



For Immediate Release

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Contact:

Bill Maxfield, 831-227-6469

bill@millermxfield.com

JOHN LAIRD ANNOUNCES CANDIDACY FOR CA STATE SENATE

SANTA CRUZ, CA – John Laird today announced his candidacy for the California State Senate, representing the 17th District, which includes all of Santa Cruz and San Luis Obispo Counties, as well as coastal Monterey County and southern Santa Clara County. The 17th District is currently represented by Senator Bill Monning (D-Carmel), who will be termed out in 2020. The primary will be held in March 2020, followed by the general election in November. The filing period closes at the end of 2019.

Statement by Mr. Laird:

“I just completed eight years as a cabinet secretary in the administration of Governor Jerry Brown. That role placed me on the front lines in the effort to fight and adapt to climate change, as well as provided me with the responsibility to run a state agency with 25 departments, 19,000 employees and an almost \$10 billion budget.

I’m running for the State Senate because I want to build on that leadership to protect and invest in the Central Coast and California during these difficult times – not just in the area of natural resources, but also with critical priorities including health care, education, the economy and housing.

Specifically, I pledge to work on major challenges including: the impact of a changing climate on California; affordability for the middle class; providing health care to all; providing adequate support for education; adequate and affordable housing; wild fires as California’s “new normal”; protecting California’s leadership in ocean policy; embracing and protecting California’s diversity; and fighting for the needs of the Central Coast.

I have worked the last 40 years to be ready for the next eight as a senator. I’ve served in public policy, as a congressional assistant, local government analyst, mayor, city councilmember, transit board member, transportation commissioner, community college trustee, community activist, state legislator and governor’s cabinet secretary. I want to bring that experience and leadership to meet our challenges.”

About John Laird

John Laird served as California Secretary for Natural Resources by Governor Jerry Brown from January 5, 2011 until January 7, 2019. Laird also served as a member of the State Integrated Waste Management Board from 2008 to 2009 and taught state environmental policy at University of California-Santa Cruz. In 2002, he was elected Assemblymember for the 27th District, which included

portions of Monterey, Santa Clara and Santa Cruz Counties, and reelected in 2004 and 2006. While serving the maximum three terms in the Assembly, Laird authored 82 bills that were signed into law.

Prior to serving in the State Assembly, Laird was an elected member of the Cabrillo College Board of Trustees from 1994 to 2002. He also served as executive director of the Santa Cruz AIDS Project from 1991 to 1994. In 1981, Laird was elected to the Santa Cruz City Council, and served nine years until term limits ended his council service in 1990. He was a two-term mayor from 1983 to 1984 and from 1987 to 1988.

The son of teachers and raised in Vallejo, Laird graduated with honors in politics from the University of California Santa Cruz in 1972. He has been a long-time resident of Santa Cruz with his spouse John Flores. He has traveled extensively, is fluent in Spanish, enjoys conducting family history research and is a life-long Chicago Cubs fan.

Visit www.LairdforCASenate.com to learn more.

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