

CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
MAY 21, 1986

16

PROPOSITION 44  
WATER QUALITY BOND  
LAW OF 1986

CC-19  
CC-28

City Clerk Reinche presented a letter which had been received from Jim Costa, Chairman of the California Legislature Assembly Committee on Water, Parks and Wildlife urging endorsement of Proposition 44, the Water Conservation and Water Quality Bond Law of 1986 which appears on California's June 3, 1986, direct primary ballot.

A lengthy discussion followed regarding the matter with questions being directed to Staff.

Mayor Reid moved to adopt Resolution No. 86-83 endorsing passing of Proposition 44. The motion was seconded by Mayor Pro Tempore Olson but failed to pass by the following vote:

Ayes: Council Members - Olson and Reid

Noes: Council Members - Pinkerton and Snider

Absent: Council Members - Hinchman

MAY 7 1986

California Legislature  
Assembly Committee  
on  
Water, Parks and Wildlife

JIM COSTA  
CHAIRMAN

May 5, 1986

Dear City Manager:

I am writing to seek your Council's endorsement of Proposition 44, the Water Conservation and Water Quality Bond Law of 1986, which appears on California's June 3, 1986, direct primary ballot.

Proposition 44 will provide \$150 million in much-needed loans to local agencies for voluntary, cost-effective water conservation programs, groundwater recharge facilities, and agricultural drainage water treatment and containment works.

Two years ago, voters approved Proposition 25, the Clean Water Bond Law, which provided funding for wastewater treatment, water reclamation, and water conservation programs. The Department of Water Resources received 55 applications from local agencies throughout the state requesting nearly \$90 million in assistance for water conservation alone. Proposition 44 will enable these local agencies to conserve water now being lost due to leaking pipes and unlined ditches and canals.

Proposition 44 will also provide loans for a new state program -- groundwater recharge -- which has been practiced in California for almost 90 years. Groundwater recharge is a proven method of placing surplus surface water from wet years into available storage underground so that it can be used in dry years. This underground space is available in the Central Valley and in valley areas in coastal and Southern California. As storing surface water behind dams has become more expensive, storing water underground where it does not evaporate becomes more practical, efficient, and economical.

The third program contained in Proposition 44 addresses our state's agricultural drainage problem. Californians have made a strong commitment to protecting water quality. Much of our efforts have focused on treating municipal sewage water before it is discharged to our rivers, bays, and ocean waters. Today, rural areas throughout the state need to implement better treatment and containment methods because of the salt and trace element buildup in farm drainage water. This drainage problem will progressively worsen unless we take positive steps to correct it. Proposition 44 will provide funding for the treatment and containment of drainage water in an environmentally-safe manner.

An abundant supply of clean water will preserve the beauty of California's environment, maintain fish and wildlife, and support recreation. A continued supply of clean water will also ensure the vitality of industry and agriculture. Most importantly, however, a clean and abundant supply of water is necessary to preserve and protect public health.

I hope your Council can join me and Californians for Clean Water in endorsing Proposition 44. A growing list of supporters includes the California Chamber of Commerce, Association of California Water Agencies, California Farm Bureau Federation, Cal-Tax, California State Grange, California Labor Federation (AFL-CIO), and the American Association of University Women. There is no known opposition to Proposition 44.

I have attached a draft resolution that you may wish to use in endorsing Proposition 44. I would appreciate it if your clerk could forward a copy of your resolution to local media and a copy to Californians for Clean Water, c/o Heron, Burchette, Ruckert & Rothwell, 770 L Street, Suite 1150, Sacramento, California 95814.

On behalf of Californians for Clean Water, thank you for any assistance you can provide toward the passage of Proposition 44. Your prompt response is important so that Californians for Clean Water can add your Council to its list of supporters.

Sincerely,



JIM COSTA  
Chairman