

# PROPOSITION 68 & THE SIERRA NEVADA

For Sierra Engagement in Statewide Ballot Measure Campaigns



**PROPOSITION 68, THE CLEAN WATER AND SAFE PARKS ACT**, is a general obligation bond that invests \$4 billion in the coming years to address some of California’s most important water, park, and natural resource needs. The state legislature passed the California Clean Water & Parks Act (SB5) with bipartisan support, and it will appear on the June statewide ballot.

Proposition 68 is the first natural resources bond passed by the Legislature in fifteen years and the largest investment in natural resources and underserved communities in California history. **It has more funding for conservation and natural resource protection in the Sierra/Cascade region than any previous legislative bond measure.**

The \$4 billion bond would provide parks for disadvantaged neighborhoods and investments in the state’s wildlife and ecological areas, water resources, and urban areas to help safeguard against climate change impacts, make cities more livable, and protect California’s natural resources for future generations. The measure would also increase drought and flood protection, supply clean water, and reduce risk of large, damaging wildfire.

## Funding directed to Sierra/Cascade natural resource protection & restoration (\$142 million total):

- Sierra Nevada Conservancy: \$55 million in general funding and forest health
- California Tahoe Conservancy: \$27 million in general funding
- Wildlife Conservation Board: \$60 million for Sierra-Cascade watersheds

That is 1.5 times the amount the Sierra received in Prop 84 (2006 resource bond) and more than 3 times the amount in Prop 1 (2014 water bond). In addition to these directed funding streams, at least **\$25 million is available only to rural areas of the state**, including the Sierra/Cascade.

**At least \$1.99 billion in additional Proposition 68 funding is open to Sierra/Cascade communities through competitive statewide grant programs\*.**

## Funding by eligible entity\*\*:

- Counties: \$962 million
- Cities: \$977 million
- Joint Powers Authorities: \$857 million
- Districts: \$977 million
- Regional Park & Open Space Districts: \$937 million
- Non-government conservation organizations: \$60 million
- Non-profits: \$807 million
- Tribes: \$90 million

### By designated purpose\*\*:

- \$677 million for the creation and expansion of safe neighborhood parks, regional parks and trails in underserved/disadvantaged communities
- \$200 million for local park rehabilitation, creation, and improvement grants on a per capita basis
- \$30 million to create, expand, improve, rehabilitate or restore parks and park facilities including trail networks
- \$40 million for revenue enhancement measures aimed at improving and enhancing local or regional park infrastructure (must be voter-approved between 11/1/12 and 11/30/18)
- \$5 million for local agencies directed for state park facility restoration, preservation, & protection
- \$30 million for non-motorized infrastructure development and accessibility to parks, waterways, outdoor rec pursuits, forested or other natural environments to encourage active transportation and connection with nature
- \$25 million for non-urbanized areas to address lack of outdoor infrastructure, acquisition and development to enhance residential recreation/promote quality tourism experiences/economic vitality, collaboration between public and non-profit orgs including land trusts, and to facilitate public access to privately owned lands
- \$20 million for river recreation, urban streams, creeks, and river parkway improvements and protection
- \$373 million for climate preparedness and resiliency
- \$220 million for clean drinking water and drought preparedness
- \$80 million for groundwater sustainability
- \$290 million for regional sustainability in drought, groundwater, and water recycling

\* A minimum of 15-20% of all funds must go to severely disadvantaged communities, defined as having a Median Household Income of less than 60% of the statewide average (According to the Census ACS 1-year survey, the median household income for California was \$67,739 in 2016).

\*\* These totals exclude funding directed to coastal, urban, or specified non-Sierra/Cascade regions, as well as funding directed to state agencies to carry out specified purposes through agency programs without a competitive grant process. Certain directed funding to state agencies may be used in Sierra communities through partnership rather than through direct grants; these funding streams are not included here. Additionally, some funds are directed for appropriation by the state legislature, which leaves some uncertainty as to their final intended use.