2010 LEGISLATIVE RESULTS

california league of conservation voters

For California's environmental advocates—facing a down economy and outnumbered by industry lobbyists ten to one—2010's rally cry was "Hold the line!" Opportunistic polluters (and the lobbyists who love them) saw this year's legislative session as their best shot to undermine California's environmental laws under the tired, false dichotomy of jobs vs. the environment.

Despite the unprecedentedly brutal assault, our environmental champs in Sacramento passed numerous pro-environment bills and fended off the worst attacks. We helped defeat dozens of bills that were aimed at weakening California's fundamental environmental laws. Under the leadership of new Speaker John Pérez (a former CLCV board member and longtime friend), the Assembly did better than in prior years.

On the other hand, Governor Schwarzenegger's veto pen cancelled much environmental progress in his final legislative session. He signed the no-brainers. But he also vetoed several of our highest priorities, including a "polluter pays" fee on pesticide producers, expanded recycling, green jobs training, and support for climate solutions in low income communities. For more information, visit **www.ecovote.org**.

SIGNED INTO LAW:

In 2010, CLCV generated thousands of phone calls, emails, and letters to elected officials. This year we reached the grassroots using tried-and-true methods (knocking on doors, making phone calls) and new tools (including a sophisticated new online advocacy system), giving Californians an environmental voice in Sacramento and getting results.

Solid Waste

AB 1343 (Huffman): Creates the PaintCare program, funded and operated by paint manufacturers, to allow consumers to recycle leftover, unused paint.

AB 2398 (J. Pérez): According to recyclers, carpet comprises 3.2% of all waste in California. This bill, with support from the private sector, creates a state carpet recycling program to be funded and operated by carpet manufacturers.

Toxics

AB 1963 (Nava): Modernizes the Pesticide Poisoning Prevention program, which protects farm workers who handle pesticides.

SB 346 (Kehoe & Simitian): Phases out copper from automobile brakes (the single largest source of toxic copper in our urban waterways) by 2025.

Water

SB 918 (Pavley): Conserves water by allowing safer storage of recycled water in groundwater basins and surface reservoirs.

Air Quality

AB 2289 (Eng): Adds new standards and testing methods to the Smog Check program, saving money for consumers and the state and reducing emissions by 70 tons per day.

VETOED BY THE GOVERNOR:

These bills survived the grueling journey through the legislature to Governor Schwarzenegger's desk before he vetoed them. Since taking office, the governor has repeatedly stated his desire to leave an environmental legacy. Too frequently, Governor Schwarzenegger made the opposite choice.

Green Jobs/Energy
SB 675 (Steinberg): Would have provided funding for green jobs training in fields such as clean technology and energy efficiency.

Solid Waste
AB 737 (Chesbro): Would have greatly reduced the amount of waste going to landfills by creating a commercial recycling program and expanding recycling to the under-served apartment and business sectors.

Toxics
SB 1157 (DeSaulnier): Would have established a "polluter pays" fee on pesticide producers to fund the Healthy Schools Act of 2010 to protect students, teachers and school workers from toxic pesticides.

Water
AB 234 (Huffman): Would have required "pre-booming" to help prevent oil spills, and increased oil fees for the state's spill prevention and response program.

Global Warming
AB 1405 (De León/V. M. Pérez): Would have directed revenue from the Global Warming Solutions Act (AB 32) to low-income communities, which are subject to the worst effects of climate change.

FAILED IN THE LEGISLATURE:

In the era of term limits, money talks. This year, polluters ramped up their spending and employed more lobbyists in the capitol than the environmental community could ever match. It hardly seems coincidental that some of the best proposals to reduce pollution were killed in the final hours of negotiation.

Solid Waste
AB 1998 (Brownley): Would have banned single-use plastic carryout bags at grocery stores and convenience stores, in favor of reusable bags or recycled paper bags available for purchase. **FAILED IN SENATE.**

Renewable Energy
SB 722 (Simitian, Kehoe, & Steinberg): Would have increased California's renewable electricity use to 33% by 2020, increasing the existing requirement. **FAILED IN SENATE.**

Public Health
SB 797 (Pavley/Liu): Would have banned bisphenol A (BPA), a known toxin, from baby products. **FAILED IN SENATE.**

Natural Resources
AB 2223 (Nava): Would have banned the use of lead shot—the major contaminant contributing to wildlife poisoning—in state wildlife areas. **FAILED IN COMMITTEE (Senate Natural Resources & Water).**

ABOUT CLCV:
For nearly four decades, the California League of Conservation Voters (CLCV) has tracked and influenced California environmental politics. Read a full review of 2010 in the *California Environmental Scorecard* at **www.ecovote.org/scorecard**, available now.