

In the looming battle over California's budget, will there be room for environmental protections? What should Governor Brown's top-priority environmental initatives be? UCLA Law released today "An Environmental Blueprint for California," giving our view of the priorities Governor Brown should focus on to ensure the state's environmental health in ways consistent with its economic prosperity.

California faces difficult choices ahead. Our new blueprint recognizes that clean energy, clean water and clean air require the devotion of significant resources but argues that they come with even larger benefits. We conclude that Governor Brown must strengthen California's foundation for environmental protection by protecting and restoring funding for important environmental initiatives, improving environmental monitoring, and prioritizing the effective enforcement of existing law. The report includes additional recommendations for ensuring climate and energy security and promoting renewable energy opportunities, as well as for protecting and improving California's environmental quality.

There's a lot here, so over the coming weeks my report co-authors Sean Hecht, Rhead Enion and I will explain our recommendations in further detail. Comments welcome on what we got right or what you'd improve.