shortages, the potential for catastrophic failure of our water delivery system, and environmental collapse in areas vital to drinking water and wildlife.

For these reasons, in November 2009 the Legislature passed SBX7 2 (Codgill) which will give voters in November 2010 the opportunity to vote on a \$11.4 billion general obligation bond proposal that would provide funding for California's aging water infrastructure and for projects and programs to address the ecosystem and water supply issues in California. The bond is comprised of seven categories including drought relief, water supply reliability, Delta sustainability, statewide water system operational improvement, conservation and watershed protection, groundwater protection and water quality, and water recycling and water conservation. A portion of funding is dedicated to each primary watershed throughout California, and all regions will be eligible to compete for additional funding to help finance water management projects and programs with local, regional, and statewide benefits.