



For Immediate Release:
Mar. 8, 2011

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STATE SENATE CONFIRMS JOHN LAIRD AS SECRETARY FOR NATURAL RESOURCES

SACRAMENTO — John Laird was confirmed as Secretary for Natural Resources by the State Senate with a 35-0 vote. Secretary Laird will be responsible for the safeguarding and stewardship of California's precious natural resources. The vote was held in the State Senate late yesterday afternoon, Mar. 7.

"I look forward to working with Governor Brown to restore and protect California's natural resources, in order to provide habitat for wildlife, clean energy, healthy forests, and a safe, reliable water supply for all Californians." Laird said.

From water and wildlife management and conservation to wildland fire protection, energy, ocean and coastal policy, land stewardship, climate change adaptation, sustainable living, and the promotion of outdoor recreation, the agency oversees most all of the state's functions designed to protect California's natural resources.

Senate President Pro Tem Darrel Steinberg said, "I can think of nobody better qualified than John Laird to be the Secretary for Natural Resources for the State of California. His depth of knowledge and commitment to issues like water, ocean protection, renewable energy and thoughtful conservation is second to none. John has earned bipartisan support for his appointment because he approaches issues with an open mind and has a pragmatic, solutions-based approach."

Laird was appointed California Secretary for Natural Resources by Governor Jerry Brown on Jan. 5, 2011. He has spent 35 years in public service, including 23 years as an elected official.

Watch Secretary Laird's [confirmation hearing](#) in the Senate Rules Committee on Wednesday, Feb. 23, 2011. (Also, check back on www.CalChannel.com later today to see the Secretary's full confirmation on the Senate floor.)