

# Water Resources Financial Assistance Programs in California

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July 2006

# Background

- Historical tradition of comprehensive, coordinated state water supply planning activities
  - State Water Plans
  - “State filings” for water rights at prospective reservoir sites
  - State process for establishing various types of local water districts

# Background – con't.

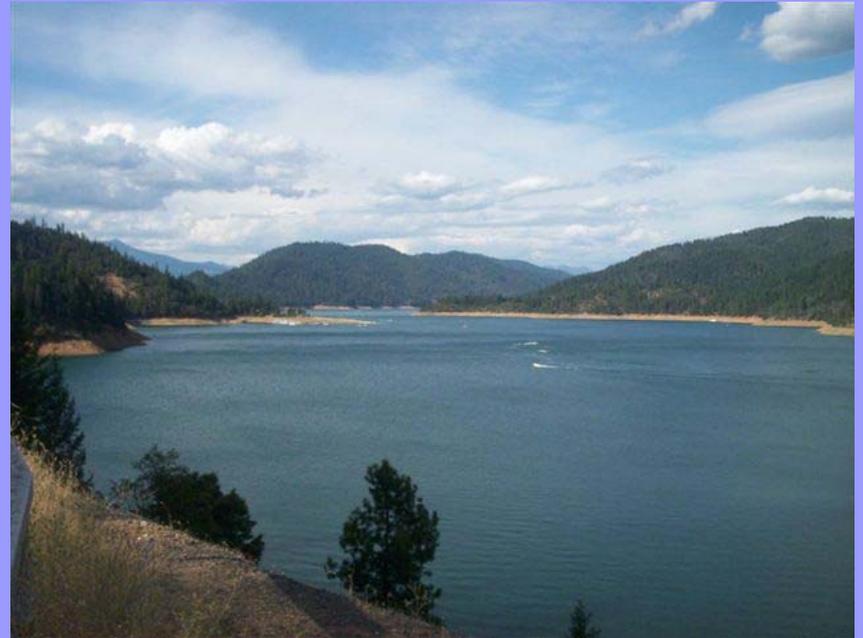
- Historical tradition of state financial assistance programs for local agencies
  - Largely funded through GO bonds
  - Many different programs over the past decades
  - Program specifics vary with the authorizing bond act
  - Early programs more focused on loans; recent programs are mostly grant programs

# Presentation Overview

- Review of past bond acts
- Administration of recent programs
- Comments on recent programs

# Davis-Grunsky Act of 1960

- Authorized \$130M in bond funding
- Loans for construction of local water projects and agricultural water conservation projects
- Grants for recreation and fish & wildlife enhancement at local water projects



# Early Safe Drinking Water Financial Assistance

- California Safe Drinking Water Bond Law of 1976 -- \$175M.
- California Safe Drinking Water Bond Law of 1984 -- \$75M.
- California Safe Drinking Water Bond Law of 1986 -- \$100M.
- California Safe Drinking Water Bond Law of 1988 -- \$75M.

# Early Water Conservation/Recycling/ Groundwater Recharge Bonds

- Clean Water & Water Conservation Bond Law of 1978 -- \$375M
- Clean Water Bond Law of 1984 -- \$325M
- Water Conservation & Water Quality Bond Law of 1986 -- \$150M
- Clean Water & Water Reclamation Bond Law of 1988 -- \$65M

# Recent Water Resources- Related Bond Acts

- Proposition 204 (1996) -- \$995M
- Proposition 12 (2000) -- \$2.1B
- Proposition 13 (2000) -- \$1.97B
- Proposition 50 (2002) -- \$3.44B

# Proposed Water-Related Bond Acts, Nov. 2006 Ballot

- Disaster Preparedness & Flood Prevention Bond Act of 2006 -- \$4.09B
- Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection, and Parks Bond Act of 2006 -- \$5.388B

# Recent Bond Acts – General Points

- Provide major funding for ecosystem restoration activities
- Special provisions for CALFED Bay-Delta program
- Statutory provisions for individual programs can vary across different bond acts as well as within the same bond act
- Every bond measure is different

# Recent Bond Acts – Examples of Funded Activities

- Ecosystem restoration, including land & water acquisition, fish screening, fish passage
- Water use efficiency
- Groundwater conjunctive use & storage
- Water recycling
- Seawater & brackish groundwater desalting



# Recent Bond Acts – Program Administration

- Authority to adopt regulations/develop guidelines (public review process)
- Development of application package
- Solicitation process for proposals
- Competitive review process
- Fiscal audit of bond programs by Department of Finance
- Example handout for 2005 & 2006 desalting grants

# Recent Programs -- Comments

- Ease of administration varies with authorizing statute
- Timely commitment of funds important to stakeholders
- Transparency of decision-making process important
- Programs targeted to small/disadvantaged communities/water systems require high degree of outreach/staff support

# Comments – con't

- Multi-agency outreach programs useful for small/rural communities (CA Financing Coordinating Committee “Funding Fairs”)
- Visible impacts of state financial assistance – e.g. groundwater storage & conjunctive use programs
- Statutory conditions can be placed on receipt of financial assistance – e.g. compliance with urban water management plan requirements
- Recent policy goal of using state funding to further integrated regional management

Questions?