



NEWS RELEASE

CALIFORNIA SECRETARY OF STATE **BRUCE McPHERSON**

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Contact: Nghia Nguyen Demovic
916-653-6575

Secretary of State Bruce McPherson Certifies Initiative for November 7, 2006 General Election

SACRAMENTO, CA - Secretary of State Bruce McPherson announced today that he has certified an initiative for the November ballot.

WATER QUALITY, SAFETY AND SUPPLY. FLOOD CONTROL. NATURAL RESOURCE PROTECTION. PARK IMPROVEMENTS. BONDS. INITIATIVE STATUTE.

Authorizes \$5,388,000,000 in general obligation bonds, payable from the state's General Fund, to fund projects relating to safe drinking water, water quality and supply, flood control, waterway and natural resource protection, water pollution and contamination control, state and local park improvements, public access to natural resources, and conservation efforts. Provides funding for emergency drinking water, and exempts such expenditures from public contract and procurement requirements to ensure immediate action for public safety.

Summary of estimate by Legislative Analyst and Director of Finance of fiscal impact on state and local governments: State cost of about \$10.5 billion over 30 years to pay off both the principal (\$5.4 billion) and interest (\$5.1 billion) costs on the bonds. Payments of about \$350 million per year. Reduction in local property tax revenues of several million dollars annually, about one-half of which would be offset by state payments to schools to make up their revenue loss. Unknown costs, potentially tens of millions of dollars per year, to state and local governments to operate or maintain properties or projects acquired or developed with these bond funds.

The initiative received 605,653 total signatures and qualified during the random sample stage. To qualify by random sample, an initiative must receive a projected 110% of the required number of signatures, which for this initiative was 411,198. The initiative qualified with 445,955 projected valid signatures.

According to the California Constitution, qualified initiatives go before voters in a statewide election held at least 131 days from the date they qualify. The deadline for initiatives to qualify for the November ballot is June 29, 2006.

For more information on the initiatives currently in circulation, please visit the Secretary of State's website at http://www.ss.ca.gov/elections/elections_j.htm.

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