

Dear Friend:

California is home to some of the most striking vistas and significant environmental resources in the world – from the incomparable beauty of Lake Tahoe to the rugged landscapes of the Mojave desert.

During my time in the Senate, I have worked to preserve these and other natural resources for the enjoyment of future generations of Californians and visitors to the State.

Some of the accomplishments of which I am most proud include:

- Congressional authorization to spend \$300 million over 10 years to restore Lake Tahoe and the surrounding forests;
- The creation of a 7 million-acre preserve in the California desert;
- The preservation of 7,500 acres of old growth forest in Humboldt County; and
- The restoration of 16,500 acres of Bay Area Wetlands.

Taken together, I believe these efforts have significantly helped to preserve our State's natural resources and should serve as a model for future preservation efforts.

As the State's population grows, it will be increasingly important to balance the needs of consumers, business, and the environment.

Looking to the future, I plan on working on legislation to reduce dangerous build up of fuels in our nation's forests, to protect and expand the State's water supply, and to close the SUV loophole which contributes to global warming.

Through these measures I will continue to work to maintain the State's natural beauty and preserve it for the enjoyment of my grandchildren and yours.

Sincerely,



Dianne Feinstein  
U.S. Senator

# Restoring Lake Tahoe

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Lake Tahoe's pristine beauty has drawn and amazed people for centuries.

However, the lake and the surrounding basin are threatened by pollution and drought. Without remediation, the lake could lose its famed clarity and the surrounding forests could be destroyed by fire.

To restore the Lake Tahoe basin, Senator Feinstein introduced the Lake Tahoe Restoration Act. Signed into law on November 30, 2000, the Act:



*The Lake Tahoe Restoration Act authorizes \$300 million to restore the lake and the surrounding forests.*

- Designates federal lands in the Lake Tahoe basin as a National Scenic Forest and Recreation Area;
- Requires the Forest Service to develop an annual priority list of environmental restoration projects and authorizes \$200 million over 10 years for the Forest Service to implement these projects; and
- Authorizes \$100 million over 10 years in payments to local governments for erosion control activities on non-federal lands.

This legislation seeks to reverse a century's worth of environmental degradation to the Lake and the surrounding forests. And by enabling the Forest Service to plan significant new environment restoration activities, the legislation takes a significant step toward cleaning up the basin.

As a result, the lake today is cleaner than it has been in the past five years, and the prospects for further improvement look good.

In just two years since the legislation was enacted, public and private agencies have contributed almost half of the \$908 million that was estimated to be needed for the restoration.

# Preserving the Desert

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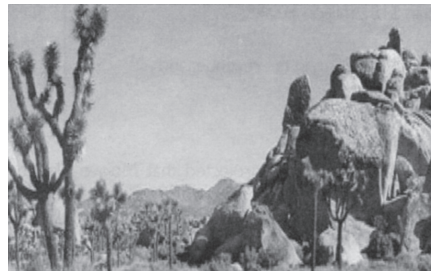
The California desert contains some of the most extraordinary environmental resources in the nation. Comprised of more than 25 million acres, the California desert is incredibly diverse.

However, this unique ecosystem was at risk from development and grazing. To preserve these precious natural resources, Senator Feinstein sponsored the California Desert Protection Act. Signed into law on October 31, 1994, the Act:

- Protected 3.5 million acres of land as federal wilderness;
- Added 1.2 million acres of land to Death Valley National Monument and redesignated the monument as a national park;
- Added 234,000 acres of land to Joshua Tree National Monument and redesignated the area as a National Park;
- Established a new 1.4 million-acre Mojave National Preserve;
- Created the Death Valley and Joshua Tree National Parks and the Mojave National Preserve; and
- Transferred 20,500 acres of Bureau of Land Management land to the State of California to expand the Red Rock Canyon State Park.

Through these efforts, Senator Feinstein was able to protect more than 7 million acres of desert land and create two national parks and one national preserve, making it the largest preservation effort in U.S. history.

Following the passage of this legislation, Senator Feinstein secured the funding to complete the acquisition of an additional 405,000 acres of lands from the Catellus Corp. in the Mojave National Preserve and in Bureau of Land Management wilderness areas.



*The California Desert Protection Act preserved 7.7 million, making it the largest land acquisitions in California history.*

# Saving Headwaters Forest

The Headwaters Forest is a 7,500-acre grove of ancient redwoods, located in Humboldt County, California. The trees contained in the grove are over 2,000 years old and are a national treasure.

Between the years 1995 and 1999, Senator Feinstein brought the Federal Government, the State of California, and the Pacific Lumber Company together and negotiated a compromise agreement that protects the magnificent grove for all time.

The Headwaters Agreement:

- Provided for the Federal acquisition of the 7,500-acre Headwaters Forest from the Pacific Lumber Company;
- Required that the Pacific Lumber Company's entire 210,000 acres be governed by the terms and conditions of a Habitat Conservation Plan;
- Protected 12 additional groves of ancient redwood trees, comprising over 8,000 acres, as habitat for the marbled murrelet; and
- Provided habitat protection for the endangered coho salmon and other aquatic species.



*The Headwaters Forest was the largest grove of ancient redwoods owned privately—now it is protected for all time.*

By bringing all sides together, Senator Feinstein averted years of court battles and allowed for this significant habitat to be protected.

# Restoring Bay Area Wetlands

Over the past 150 years, nearly 95 percent of San Francisco Bay Delta Estuary's historic tidal wetlands have been destroyed. This has resulted in wildlife losses, water quality reductions and decreased natural flood control.

To restore these wetlands and tidal marshes, Senator Feinstein brokered a landmark public-private partnership to purchase thousands of acres of salt ponds along the San Francisco Bay shore and Napa River.

The Agreement provides for the acquisition of 16,500 acres from the Cargill Corporation for \$100 million by public agencies and private foundations including the Hewlett, Moore and Packard foundations and the Goldman, and Resources Legacy Found. An additional 8,000 acres of wetlands will revert to public ownership and be restored when Cargill ceases salt production around its Newark, Calif. plant.

Under the agreement, Cargill is responsible for removing any hazardous waste that may exist on the sites and leaving the ponds in a condition that would allow them to be discharged to the Bay under a permit from the Regional Water Quality Control Board.

Some ponds could be opened to tidal influence within two years, others require further study and planning to determine how best to restore them.

This restoration will be key to the survival of several endangered animals native to the Bay's salt marshes, and will provide important habitat for harbor seals, young steelhead trout, and oysters. Wetlands restoration in the South Bay will also preserve the best remaining wild groves and riparian habitat in the Bay Area.



*This historic Framework Agreement sets in the motion the largest wetlands restoration undertaken in California history.*

# Protecting Our Water Supply

California currently has 35 million residents, and it is estimated that it will have 50 million residents by the year 2020. If we do not take action now, there could be a water crisis, far worse than the energy crisis two years ago.

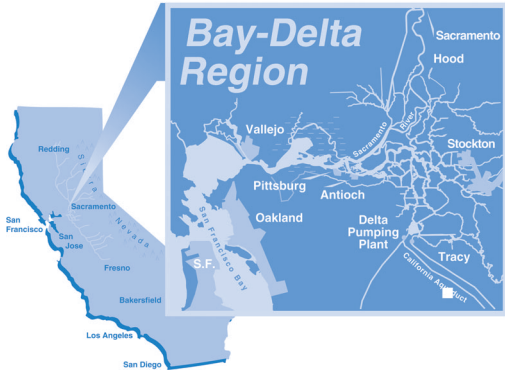
To address this potential crisis, Senator Feinstein convened more than one hundred meetings with agricultural, urban and environmental stakeholders to determine the best way to address the water challenge in an environmentally sensitive manner.

Out of these meetings came the Californian Bay – Delta Accord, which set forth a Framework for Action between the State and Federal Government on ecosystem restoration, environmental preservation and a plan for new, smart storage of water.

To fund and implement this plan, Senator Feinstein has introduced legislation to:

- Restore significant environmentally sensitive areas of the State, including the San Francisco Bay-Delta;
- Provide the necessary water infrastructure, including new water storage, to enable California to continue to lead the nation in economic growth and agriculture production; and
- Ensure a safe, reliable source of drinking water for California’s growing population.

This legislation balances the needs of agricultural, urban, and environmental interests and begins to address the needs of California’s aging water infrastructure and to restore the State’s environmental resources.



*This legislation represents a comprehensive approach to the water issue in California—balancing the needs of the agriculture industry, municipal users, and the environment.*

# Managing California's Forests

Our nation's forests are at serious risk of catastrophic forest fires. Right now, millions of acres of forests are at risk, including 73 million acres which are categorized as class III lands – the highest risk category.

Of these lands, 23 million have been designated as in critical need of emergency treatment and almost a full one third of this area – 7.8 million acres – are in California.

To reduce the risk of catastrophic fires in California's forests, Senator Feinstein:



*The Quincy Library Group Project is a 5-year pilot program designed to manage critical forests – those in watersheds and wildland – urban interface zones.*

- Introduced legislation to implement the Quincy Library Group's forest management plan on designated lands in the Plumas, Lassen and Tahoe National Forests for five years as a demonstration of community-based consensus forest management. This legislation was signed into law on October 21, 1998.
- Sponsored an amendment with Senator Pete Domenici (R-NM) to the FY 2001 Interior Appropriations bill to provide \$240 million in emergency funds to address the dangerous build-up of forest fuels on federal lands. This amendment was approved and signed into law.
- Proposed an amendment that would have established a 1-year pilot project to enable the Bureau of Land Management and the Forest Service to move rapidly to treat up to 7 million of the 24 million acres in those areas at highest risk for catastrophic fire, especially urban-wildland interface zones and watersheds.

Through these measures, Senator Feinstein is seeking to help prevent forest fires, and protect critical habitat for the spotted owl and other endangered species.



# Increasing Fuel Economy

Today, the average fuel economy of our nation's vehicles, at 24 miles a gallon, is the lowest in 22 years. This is largely a result of the increase in popularity of Sport Utility Vehicles and light trucks, which aren't required to meet the same fuel efficiency standards as passenger cars.

To close this loophole, Senators Feinstein and Olympia Snowe introduced legislation in 2001 to equalize fuel efficiency standards for SUVs and light duty trucks with that of passenger cars.

The legislation would gradually phase in the fuel efficiency standards for SUVs and light duty trucks by 2011. The bill also increases the fuel economy of federal government fleet of automobiles.



*Closing the SUV loophole could save as much as 1 billion gallons of oil a day.*

Specifically, the legislation would:

- Phase in fuel economy standards for SUVs and all other light duty trucks.
- Require that vehicles up to a weight of 10,000 pounds must qualify for federal fuel efficiency standards. The current limit is 8,500 pounds.
- Increase the fuel economy of the federal government fleet by requiring new vehicles to reach an 6 additional miles per gallon.

Increasing fuel economy of SUVs save American consumers billions of dollars a year and reduce our need to import foreign oil. Perhaps more importantly, taking this step could decrease the buildup of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere, which contribute to global warming.