



PR98:168

GOVERNOR'S OFFICE

**WILSON ANNOUNCES FUNDING FOR RESOURCES PROJECTS IN MAY REVISION**

*Gets Commitment from Secretary Babbitt to Develop CALFED Alternative by Year's-End*

**\*\*\* EMBARGOED FOR RELEASE \*\*\***  
**Until Monday, May 11, 1998 @ 3:45 PM**

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**SACRAMENTO** – Governor Pete Wilson today announced that he will include in his May Revision of the 1998-99 budget, funding for several natural resources projects, including flood control projects, Headwaters Forest, deferred maintenance for the state's park system, and improving air quality.

“With our economy performing at record levels and revenues exceeding expectations, we have an opportunity to invest in California's future,” Wilson said. “We are working to preserve California's natural resources for future generations and providing funding to improve flood protection.”

**Flood Control Subvention**

\$172 million to fund flood control subvention projects throughout the state. The funding will complete the state's current obligations to local governments for flood control projects authorized by Congress. The money will be used for lands, easements, right of ways and relocations. The \$172 million will fund the following projects:

- Santa Ana Mainstem (Orange, San Bernardino and Riverside Counties) – \$104.4 million
- Guadalupe River (Santa Clara County) – \$28.3 million
- Coyote/Berryessa Creeks (Santa Clara County) – \$20 million
- Napa River (Napa County) – \$5.1 million
- Petaluma River (Sonoma County) – \$4 million
- Corte Madera (Marin County) – \$500,000
- Other Projects – \$9.5 million

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Headwaters Forest

\$130 million to fund the state's share of the 1996 agreement to purchase and protect 7,500 acres of virgin old-growth redwoods with a buffer area, comprising the Headwaters Forest.

CALFED

The Governor also announced that the following investments would be set aside in a reserve for the CALFED program:

- \$6 million for the CALFED program – \$4 million to provide administrative support for CALFED and \$2 million to support additional environmental review, if necessary.
- \$12 million for water purchases to complete the San Joaquin River Water rights agreement under the Vernalis Adaptive Management Plan.
- \$1.5 million to establish a water transfer program. The program is designed to facilitate sales between willing buyers and sellers, including the creation of a water transfer exchange.

In the May Revision, the Governor will provide \$10 million to begin environmental studies and permitting for two new off-stream reservoirs – one in Sacramento and another in the San Joaquin Valley.

Deferred Maintenance for the Department of Parks and Recreation

\$25 million for deferred maintenance for the Department of Parks and Recreation. The funding will go towards repair and upkeep of the state's 264 park units.

Air Quality Attainment Program

\$50 million to establish a program to provide grants to replace diesel engines that emit high levels of nitrogen oxide with new low-emission technology in order to achieve State Implementation Plan programs.

Continuing the Governor's Commitment from the January Budget

- \$11.5 million for the Environmental Improvement Plan proposed by the Governor in his 1998-99 budget and \$10.4 million in existing base funding.
- \$18.2 million to protect habitat, restore and enhance coastal areas and improve public access through the development and restoration of trails. Last year, the Governor signed an Executive Order and a series of bills aiming at preserving and protecting the state's coastline and its habitat.

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Wilson made the announcements following a meeting with Secretary of the Interior Bruce Babbitt, where they discussed the continuation of the CALFED process and other water-related issues.

The Governor and Secretary Babbitt reiterated the importance of selecting a CALFED preferred alternative by year's-end. They also agreed to extend the public comment period.

During the extension of the public comment period, Wilson and Babbitt will pursue agreement on a series of interim assurances which guarantee to all user groups that a level playing field of water supply and water quality will be maintained while the preferred alternative is developed and implemented.

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- **ATTACHED IS A FACT SHEET ON THE GOVERNOR'S EFFORTS TO PROTECT AND IMPROVE CALIFORNIA'S NATURAL RESOURCES**