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Assembly and Senate Democrats Green Economic Stimulus

California Jobs, Shovel-Ready Projects, Greening the Economy

The most important “economic stimulus” the state can enact is to achieve a solution to the budget crisis.

Economic stimulus begins with balancing the state budget. For this program to be successful, it is imperative that policymakers come to an agreement to put the state’s fiscal house in order. Only then, can the historic infrastructure bond package from 2006 be fully implemented.

Speaker Bass and Senator Steinberg propose the following “green economic stimulus” package consisting of over \$2 billion in projects that create jobs and protect the environment.

These funds would be appropriated for immediate economic stimulus projects to provide clean air, clean water, and natural resource protection while providing jobs and economic activity.

These funds are targeted for projects that meet the following criteria:

- Immediate “shovel-ready” projects that create jobs, stimulate the economy, and improve the environment (\$2.3 billion total)
- All permits, authorizations, and approvals issued at the time the project funding is approved. No gutting of environmental laws to build new projects.
- Preference given to the creation/provision of CA jobs and economic activity.
- Projects must provide a “green” dividend in the form of benefiting public health or the environment.

1. *WATER SUPPLY RELIABILITY—New funds to help regions throughout the state make immediate investments for water supply reliability in a drought year.*

SECTION X. Pursuant to Section 75026 of the Public Resources Code, the sum of two-hundred million dollars (\$200,000,000) hereby is appropriated to the Department of Water

Resources for the purposes of expenditures in integrated regional water management plans throughout the state to achieve immediate water supply reliability. Priority shall be given to projects that increase regional water-use efficiency, including but not limited to water conservation improvements, groundwater clean-up and treatment projects, stormwater capture and reuse, projects that provide clean drinking water to disadvantaged communities, and waste water recycling and distribution facilities. Funds shall be distributed in accordance with the percentages allocated to each region pursuant to subdivision (a) of Section 75027.

SECTION X. Pursuant to Section 75050(m) of the Public Resources Code, the sum of fifteen million dollars (\$15,000,000) hereby is appropriated to the state board, and from Section 75060 of the Public Resource Code, the sum of fifteen million dollars (\$15,000,000) hereby is appropriated to the Department of Water Resources for the purposes of stormwater cleanup projects that protect water quality and public health.

- 2. PUBLIC TRANSIT AND MOBILITY-- Help promote public transit and mobility by appropriating \$800 million from Proposition 1B's Public Transit Modernization, Improvement and Service Enhancement Account (PTMISEA) for ready-to-go capital projects.***

Now is an ideal time to accelerate the expenditure of bond funds for public transit: ridership is at an all-time high in California, agencies have identified hundreds of ready-to-go projects, transit improves mobility without sacrificing air quality.

According to the California Transit Association (CTA), for every \$1 billion invested in new transit capital projects, some 31,400 jobs are created and more than \$3 billion in local economic activity is created.

SECTION X. Pursuant to subdivision (f) of Section 8879.23, \$800 million is hereby appropriated from the Public Transportation Modernization, Improvement and Service Enhancement Account (PTMISEA) to the state Department of Transportation for allocation to public transit agencies for eligible capital improvements to public transit systems and services.

- 3. FIX IT FIRST: Street and Pothole Repair—Create jobs fixing existing streets and repairing potholes. These funds would be used to fill potholes, resurface crumbling neighborhood streets, and improve bike and pedestrian facilities.***

SECTION X. Pursuant to subdivision (l) of Section 8879.23, \$700 million is hereby appropriated from the Local Street and Road Improvement Account to the Controller for allocation to cities and counties in California for improvements to local transportation facilities. Of the amount appropriated pursuant to this paragraph, \$450 million shall be allocated to the counties and \$237 million shall be allocated to the cities.

4. *CLEANUP BROWNFIELDS AND CREATE AFFORDABLE HOUSING-- Accelerate bond expenditures from Proposition 1C for brownfields cleanup that results in affordable, infill housing development and in the creation, rehabilitation or development of parks pursuant to the recently created Housing-Related Parks Program.*

SECTION X. Pursuant to paragraph (2) of subdivision (b) of Section 53545 of the Health and Safety Code, \$60 million is hereby appropriated to the California Pollution Control Financing Authority for purposes of providing loans and grants under the California Recycle Underutilized Sites (CALReUSE) program for brownfield cleanup that promotes infill residential and mixed-use development.

SECTION X. Pursuant to subdivision (d) of Section 53545 of the Health and Safety Code, \$30 million is hereby appropriated to the Department of Housing and Community Development from the Urban-Suburban-and-Rural Parks Account to fund the creation, development or rehabilitation of parks under the Housing-Related Parks Program.

5. *FLOOD PROTECTION/PREVENTION OF MUDSLIDES DUE TO FIRES—New funds to help local agencies and flood control officials protect urban areas from flash floods and mudslides due to last summer’s fires.*

SECTION X. Pursuant to Section 5096.827 of the Public Resources Code, the sum of one hundred million dollars (\$100,000,000) is hereby appropriated to the Department of Water Resources for direct expenditure or disbursement to state or local agencies to prevent and mitigate the effects of flash flooding, mudslides, and other damage associated with winter rains and fire damaged areas.

6. *FLOOD PROTECTION AND TRANSPORTATION ENHANCEMENT – New funds for infrastructure upgrades to reduce conflicts with critical flood conveyance facilities and create construction jobs.*

SECTION X. Pursuant to Section 5096.825 of the Public Resources Code, the sum of fifty million dollars (\$50,000,000) hereby is appropriated to the Department of Water Resources for grants for immediate priority multi-benefit projects that reduce conflicts between flood conveyance facilities and transportation infrastructure.

7. *FIXING AGING STATE PARKS AND RECREATIONAL FACILITIES—New funds to repair aging state parks infrastructure and to create new construction jobs idled by the housing crisis.*

SECTION X. Pursuant to Section 75063 of the Public Resources Code, the sum of one hundred million dollars (\$100,000,000) hereby is appropriated to the Department of Parks and recreation for the purposes of immediate investments in the deferred maintenance and rehabilitation of aging state parks and recreation facilities throughout the state. In contracting for the repair and rehabilitation of these facilities, the department shall endeavor to use CA-based construction companies or workers.

8. ***“GREEN” URBAN AREAS AND CREATE JOBS--Implement urban tree planting projects that produce local community jobs and increase the livability of our communities.***

SECTION X. Pursuant to Section 75065 of the Public Resources Code, the sum of ten million (\$10,000,000) hereby is appropriated to the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection for the purposes of community tree planting projects. Priority shall be given to projects that maximize job creation and provide multiple benefits, including air quality, water conservation and carbon emission reductions.

SECTION X. Pursuant to subdivision (l) of Section 75050 of the Public Resources Code, the sum of five million dollars (\$5,000,000) hereby is appropriated to the CA Conservation Corps for disbursement to local community conservation corps for support of local conservation corps programs and facilities.

9. ***BUILD NEW LOCAL PARK AND RECREATIONAL FACILITIES –develop new parks and new recreational opportunities in park-poor neighborhoods that create new construction jobs.***

SECTION X. Pursuant to subdivision (b) of Section 75065 of the Public Resources Code, the sum of one hundred million dollars (\$100,000,000) hereby is appropriated to the Department of Parks and Recreation for immediate investments in development and rehabilitation of local park facilities. In contracting for the construction, repair and rehabilitation of these facilities, the department shall provide a preference for CA-based construction companies or workers.

10. ***“GREEN JOBS TRAINING TO REDUCE DROPOUT RATE--Appropriate new funds to reduce high drop out rates and train young people for the new energy economy in jobs like solar manufacturing and clean vehicle technology.***

SECTION X. The sum of fifteen hundred million (\$15,000,000) is hereby appropriated to the Chancellor of the Community Colleges from the Public Interest Energy Research Account for the purposes of augmenting funding provided in the 2008-2009 budget act for green technology training through the CA Partnership Academies.

11. ***CREATE JOBS, SAVE TAXPAYER MONEY BY MAKING STATE BUILDINGS MORE ENERGY EFFICIENT---Direct energy agencies to use ratepayer funds already collected for energy programs to establish aggressive program to retrofit every state building in the state to achieve the maximum energy efficiency achievable.***

SECTION X. (a) The Public Utilities Commission and Energy Commission shall identify any unencumbered funds in the Public Utilities Reimbursement Account, the Energy Resources Program Account, and the Public Interest Energy Research Account and shall redirect those funds to the Department of General Services for the immediate retrofit and renovation of state buildings and facilities in order to achieve the maximum feasible energy efficiency in those buildings to create in-state employment and to reduce state taxpayer costs associated with energy use in those buildings.

**12. BUILD NEW KIDS MUSEUMS AND NATURE EDUCATION FACILITIES—
*Build nature education facilities and create immediate construction, education, and tourism jobs.***

SECTION X. Pursuant to subdivision (b) of Section 75063 of the Public Resources Code, the sum of thirty-five million dollars (\$35,000,000) hereby is appropriated to the Department of Parks and Recreation for grants for nature education facilities and equipment to non-profit organizations and public institutions, including natural history museums, aquariums, research facilities and botanical gardens.

**13. RESTORE WETLANDS, FISH AND GAME HABITAT AND CREATE JOBS –
*fund shovel-ready community projects to enhance and restore natural systems while creating construction jobs.***

SECTION X. Pursuant to subdivision (1) of Section 75055(b) of the Public Resources Code, the sum of thirty-five million dollars (\$35,000,000) shall be expended by the Wildlife Conservation Board for habitat restoration and enhancement projects.

SECTION X. Pursuant to subdivision (b) of Section 75060 of the Public Resources Code, the sum of thirty million dollars (\$30,000,000) hereby is appropriated to the California Coastal Conservancy for habitat restoration and enhancement projects.

14. CREATE GREEN JOBS FOR THE NEW ENERGY ECONOMY. *Educate, train, and employ at-risk young adults, while protecting the environment and rebuilding urban areas.*

SECTION X. The sum of twenty million dollars (\$20,000,000) is hereby appropriated from the Beverage Container Recycling Fund million in surplus Beverage Container Recycling Fund for existing and new local conservation corps which will educate, job train, and put to work hundreds of at-risk young adults within the fiscal year 2009-2010.

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