



NCWA
Northern California Water Association

*To advance the economic, social and environmental sustainability of Northern California
by enhancing and preserving the water rights, supplies and water quality.*

The Dam-Train Initiative is Misleading: Read How it Will Affect Water Rights and Delay New Water Supplies!

A small group from the San Joaquin Valley is gathering signatures to place an initiative on the November 2016 ballot. (*See 1769 (15-0107A1), Water Bond. Reallocation of Bond Authority to Water Storage Projects at: <http://www.sos.ca.gov/elections/ballot-measures/initiative-and-referendum-status/initiatives-referenda-cleared-circulation/>.*) The proponents assert that the initiative will redirect money from the high speed rail to build water storage in California; yet, the initiative is misleading and in fact would change water rights law in the California Constitution and it will further delay efforts to build necessary new water storage in California, such as Sites Reservoir and Temperance Flat.

For these reasons the Northern California Water Association (NCWA) Board of Directors and water leaders throughout Northern California are **OPPOSED** to the initiative.

Changes Water Rights Law

A new provision (Section 1, Part 2.0) would be added to the California Constitution with respect to water rights. This would:

- Further complicate California water rights law and ultimately jeopardize water and supplies in Northern California and throughout the state.
- Re-prioritize water rights, which would only serve to de-stabilize water supplies throughout the state for both the economy and the environment.

Water rights and contracts are the foundation for serving water for multiple beneficial uses, including domestic deliveries to cities and rural communities and supplying water for farms and habitat for fish and birds. The water rights system is necessary to fully utilize our existing infrastructure and California needs the water rights system as a solid foundation upon which to build smart investments in new and improved water storage and other infrastructure.

Delays Water Storage in California

The voters in November 2014 resoundingly approved Proposition 1 with 67% of the voters saying we need to invest in California's water supplies. The Proposition 1 legislation had nearly unanimous, bi-partisan support from the Legislature and the Governor. Conversely, the new proposed initiative would:

- Undermine the strong voice of the people and the Legislature's hard work in gaining approval of Proposition 1 by redirecting water storage funds away from Proposition 1 to an entirely new process.
- Create new and unnecessary bureaucracy by abandoning the current California Water Commission and then creating a new "State Water Storage and Groundwater Storage Facilities Authority." Abandoning this process and creating an entirely new bureaucracy will only serve to delay the funding in Proposition 1 for water storage, such as Sites Reservoir or Temperance Flat.

The California Water Commission is currently developing regulations for the water storage funding in Proposition 1. There is pressure already mounting for the Commission to develop sound regulations so that funding can be advanced quickly for water storage projects. California needs new water storage and infrastructure and it cannot afford to delay funding under Proposition 1.

If you have any further questions about this proposed initiative, please call us.

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