STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD RESOLUTION NO. 2017-0017

APPROVING THE ALLOCATION OF UP TO \$252,000 IN ADDITIONAL FUNDS FROM THE CLEANUP AND ABATEMENT ACCOUNT (CAA) TO TULARE COUNTY (COUNTY) FOR BOTTLED WATER TO THE COMMUNITY OF SEVILLE (PROJECT)

WHEREAS:

- 1. The Seville Water Company community water system (SWC) serves the severely disadvantaged community of Seville in Tulare County; has low water production due to drought conditions, leaks in the distribution system, and intermittent water outages; and is currently under a boil water order due to potential bacteriological contamination;
- 2. On June 11, 2009, the County was appointed temporary receivership of SWC by the Tulare County Superior Court to address the failing water system;
- Previously, the County has received a total of \$520,000 in emergency funding from various funding programs administered by the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) and the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) to address the water supply and contamination issues;
- 4. On July 1, 2014, the administration of the CDPH Drinking Water Program was transferred from CDPH to the State Water Board;
- The County implemented a mandatory water conservation moratorium on December 8, 2015, which has been difficult to enforce due to the lack of meters in the community;
- 6. The County has estimated that the previously approved emergency bottled water funding will be fully exhausted by April 2017;
- The Budget Act of 2016, Senate Bill (SB) 826 (Stats. 2016, Ch. 23), appropriated \$15 million from the CAA for addressing drought-related drinking water emergencies or threatened emergencies;
- 8. On July 19, 2016, the State Water Board adopted <u>Resolution No. 2016-0039</u>, which approved and delegated authority for administering the SB 826 drought-related drinking water emergency funding;
- On August 16, 2016, in <u>Resolution No. 2016-0043</u>, the State Water Board adopted new Emergency Drinking Water Funding Guidelines (Funding Guidelines) for administration of the funds it had approved in Resolution No. 2016-0039;
- 10. The Funding Guidelines include a general \$500,000 limit on emergency funding per project but provide that the State Water Board may make project-specific exceptions;

- 11. The County is requesting an additional \$252,000 in emergency funding to continue providing bottled water to the community of Seville for approximately 24 months or until the first phase of its long-term solution is implemented, whichever occurs sooner;
- 12. Funding previously provided by the CDPH and the State Water Board exceeds the \$500,000 limit on emergency funding per project, and additional funding requested by the County would further exceed the limit;
- 13. In <u>Resolution No. 2016-0010</u>, the State Water Board adopted the human right to clean, affordable, and accessible water adequate for human consumption, cooking, and sanitary purposes (human right to water) as a core value and top priority, and directed its implementation in State Water Board programs; and
- 14. As directed by the State Water Board in Resolution No. 2016-0010, staff has determined that the Project supports the human right to water by providing the community of Seville with access to safe drinking water while the long-term solution is implemented.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

The State Water Board:

- 1. Approves the allocation of up to an additional \$252,000 from the SB 826 droughtrelated drinking water emergency funding for the Project; and
- 2. Authorizes the Division of Financial Assistance Deputy Director to execute and amend funding agreements for the Project.

CERTIFICATION

The undersigned, Clerk to the Board, does hereby certify that the foregoing is a full, true, and correct copy of a resolution duly and regularly adopted at a meeting of the State Water Board held on April 4, 2017.

AYE: Chair Felicia Marcus Vice Chair Steven Moore Board Member Tam M. Doduc Board Member Dorene D'Adamo NAY: None ABSENT: None ABSTAIN: None

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Jeanine Townsend Clerk to the Board