

## **Governor Proposes \$9 Billion Bond Plan, Dams Centerpiece**

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SACRAMENTO - Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger on Tuesday proposed a \$9 billion water bond measure that would earmark more than half the money for dams opposed by most of the Democrats who dominate the Legislature.

The proposal eclipses the governor's previous \$5.9 billion bond plan, in large part by adding a third dam project in Contra Costa County. Whether the lawmakers will go along with dams – and how much they are willing to pay for them – will be a key part of the negotiations in the Legislature's upcoming special session on water projects.

Senate President Pro Tem. Don Perata, D-Oakland, has introduced his own \$5.4 billion water bond proposal, but his plan would allow communities to apply for state grants to build their own dams if they want to spend the money that way.

Assemblyman John Laird, D-Santa Cruz, said the Assembly would need weeks to go through the details of the competing bond proposals, all but assuring lawmakers would miss a Sept. 27 constitutional deadline to put a bond proposal on the Feb. 5 presidential primary ballot. However, both sides acknowledged that deadline could be extended.

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