

**RESOLUTION NO. 80-10**

**RESOLUTION OPPOSING THE \$11.1 BILLION NOVEMBER WATER BOND,  
OFFICIALLY TITLED THE “SAFE, CLEAN AND RELIABLE DRINKING WATER  
SUPPLY ACT OF 2010”**

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WHEREAS, the Legislature and the Governor have placed on the November 2010 ballot a water bond measure that will authorize \$11.14 billion in general obligation bonds, with a total cost to taxpayers exceeding \$22 billion, and a cost to the state General Fund of approximately \$800 million per year; and

WHEREAS, this water bond is already opposed by many elected officials, leading environmental organizations, and, according to polls, a majority of likely California voters; and

WHEREAS, the proposed water bond comes at a time of grave budget crises at the state and local levels of government, and at a time when California has found it difficult to sell all of the bonds previously authorized by voters; and

WHEREAS, billions of dollars’ worth of water bonds previously approved by voters have not yet all been sold, and those projects have not yet been completed or properly accounted for; and

WHEREAS, the Governor initially proposed revenue bonds for the water projects in the bond, rather than general obligation bonds requiring all California taxpayers to pay; and

WHEREAS, California state Treasurer Bill Lockyer specifically warned that “further increasing the General Fund’s debt burden... would require cutting even deeper into crucial services already reeling from billions of dollars in reductions. The case for user-funding for most water system improvements is compelling, both as a matter of equity and fiscal prudence;” and

WHEREAS, the Legislature and Governor ignored the Treasurer’s advice and approved a general obligation bond package for water projects; and

WHEREAS, the contents of the water bond have proved controversial, with California Gubernatorial candidates for Governor noting that \$2 billion to \$3 billion worth of “pork” is included in the \$11.14 billion cost, and twice that much money once principal and interest are paid by California taxpayers; and

WHEREAS, the principal beneficiaries of the projects called for in the water bond are not asked to pay their fair share of costs, a dramatic break from decades of tradition by which “beneficiaries pay;” and

WHEREAS, the water bond has been criticized by environmental organizations for its focus on dams, an expensive, 19<sup>th</sup>-century technology that harms the environment in myriad ways, but enjoys special favor in the bond package; and

WHEREAS, the water bond takes the extraordinary step of allowing private firms to take control of dams built with public funds and to sell public water resources for a profit; and

WHEREAS, supporters of the water bond, led by the Governor, have been clear in their support for construction of a peripheral canal around the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta, and they point to a recently enacted legislative package and this year’s water bond as instrumental to building the canal; and

WHEREAS, construction of a peripheral canal would devastate the Delta’s water quality, environment, farms and recreation, and as such is widely and rightly opposed; and

WHEREAS, this costly water bond is: ill-timed; unaffordable; loaded with political pork; in direct conflict with other budgetary priorities; and is overflowing with highly controversial public policy choices;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Richmond City Council does hereby oppose the water bond on the November 2010 ballot, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Richmond City Council directs the City Manager to send a copy of this resolution to Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger, Senators Mark DeSaulnier and Loni Hancock and Assemblymember Nancy Skinner.

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I certify that the foregoing resolution was adopted by the Council of the City of Richmond at a special meeting thereof held on July 6, 2010, by the following vote:

Ayes: Councilmembers Bates, Butt, Lopez, Rogers, Viramontes, Vice Mayor Ritterman, and Mayor McLaughlin.  
Noes: None.  
Abstentions: None.  
Absent: None.

DIANE HOLMES  
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Clerk of the City of Richmond  
  
(Seal)

Approved:

GAYLE MCLAUGHLIN  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor

Approved as to Form:

RANDY RIDDLE  
\_\_\_\_\_  
City Attorney