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## News Release

### **Latino Water Coalition Is Disappointed With Delay But Will Continue Fight For State Water Bond Passage**

California Latino Water Coalition (CLWC) members are disappointed Governor Schwarzenegger's request made June 29 for the Legislature to delay the scheduled \$11.14 billion water bond election from November until 2012 but they understand why the Governor and several legislators have taken the action. A number of Coalition members discussed the situation July 1 during a news conference in Fresno that followed a Town Hall meeting conducted by the Governor.

"The Coalition has been involved deeply in the comprehensive infrastructure water bond effort since it was organized four years ago at the Governor's suggestion," said Mario Santoyo, CLWC Director and Technical Advisor. "Winning approval in the Legislature was a tremendous accomplishment. Unfortunately, the continuing recession and the state's financial crisis are eating into public support."

Noting that water supply conditions are not going to improve during the delay in getting the bond before voters, Santoyo said the CLWC will continue battling to protect the water bond's objectives of improving the environment, water quality, conservation, infrastructure, conveyance and storage. Of particular concern to the Coalition are conditions in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta, where endangered species are threatened and water export

pumping has been curtailed. “We cannot afford for Delta conditions to get much worse,” said Santoyo. “Too many people and their livelihoods are being hurt.”

“We’re going to be supportive, but in saying that, we are intending to have a meeting with the Governor to discuss what the game plan will be over the next few years, to make sure the Legislature keeps its eye on the ball, that the bond doesn’t change. The water bond has great value to all of California.”