

Letter: Yes on Prop 3

The Ukiah Daily Journal
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To the Editor:

Voters in Mendocino County should pay close attention to Proposition 3, a statewide water bond on the November ballot.

Finally, we have a water bond that recognizes how fire affects our watersheds, and provides funding to both prevent fires and treat burned areas after fires pass through. Proposition 3 includes \$50 million for Cal Fire to improve our watersheds, reduce fire danger, remove hazardous trees, thin regrowth after fires, and otherwise restore our watershed.

These programs will improve both the quality of the water and the quantity and distribution pattern of flow within our watersheds. This is the first time the state proposes to invest serious money in a way which protects rural communities by reducing fire danger, benefiting the watershed, and improving forest health.

Proposition 3 includes billions of dollars to repair and construct groundwater storage and conveyance. It develops new water through capture of stormwater, wastewater recycling, desalting, and water conservation. It also includes funds for fish and wildlife protection and habitat restoration. Additionally, our local Resource Conservation District can benefit directly from the funds provided by Proposition 3.

Many rural communities face serious drinking water quality and wastewater disposal problems. No funds are included for the controversial Delta tunnels project or dams that could damage our wild and scenic rivers.

Proposition 3 includes \$750 million to help local agencies solve these problems.

Every community in California relies upon a clean, safe and reliable water supplies and Proposition 3 provides enough new water supplies for 3 million families.

California can afford this bond. Our credit rating has vastly improved since the recession, the state has a large budget surplus, and only a few bond acts have been presented to the voters in recent years, leaving room for the Proposition 3 water bond. This is our opportunity to get the state to properly invest into our rural communities without raising taxes.

Local leaders and organizations endorse Proposition 3. The Rural County Representatives of California endorse Proposition 3 and agriculture is in strong

support. Proposition 3 is endorsed by the California Farm Bureau Federation, Agricultural Council, and Western Growers.

Business groups supporting Proposition 3 include the California Chamber of Commerce and the California Business Properties Association.

Practical conservation groups also support Proposition 3, such as the National Wildlife Federation, The Nature Conservancy, Audubon California, Planning and Conservation League, Ducks Unlimited, California Trout, and California Waterfowl Association. These groups work on the ground to improve the quality of life in our local community. Proposition 3 is also endorsed by local environmental groups like the Northcoast Regional Land Trust, Sanctuary Forest, and Salmonid Restoration Federation.

Proposition 3 is a chance for our community to be more fire safe and improve water supply reliability and quality. Learn more at www.waterbond.org

<https://www.ukiahdailyjournal.com/2018/09/30/letter-yes-on-prop-3/>