

STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD  
BOARD MEETING – DIVISION OF WATER QUALITY  
JANUARY 4, 2006

**ITEM 3**

**SUBJECT**

CONSIDERATION OF A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING EXECUTION OF CONTRACTS AND AMMENDMENTS TO CONTINUE TO IMPLEMENT THE GROUNDWATER AMBIENT MONITORING ASSESSMENT (GAMA) PROGRAM

**DISCUSSION**

In January 2002, Assembly Bill 599 (AB 599 2 Liu) established the Groundwater Quality Monitoring Act of 2001. AB 599 required that the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board), in coordination with an Interagency Task Force (ITF) and Public Advisory Committee (PAC), integrate existing monitoring programs and design new program elements to establish a statewide comprehensive groundwater quality monitoring program. In response, the State Water Board has developed a plan for implementing a program to comprehensively monitor and assess the quality of all groundwater basins in the State. As required by AB 599, the groundwater quality monitoring program builds on the State Water Board's GAMA Program. The program is detailed in the 2003 AB 599 Report to the Governor and Legislature. The key elements of the program include:

1. Accelerating the GAMA Program established by the State Water Board pursuant to the Budget Act of 1999. The program assesses each groundwater basin through direct and other statistically reliable sampling approaches and enhances the water quality information currently collected from public supply wells through the additional testing of those wells for groundwater age-dating and low-level concentrations of constituents (including volatile organic compounds). This information is then used as the basis for developing consistent hydrogeologic assessments for each basin or basin groups.
2. Conducting the monitoring and assessment program in accordance with the prioritization of basins set forth in the AB 599 Report. A water-use criterion places those basins most heavily used for drinking water in first priority.

The statewide comprehensive groundwater quality monitoring program is estimated to cost \$50 million over a 10-year time frame. Proposition 50 specified up to \$50 million dollars to implement GAMA with allocations beginning in Fiscal Year (FY) 2003-04. In addition, Title 23, Section 2200, California Code of Regulations (waste discharge permit fees (WDPF)) includes an Ambient Water Monitoring Surcharge. The unencumbered funds currently available are as follows:

Proposition 50	The Water Security, Clean Drinking Water, Coastal and Beach Protection Act of 2002 (2002 Bond Law) provides for implementation of the statewide groundwater quality monitoring program.	\$ 837,007 \$10,000,000	FY 04-05 FY 05-06
Title 23, Section 2200, CCR (WDPF)	Includes an Ambient Water Monitoring Surcharge	\$ 1,330,000	FY 05-06
Total		\$12,167,000	

### **POLICY ISSUE**

Should the State Water Board adopt a resolution authorizing the Executive Director to enter into contracts and any amendments thereto, not to exceed \$12,167,007, to continue to implement the GAMA Program?

### **FISCAL IMPACT**

The unencumbered funds currently available from Proposition 50 are \$10,837,007 and from WDPF are \$1,330,000. California Water Boards' staff-work associated with this action can be accomplished within budgeted resources.

### **REGIONAL WATER BOARD IMPACT**

None

### **STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

That the State Water Board adopt a resolution authorizing the Executive Director to enter into contracts and any amendments thereto, not to exceed \$12,167,007, to continue to implement the GAMA Program.

Policy Review \_\_\_\_\_

Fiscal Review \_\_\_\_\_

Legal Review \_\_\_\_\_

**STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD  
RESOLUTION NO. 2006-**

**AUTHORIZING EXECUTION OF CONTRACTS AND AMENDMENTS TO CONTINUE TO  
IMPLEMENT THE GROUNDWATER AMBIENT MONITORING ASSESSMENT (GAMA)  
PROGRAM**

**WHEREAS:**

1. The mission of the State Water Board Resources Control Board (State Water Board) is to preserve and enhance the quality of California's water resources and ensure their proper allocation and efficient use for the benefit of present and future generations;
2. Ambient water quality monitoring provides valuable information to assess the potential impacts of pollutants on the beneficial uses of water;
3. Assembly Bill 599 (2001, Liu) requires the State Water Board to develop a statewide groundwater quality monitoring program that builds on the GAMA Program and design new elements to establish a program capable of assessing each groundwater basin through direct and other statistically reliable sampling approaches;
4. Two fund sources are specified for funding continued implementation of the GAMA Program: Proposition 50 provides \$10,837,007 (\$837,007 FY 2004-05; \$10,000,000 FY 2005-06) and Title 23, Section 2200, California Code of Regulations (waste discharge permit fees (WDPF)) Ambient Water Monitoring Surcharge provides \$1,330,000 (FY 2005-06); and
5. Expenditure authority for this agreement is included in the budget.

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:**

That the State Water Board adopt a resolution authorizing the Executive Director to enter into contracts and any amendments thereto, not to exceed \$12,167,007, to continue to implement the GAMA Program.

**CERTIFICATION**

The undersigned, Acting 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 Resources Control Board held on January 18, 2006.

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Selica Potter  
Acting Clerk to the Board