Senator Lois Wolk’s Legislation for 2011

SB 200 – Equitable Mitigations for the Delta Solution
Removes barriers to a Delta solution and reduces potential conflicts between implementation of the Bay Delta Conservation Plan and communities in the Delta, Northern California and other regions of the State. Specifically the measure requires that prior to implementing the Bay Delta Conservation Plan, state agencies ensure that the BDCP will be implemented in an equitable, enforceable and affordable manner.

SB 214 – Infrastructure Financing Districts
Makes it easier for cities and counties to use IFDs to pay for public works projects, without impacting school districts share of property taxes increment or the state general fund. Repeals voter-approval to form the IFD, to issue bonds, and to set IFD appropriation limit; extends term of IFD bonds from 30 to 40 years, lowering monthly debt payments.

SB 342 – Abusive Tax Shelter
Creates an abusive tax shelter to ensure tax payers don’t avoid paying all taxes owed.

SB 345 – Ombudsman Program
Requires the state long-term care (LTC) ombudsman program to be relocated to an independent nonprofit organization outside of the Department of Aging. It also describes the qualifications that the organization must meet in order to be deemed capable of carrying out the responsibilities outlined in the federal Older Americans Act.

SB 571 – The California Water Finance Reform Act
Based on the California Transportation Commission model, this legislation would task the California Water Commission with developing a master plan for water, identifying appropriate funding mechanism for the plan, and ultimately, managing and allocating funding made available from various potential sources.

SB 580 – State Parks Protection
Preserves the integrity of California’s state park system and protects tax payer investments in our parks by prohibiting the disposal of state parklands for non-park uses unless the parkland is substituted with land that has equal value.

SB 594 – Public Health Labs
Establishes minimum standards for public health laboratory practice as well as a working relationship between local health officer and public health laboratory director; ensures that local communities have access to local public health laboratory services and requires continuing education units for public health microbiologists.

SB 843 – Off Site Solar
Establishes a pioneering new program which allows all power customers to pursue off-site renewable energy. Based on the successful model established between Pacific Gas & Electric, the City of Davis and the PVUSA solar facility, this legislation allows all customers to receive a credit on their power bills for the clean power they purchase at an off-site renewable energy garden.

SB 845 – Central Valley Flood Deadlines
Awaiting outcomes from the Central Valley Flood Control Plan due out on July 1, 2011.

SB 893 – Information and Data Sharing
Directs the Health and Human Services Agency to draft a strategic data sharing plan to support California’s transition toward outcome-based governing.

Chaptered Legislation, 2011

SB 133 – Cache Creek Resources Management Plan (CCRMP): Extends the sunset date allowing the CCRMP to serve as the functional equivalent of a reclamation plan until December 31, 2017. (Chapter 145)

SB 154 – Domestic Violence Fee: Delete the sunset date for Solano County’s fee authority for domestic violence programs. (Chapter 120)

SB 244 – Disadvantaged Communities: Requires local governments to include island, fringe, or legacy unincorporated communities in the local planning process. (Chapter 513)

SB 339 – Cooking Schools: Allows cooking schools to apply for a license to serve alcoholic beverages with student-prepared meals, expanding opportunities for educational outreach by enabling instruction on wine pairing. Also allows certain city-owned community centers to hold events in which alcohol is served. (Chapter 702)
SB 489 – Renewable Energy Equity: Opens California’s Net Energy Metering (NEM) program to all eligible forms of renewable energy. This will allow agricultural businesses and homeowners to more easily and economically convert their renewable byproducts into clean renewable energy and to off-set their electricity use, helping to reduce the need for new power plants and transmission infrastructure, and allowing them to save money on their power bills. (Chapter 593)

SB 595 – Abandoned Vessels: Provides an administrative process for the State Lands Commission to remove and dispose of abandoned and trespassing vessels, streamlining the current costly judicial process. (Chapter 595)

SB 618 – Williamson Act - Solar: Strives to balance the competing needs of large-scale solar development with the need to protect critical California habitat and farmland by offering incentives to encourage new solar facility developments on lands that are less suited for agricultural use or have lower habitat value. (Chapter 596)

SB 818 – Olive Oil Standards: Modifies California’s olive oil standards to mirror the new USDA olive oil standards. (Chapter 567)

SB 835 – Best Value Construction: Expands the University of California's “best value” pilot program, which allows for construction contracts to be awarded on a best value basis, to all UC campuses and extends the sunset to January 1, 2017. (Chapter 636)

SB 841 – Solid Waste Fees/Indemnification: Prohibits local governments that negotiate solid waste franchise agreements and fees to require solid waste companies to indemnify the public entities for franchise fees that violate Proposition 26. (Chapter 713)

SCR 5 – California Planned Your Giving Day: Declares October 1, 2011, as California Plan Your Giving Day. (Chapter 18)

SCR 46 – Parks Make Life Better Month: Declares July 2011, as Parks Make Life Better Month. (Chapter 44)