





August 25, 2025

The Honorable Mike McGuire
Senate President pro Tempore
California State Senate

The Honorable Robert Rivas
Speaker of the Assembly
California State Assembly

The Honorable Scott Wiener
Chair, Senate Budget Committee
California State Senate

The Honorable Jesse Gabriel
Chair, Assembly Budget Committee
California State Assembly

The Honorable Ben Allen
Chair, Senate Budget Subcommittee 2
California State Senate

The Honorable Steve Bennett
Chair, Assembly Budget Subcommittee 4
California State Assembly

RE: Allocate Proposition 4 Implementation in FY 2025-26

Dear Pro-Tem McGuire, Speaker Rivas, Senator Wiener, Assemblymember Gabriel, Senator Allen, and Assemblymember Bennett:

On behalf of the over 130 undersigned coalition of organizations who were the backbone and key funders of Proposition 4, we write to respectfully urge the legislature to appropriate Prop. 4 investments this year. The signatories of this letter are writing to convey the urgency and importance of including a Prop-4 Expenditure Plan for fiscal year 25-26 during this last month of

session. Investments are needed immediately for water, wildfire prevention, and the protection of California's lands and communities.

California's voters intended for this proposition to help support their communities this year. Whether we are addressing clean drinking water, extreme heat, clean air, outdoor access, sea-level rise, flooding, drought, or wildfires – we need to make significant changes to how we are spending resources to protect Californians, especially in communities that have been historically under-resourced. Millions of people, living in frontline communities and around the state, are being harmed by the impacts of climate change, now. Pollution and biodiversity loss continue to remain highly vulnerable because of a lack of historical investment. Including Prop 4 funds in an FY 25-26 Expenditure Plan will help turn that around. These investments will support local economies and help fund projects by local non-profit organizations, tribes, and local public agencies that can no longer count on once-reliable federal funding.

Further, we must ensure these year one expenditures reflect the needs of all communities – especially those often left behind in bonds – where vulnerable populations are most at risk of adverse climate impacts. Prop 4 contains explicit language on dollar delivery for these communities. Therefore, we strongly urge you to advance Justice 40 principles by directly allocating more than 40 percent of the total investments to the highest priorities identified by urban and rural disadvantaged communities. Now is not the time to turn our backs on these communities. We must prioritize funding for extreme heat and clean drinking water now more than ever.

California's climate future and its policies like the 30X30 commitment to meet our ambitious conservation goals hang in the balance. We cannot credibly provide Californians with clean water, clean air, healthy lands, and protection from floods, fires, extreme heat, and other devastating climate impacts with a second year of budget cuts and funding delays. Prop 4 was passed by the voters with the promise we would immediately invest in making California more resilient to climate impacts and ensuring basic needs for healthy communities. You have the opportunity right now to show the world that climate action is a priority through good budget years and bad. If not, we risk gambling with our children's future and natural lands found nowhere else.

There are hundreds of shovel-ready projects ready for investment across the State. Many NGOs, tribes, and local governments have already submitted applications to several state funding agencies to support their communities and have planned to submit additional applications this year. We cannot wait another year to get voter-approved dollars invested in local projects across California. The legislature must allocate these important voter-recognized priorities and get projects moving across California as soon as possible. Please support a robust and equitable Prop 4 Expenditure Plan for this fiscal year in these final weeks.

Sincerely,

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