

*CALIFORNIA CLEAN WATER ACTION
VOTE ENVIRONMENT
STATE ASSEMBLY CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE*

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Part I. Please answer each question below in 100 words or less.

1. What do you consider your greatest environmental achievement?

Calling public attention to the need to address environmental toxics, including asbestos, at East Bay shipyards.

2. Name two environmental priorities you would actively address once elected

Better air and water standards, as well as global warming.

3. What are your funding priorities for a new state water bond?

Any new water bond should focus on Delta protection, procuring safe water for families to drink; it should not include plans for a peripheral canal or new dams. The new bond should include flood protection measures as well as habitat restoration (wetlands) in the Delta.

4. Under what circumstances would you consider opposing a state water bond?

If it did not contribute enough water to Delta restoration or clean and safe drinking water for the East Bay or if it included expensive dams.

5. What actions to address or adapt to climate change will you prioritize once in office?

We need a comprehensive approach to climate change that involves new legislation, regulation, legal actions and tax incentives. The state must punish repeat offending polluters and take the legal steps necessary to fight the Bush Administration's to implement California's landmark car pollution regulations. We must vigorously pursue incentives for clean technologies and development of alternative fuels. We must also pass green building standards that can help reduce the CO2 emissions generated from heating and cooling homes and businesses.

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Part II. The following are some issues to which the legislature should be sensitive. What will be your position on each? Please check the appropriate answer; if you wish, you may provide an explanation of your position (no more than 100 words).

1. The Department of Toxic Substance Control has been tasked by the Governor to develop a "Green Chemistry" initiative on which to base a new green economy. One suggestion in this process has been that the state ban "bad actor" chemicals that are already known to cause serious harm to human health or the environment, such as, but not limited to, those on the Prop 65 list. Do you agree with this proposal?

Support Oppose

2. Assembly member Kerkorian has introduced AB 2153, the Water Efficiency and Security Act of 2008, a bill that would require new developments to fully offset their additional water use through on-site efficiencies and contributions to water efficiency measures in the region. Do you support or oppose this bill?

Support Oppose

3. According to the Department of Public Health, more than 900 drinking water wells contain nitrates in concentrations exceeding safety standards. A major source of nitrate contamination is the commercial application of fertilizer on crops. Would you support an increase in the mill fee on commercial fertilizers, with part of the funding used to address groundwater contamination by nitrates?

Support Oppose

4. More than 500 California water bodies are listed as impaired under the Clean Water Act. One of the major contaminants is mercury, which is both a legacy pollutant (used in large quantities for gold mining) and an ongoing discharge from abandoned mines, stormwater drains, wastewater facilities, and industrial sources. In 2005 the State Water Quality Control Board instructed the Bay Area and Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Boards to include a requirement in their mercury cleanup plans (or TMDLs) for San Francisco Bay and the Delta to investigate and implement strategies "to address public health impacts of mercury in San Francisco Bay/Delta fish, including activities that reduce actual and potential exposure of and mitigate health impacts to those people and communities most likely to be affected by mercury in San Francisco Bay-Delta caught fish, such as subsistence fishers and their families." (Resolution 2005-0600) Would you support legislation to make exposure reduction strategies a

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mandatory part of the clean up plans developed for mercury and other bioaccumulative toxins throughout the state as a means of protecting low income communities and communities of color?

Support Oppose

5. In 2007, SB 966 (Simitian) was signed into law, directing the Integrated Waste Management Board to establish guidelines for voluntary take back programs at pharmacies and other accessible sites for residents to safely dispose of non-controlled medications as a means of preventing them from being released into our water systems. Would you support mandatory programs for big chain pharmacies and/or manufacturers selling medications in California in future?

Support Oppose

6. Would you support legislation requiring state funding programs to set aside a minimum amount of funding to address the needs of disadvantaged communities?

Support Oppose

ANSWER:

As a long-time supporter of civil rights, I am generally supportive of this notion but feel that I need to know more about how this proposed funding system would operate, as opposed to our current system, before feeling comfortable providing an answer to this question. I would be happy to discuss this option further with you.