



NEWS RELEASE

CALIFORNIA SECRETARY OF STATE ALEX PADILLA

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Proposed Initiative Enters Circulation

Water Bond. Reallocation of Bond Authority to Water Storage Projects. Initiative Constitutional Amendment and Statute.

SACRAMENTO – Secretary of State Alex Padilla announced the proponents of a new initiative were cleared to begin collecting petition signatures yesterday.

The Attorney General prepares the legal title and summary that is required to appear on initiative petitions. When the official language is complete, the Attorney General forwards it to the proponent and to the Secretary of State, and the initiative may be circulated for signatures. The Secretary of State then provides calendar deadlines to the proponent and to county elections officials. The Attorney General's official title and summary for the measure is as follows:

WATER BOND. REALLOCATION OF BOND AUTHORITY TO WATER STORAGE PROJECTS. INITIATIVE CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT AND STATUTE. Prioritizes water uses in California, with domestic uses first and irrigation uses second, over environmental, recreational, and other beneficial uses. Reallocates up to \$10.7 billion in unused bond authority from existing high-speed rail (\$8.0 billion) and water storage (\$2.7 billion) purposes, to fund water storage projects for domestic and irrigation uses. Removes requirement that water storage projects funded by the \$2.7 billion amount also benefit the environment. Creates new State Water and Groundwater Storage Facilities Authority to choose the projects to be funded by reallocated bond amounts. Summary of estimate by Legislative Analyst and Director of Finance of fiscal impact on state and local government: **No significant increase or decrease in the state's anticipated debt payments from the redirection of up to \$10.7 billion in bonds from previously approved measures, assuming these bonds would have been sold in the future absent this measure. Unknown net fiscal effects on state and local governments due to measure's changes to how water is prioritized in the State Constitution, as well as potential changes to funding levels available for capital projects.** (15-0107.)

The Secretary of State's tracking number for this measure is 1769 and the Attorney General's tracking number is 15-0107.

The proponents of the measure, Robert Huff and George Runner, must collect the signatures of 585,407 registered voters (eight percent of the total votes cast for Governor in the November 2014 general election) in order to qualify it for the November 2016 ballot. The proponents have 180 days to circulate petitions for the measure, meaning the signatures must be submitted to

county elections officials by July 25, 2016. The proponents can be reached c/o Charles H. Bell, Jr., at (916) 442-7757.

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