

**State Water Board
September 18, 2007 Board Meeting
Item 9. Executive Director Report**

Division of Water Quality

26th Biennial Groundwater Conference:

The State Water Board is co-sponsoring the 26th Biennial Groundwater Conference, titled "California's Water Future: Expanding the Role of Groundwater," which started today and runs through tomorrow at the Sacramento Convention Center. The opening joint session of the conference was on the role of groundwater with respect to quantity, quality, and policy perspectives. I addressed the opening session and highlighted the State Water Board's many roles in protecting groundwater. The conference includes two sessions with several presentations reporting on the approach to and results from the State Water Board's Groundwater Ambient Monitoring and Assessment (GAMA) Program.

Groundwater Ambient Monitoring and Assessment (GAMA) Public Advisory Committee (PAC) Meeting:

On Friday, August 24, the GAMA PAC was reconvened at the request of the Association of California Water Agencies. The PAC was required by statute (AB 599) to advise the State Water Board on the development of a comprehensive statewide groundwater monitoring program. The PAC endorsed the State Water Board's March 2003 Report to the Legislature that established the foundation for acceleration of the GAMA Program. Proposition 50 provided \$50 million for implementation of the monitoring and assessment of 116 priority groundwater basins in the state.

The PAC seemed pleased with the priority basin work. However, the PAC was highly critical of the State Water Board's failure to provide public access to data. The PAC will send a letter to Chair Tam M. Doduc expressing their concerns. The PAC has also agreed to meet again on November 2 to better define what their expectations are in terms of interpretation of data. The PAC continues to be co-chaired by David Beckman of NRDC and Bill Mills, former General Manager of Orange County Water District.

Construction Permit Stakeholder Meetings:

As part of the process to reissue the General Construction Storm Water Permit, staff met with stakeholders in a series of meetings to discuss issues raised during the informal workshops held in April. These issues included numeric limits and action levels; advanced treatment; relationship between the storm water pollution prevention plan (SWPPP) and the rain event action plan; and the risk-based approach to permitting. As a result of these meetings, staff anticipates being able to craft permit language to address many of the concerns that have been raised. It is acknowledged that there will be others where there will be disagreement.

ASBS Monitoring Stakeholder's Meeting:

Staff conducted two stakeholder meetings to discuss monitoring in Areas of Special Biological Significance (ASBS). The first was held on July 26 in the Southern California Coastal Water Research Project (SCCWRP) offices and the second was held on August 20 in the City of Monterey. The purpose of these meetings was to solicit stakeholder input on the monitoring that will be conducted in ASBS that will support the general exception for storm water discharges to ASBS that is being proposed by staff. The total attendance for both meetings was approximately 90 people.

Sediment Quality Objectives:

A joint meeting of the Bays and Estuaries Advisory Committees for the sediment quality objectives was held on August 30. The primary purpose of the meeting was to discuss the draft Bays and Estuaries Sediment Quality Plan. Staff will provide its annual update to the State Water Board on Sediment Quality Objectives at today's Board meeting. The draft Plan will be released to the public at this time.

Joint Workshop: Central Valley Irrigated Lands Program:

The State Water Resources Control Board and the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board held a joint public workshop on September 13 in the City of Clovis Council Chambers regarding the Central Valley Water Board's Irrigated Lands Program. This workshop gave interested members of the agricultural community, agencies involved with agriculture, and the public an opportunity to hear an update on the implementation of the Irrigated Lands Program and to provide comments and recommendations.

All-Cleanup Programs Roundtable:

During the week of September 4, over 230 staff representing cleanup programs at all the Water Boards attended the second All-Cleanup Programs Roundtable in San Diego. The theme was "Sharing What Works" and it was designed to share information among Regions and among programs to leverage lessons learned. Over 40 poster sessions were presented by Regional Water Board staff.

Water Recycling Policy:

We have released a proposed state policy for water quality control to provide statewide consistency on the use of recycled water for landscape irrigation and groundwater recharge reuse projects. The proposed policy is available for public comment on the Water Board's web site under the Water Quality link to Water Recycling. A Notice is also available at that web site and provides an opportunity for public comment and announces a workshop on October 2 in Los Angeles, and a planned adoption hearing on December 4. The comment deadline is October 26. Formal notice of the CEQA documents is planned for later in September.

Division of Water Rights

Water Rights Program Planning.

The Deputy Director for Water Rights has convened a group of individuals who are interested in the State Water Board's water rights program to assist the State Water Board in developing a more focused divisional plan for the program. The group includes one engineer and six attorneys identified by the Association of California Water Agencies as participants and representatives of two environmental non-governmental organizations invited by the Deputy Director. The purpose of the group is to supplement the Board's strategic planning by conducting an internal and external situation analysis of issues specific to the Division of Water Rights, including staffing and budget issues; process issues (statutory, regulatory, and internal processes); information management; and current and future external stressors that could affect the program. The kickoff meeting of the group has been scheduled for September 26, 2007. An agenda has been drafted and provided to the parties.

Hearing on Monterey Peninsula Water Management District (MPWMD) petitions to divert additional water from the Carmel River. The State Water Board will hold a hearing September 24-25, 2007, to receive evidence to be considered in determining whether to approve MPWMD's protested petitions. On September 12, 2003, the MPWMD filed petitions to change its water right permits to authorize the diversion of up to 7,300 acre-feet per annum of surplus water from the Carmel River for storage in, and later recovery from, the Seaside Groundwater Basin. This diversion and storage is a key part of MPWMD's proposed Aquifer Storage and Recovery Project (ASR), which will provide California-American Water Company with an alternate means to reduce its current unauthorized diversions from the Carmel River. Environmental organizations and State and federal fisheries agencies have protested these petitions, citing potential impacts to public trust fisheries resources within the Carmel River Basin.

Water Rights Information Database. On September 28, the State Water Board intends to release its new water rights information database. The database consists of two components: a tabular data component and a graphic information component which is linked to the tabular component in real-time, allowing users to view key water rights information on a map. In addition to providing the public important information about water rights, the new system includes a workflow tracking function, which will allow managers to track water right projects, including water right enforcement actions, as they are processed. The system has been designed to be user friendly. The Division of Water Rights and the Division of Information Technology will hold three meetings to introduce the system to public users: September 24 in Sacramento, September 26 in Riverside, and September 28 in Santa Rosa.

Office of Research, Planning and Performance

Training Academy Speaker Series.

The Water Board Training Academy's new Speaker Series, launched this past spring, continues to see its success grow. The most recent event, titled "California Streams

Seminar," held just prior to the July Board meeting in the Byron Sher Auditorium, was a resounding success with 300 plus attendees participating in the auditorium and approximately 100 internet connections, some with multiple viewers. Speakers presented information on the level of science and background needed prior to restoring streams, emphasized the need for a watershed approach, and talked about the importance of prioritization to target areas more effectively.

This seminar was marketed to our own staff, to other state, county and city governments, non-profit organizations and the public. We have received very positive feedback and have had several requests for copies of the Seminar from those who could not attend or attended and wanted it for future reference. The speakers appreciated the opportunity to meet and hear each other's presentations. Overall, the event gave a variety of groups the opportunity to learn a great deal about the study, environmental challenges and potential water quality improvement strategies of California streams.

Climate Updates.

Climate Workshop. On August 23, 2007, the State Water Board held a joint meeting with the Department of Water Resources (DWR) to receive input on actions that the Water Boards and DWR could investigate and implement in response to climate change. The recommendations provided by the panelists at the workshop have been compiled and distributed for review.

Climate Resolution. At its September 18, 2007 Board meeting, the State Water Board will consider adoption of a resolution which will set up a process for the review and analysis of the recommended strategies in partnership with DWR. This process is linked to the process for the identification of potential Climate Change strategies being implemented through the Climate Action Team. The resolution also contains several additional action items.

Climate Action Team Participation. Numerous Water Board staff are participating on six of the eight subgroups of the Climate Action Team (see link for more information: <http://waternet/osi/html/climatechange.html>). Staff are working with these subgroups to ensure cross-agency coordination on potential water related strategies for inclusion in the overall Climate initiative.

The Land Use Subgroup of the Climate Action Team (LUSCAT) is a multi-agency group composed of Energy Commission, Water Board, Air Board, Department of Water Resources, CalTrans, and other agency staff to discuss how agency policies can encourage land use strategies that reduce greenhouse gas emissions, as required by AB 32. Water Board staff has been attending bi-monthly LUSCAT meetings and providing input on funding and regulatory activities relevant to the group's mission. LUSCAT will be holding a public forum on Tuesday, September 24, from 9:00 a.m. to noon, at the California Energy Commission Headquarters Building at 1516 9th Street.

Division of Administrative Services (DAS)

Budget FY 07-08

The State Budget has been passed and includes \$838 million plus 1,584 PYs for the State and Regional Water Boards with. Our funding comes from:

- General Fund \$39 million (5%)
- WDPF \$69 million (8%)
- Federal Funds \$129 million (15%)
- USTCF 279 million (33%)
- Bonds \$250 million (30%)
- Other \$72 million (WRF, CA&A, Reimbursements) (9%)

The major changes from last year's budget include:

- Continuance of \$1.3 million in GF to support the NPDES Program.
- Spending authority for the \$7.5 million in the Above Ground Storage Tank Program Fund.

Workforce Plan Analysis Report

In April, 2006, the Water Board contracted with CPS Human Resource Services, (cost \$88 thousand, paid with salary savings from high vacancy rate) a quasi-governmental agency that provides consulting services to the public sector, to prepare a workforce analysis report with recommendations. CPS provides human resource consultant services for all levels of government, including school districts, colleges and universities, and nonprofit organizations throughout the United States and Canada.

An internal 13-member Task Force was assembled to assist in accomplishing this workforce analysis. The members included:

- **Region 1** Susan Warner, Bob Klamt
- **Region 2** Bill Johnson
- **Region 3** Burton Chadwick
- **Region 4** Deborah Smith
- **Region 5** Ken Landau
- **Region 6** Robert Dodds
- **Region 7** Jose Angel
- **Region 8** Kurt Berchtold
- **Region 9** David Barker

State Board Adrian Perez
Kathy Mrowka
Alan Patton
Ken Harris

A total of 335 Water Board employees participated in either small group discussions or one-on-one interviews – 262 from the nine Regional Boards and 73 at the State Board. The 335 employees represented a total of 28 employee classifications.

Conclusion and Recommendations:

The Water Boards are experiencing a workforce challenge similar to what private sector professional service organizations experienced in the 1980s, when the professionals within these organizations increasingly saw their professional expertise being eroded by administrative work, building clientele, and litigation. Additionally, the Water Boards have an increasing number of retirements, 36% of the Water Boards' workforce is eligible to retire, and an increasing shortage of engineers and scientists will compound this challenge.

The recommendations address a wide range of employee issues, including drawing clearer distinctions between administrative and technical work, having a consistent Mission Statement statewide, balancing work priorities with the resources that are available for conducting work, and the need for succession planning for senior and supervisory positions. Executive staff plan to discuss the report and its recommendations with the MCC, and plans to prepare an implementation plan later this year.

Division of Financial Assistance (DFA)

Site Inspections of State Revolving Fund (SRF) Loan Projects

On June 25, engineering staff conducted a construction site visit and attended a project status update meeting with the City of La Mesa. The purpose of the trip was to assess the City's progress on the construction of phases I – IV of its Sewer System Improvement SRF project. Based on the discussions with City staff, the Project will be segmented into four construction projects with four separate SRF loan agreements.

On July 18, DFA's environmental scientist staff, including the Project Manager and Cultural Resources Officer, met with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Archaeologist, Project Archaeologist, St. Helena City Manager, and City Project Manager to discuss strategies for continued cultural resource excavations for the St. Helena Flood Control SRF project, which was approved for funding at the July 17th State Water Board meeting. The project will result in almost complete elimination of a large archaeological site that may span a 5,000-year period of occupation and contains human remains. Data recovery excavations are being conducted as mitigation for unavoidable impacts to this archaeological site. Additional discussion focused on potential public outreach and educational and volunteer opportunities for the public to gain appreciation of local history.

Clean Beaches Initiative (CBI) Program Preliminary Funding Commitments (PFCs) and Other Updates. The DFA Deputy Director approved the following Proposition 50 PFCs in June and July:

- City of Seaside for the Bay Street Outfall Dry Weather Diversion Project in the amount of \$565,000 on July 18, 2007.
- Heal the Ocean for the Shallow Ocean Wastewater Outfall Source Tracking Research Project in the amount of \$333,435 on July 16, 2007.
- City of Imperial Beach for the Palm Ave. Diversion Project in the amount of \$1,292,000 on June 8, 2007.

The following Preliminary Grant Commitments were approved from August 3 through September 13, 2007, by the Deputy Director of DFA:

- DFA-2007-025- City of Laguna Beach- Heisler Park Restoration Project- \$1,000,000- Approved on 8/14/2007
- DFA-2007-028- City of Fort Bragg- Pudding Creek Sewer Force Main Relocation Project- \$1,509,353- Approved on 8/22/2007
- DFA-2007-023- City of Oceanside, Source Identification Project, \$471,375- Approved on 9/11/2007.

On August 27-28, CBI staff assisted in the filming of an informational video, prepared under the direction of our Office of Public Affairs, documenting the successes of the Water Boards' Clean Beaches Initiative Program in improving water quality at our public beaches.

CBI staff visited the City of Avalon on August 30 to observe and participate in an epidemiology and rapid indicator study that the Southern CA Coastal Water Research Project (SCCWRP) is conducting there.

Water Recycling Fund Program (WRFP) Updates

The DFA Deputy Director approved the following Proposition 13 preliminary grant commitments in June (no July approvals):

- The City of Redwood City for the Redwood City Recycled Water Project Bid Packages No. 5 through 9 in the amount of \$2,932,500 on June 12, 2007. The proposed project will deliver approximately 352 acre-feet per year of recycled water to customers within the City.
- East Bay Municipal Utility District for the Rodeo Recycled Water Project Planning Study in the amount of \$75,000 on June 13, 2007.

Other Division Approvals

The following Preliminary Grant Commitments were Approved from August 3 through September 13, 2007, by the Deputy Director of DFA:

State Revolving Fund (SRF)

- DFA-2007-026- City of Redding- Clear Creek WWTP Rehabilitation and Expansion Bid Package Two and Three Project- \$22,600,000 - Approved 8-24-2007

- DFA-2007-033- County of Ventura- El Rio Sewer System Project, Phase 5- \$21,000,000 - Approved 9-5-2007
- DFA-2007-034- Tahoe City Public Utilities District- Grove Street Pump Station Relocation Project- \$2, 621, 654 - Approved 9-5-2007

Project Meetings with Applicants

On September 11, engineering staff met with the City of Lakeport to discuss the City's Recycled Water Planning Grant application and Plan of Study, and to tour the City's wastewater treatment plant facilities.

On September 7, engineering staff met with the Otay Water District to conduct a Construction Completion Inspection of the District's Recycled Water 30-inch transmission main, 12 million gallon reservoir and pump station, and to discuss final disbursement procedures and reporting requirements. No major discrepancies were found during the inspection.

On August 21, engineering staff conducted a Final Project Inspection and attended a Project status update meeting with the Orange County Water District. The purpose of the trip was to assess the District's progress on the construction of phases I–VI of its Groundwater Replenishment System SRF Project. No discrepancies were found during the inspection.

A kick-off meeting was held with the Linda County Water District on August 29. Environmental scientist and engineering staff met with representatives of the District to discuss their Project and the SRF process. The Project would involve upgrading treatment and expanding the District's Wastewater Treatment Plant to meet Water Board requirements.

A kick-off meeting was held with the City of Palo Alto on August 30. Environmental scientist and engineering staff met with representatives of the City to discuss their Project and the SRF process. The Project would involve upgrading the current chlorine disinfection system to a UV process and to meet Water Board requirements.

A Project status meeting was held with the Delta Diablo Sanitation District on August 14. Engineering staff met with representatives of the District to discuss their Project and the WRF and IRWM process. The Project would involve expanding its current recycled water distribution system. The District also intends to submit a new application requesting funding for a Recycled Water Planning Study Grant. The new Study would investigate new industrial recycled water users within the District's jurisdiction.

On August 8, engineering staff met with the City of Redwood City to discuss disbursement procedures and reporting requirements for the Redwood City Recycled Water Project (Bid Packages 5-9).

On August 1, engineering staff met with the City of San Diego to conduct a Final Project Inspection of the City's South Bay Water Reclamation Pipeline. The Project will deliver recycled water to the International Boundary and Water Commission (IBWC) plant for irrigation and non-potable industrial use, and for irrigation of CalTrans sites and a sod farm. No major discrepancies were found during the Inspection.

CALFED - Water Quality Performance Measures Subgroup

On August 14, staff of the State Water Board DFA, DWQ, and ORPP met with staff from the Central Valley Regional Water Board, the CALFED Drinking Water Program, and the USEPA to discuss further efforts of the CALFED Water Quality Performance Measures subgroup. The Phase 1 Report has received minimal comment at this point and will be presented to the Bay-Delta Public Advisory Group this fall. The Drinking Water Program will formalize a work plan for the Phase 2 report for its components; the rest of the subgroup will handle the other water quality counterparts (ecosystem, toxics and mercury) by following the Drinking Water example when drafting those work plans.

Project Meetings with Applicants

On June 15 engineering staff participated in a telephone conference call with Lake Arrowhead Community Services District regarding the status of the District's funding application for SRF loan and WRFP grant funds. The application includes both water pollution control and water recycling components. To facilitate review and approval of the funding application, WRFP staff will review and approve each component separately. Another conference call was held on June 29 to discuss DFA comments on the water recycling project component. If the District adequately addresses DFA comments, we anticipate issuing a facilities plan approval and preliminary funding commitment for the water recycling component by the end of August.

Engineering and environmental scientist staff met with the Lake County Sanitation District on July 11 to discuss funding options available to the District for its Kelseyville Wastewater Treatment Plant upgrade and effluent pipeline replacement. The District submitted an application for SCG, SRF and WRF program funds. Based on the information provided to date and during the meeting, the proposed project would construct facilities to serve a water pollution control purpose. Engineering staff informed the District that the project could be eligible for WRFP funds only if the project also served a water supply purpose. WRFP staff will make a final eligibility determination on the funds in the next few weeks. Meanwhile, the District's Wastewater Treatment System Upgrade Project has been cleared for compliance with the federal Endangered Species Act and is awaiting resolution on cultural resource studies needed because of the realignment of the originally proposed pipeline. On August 8 DFA's Cultural Resources Officer conducted a project site visit. She met with the City's project manager and cultural resources consultants to observe presence/absence of archaeological site testing being conducted and to discuss additional work that may be necessary to complete the studies.

On July 17, engineering and environmental scientist staff met with the City of Merced to discuss the revised project description and schedule, as well as clearance for cultural

resources. For this project, USEPA has requested formal consultation with US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) for potential project impacts to biological resources covered under the federal Endangered Species Act. USEPA is following up with USFWS as to the status of the Biological Opinion. A subsequent meeting was held August 14 with the City to focus on cultural resources. DFA's Cultural Resources Officer met with the City's environmental consultant and project engineer to discuss required cultural resources documentation. The environmental consultant subsequently changed firms and the City is uncertain as to what is needed. Another meeting with City's new consultant may be needed.

A teleconference meeting was held on July 25 between environmental scientist staff and the City of Laguna Beach on the City's Heisler Park CBI-funded project. Clarification was needed on potential biological resource impacts before Water Board CEQA findings could be made. Subsequently, all information was received and the project was cleared August 1. Another phase of the project will be receiving funding from the Integrated Regional Water Management grant program and is under review.

On July 26 environmental scientist and engineering staff met with representatives of the Maxwell Public Utilities District to discuss the SRF and SCG funding processes. Environmental staff provided guidance on the environmental review process and compliance with CEQA and CEQA-Plus federal requirements.

On July 29 engineering staff met with City of San Buenaventura and consultants to discuss the City's draft water recycling feasibility study report. The City's draft report determines the feasibility of providing recycled water from Ojai Valley Sanitary District's wastewater treatment facility to a major industrial user, Aera Energy LLC, and other potential users.

A kick-off meeting was held with the City of Hughson on August 21. Environmental scientist, engineering and administrative staff met with representatives of the City to discuss their project and the SRF process. The project will involve upgrading treatment and expanding the City's Wastewater Treatment Plant to meet Water Board requirements.

On September 11 engineering staff met with the City of Lakeport discuss the City's Recycled Water Planning Grant application and Plan of Study, and to tour the City's wastewater treatment plant facilities.

On September 7 engineering staff met with the Otay Water District to conduct a Construction Completion Inspection of the District's Recycled Water 30-inch transmission main, 12 million gallon reservoir and pump station, and to discuss final disbursement procedures and reporting requirements. No major discrepancies were found during the inspection.

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On August 8 engineering staff met with the City of Redwood City to discuss disbursement procedures and reporting requirements for the Redwood City Recycled Water Project (Bid Packages 5-9).

On August 1 engineering staff met with the City of San Diego to conduct a Final Project Inspection of the City's South Bay Water Reclamation Pipeline. The Project will deliver recycled water to the International Boundary and Water Commission (IBWC) plant for irrigation and non-potable industrial use, and for irrigation of Cal Trans sites and a sod farm. No major discrepancies were found during the Inspection.

Regional Water Board Meetings on Consolidated Grant Projects

Environmental scientist staff met with the Colorado River Basin Regional Water Board staff in a teleconference on July 24 to discuss environmental clearance for a grant given to the Imperial County Farm Bureau. The Regional Water Board staff provided plot maps and a list of standard erosion control practices to help facilitate the review process in developing State Water Board CEQA findings.

Watershed Management Initiative (WMI) Work Group Meeting

The WMI Coordinators from the Regions and State Water Board conducted their monthly internal work group meeting on July 25. The Coordinators shared experiences and ideas in being involved in the Integrated Regional Water Management Program at the local level and in the Department of Water Resources' Water Plan Update workshops. In addition, the WMI Charter for the Water Boards has been updated and

will be presented to the AEOs as an information item. No WMI meeting was held in August.

Staff Training

On July 20, DFA environmental scientists developed internal guidance and conducted environmental review training for the Project Managers in the Clean Beaches Unit. The Clean Beaches Unit will now complete the environmental reviews and State Water Board findings for the Clean Beaches grant projects they manage in order to comply with requirements under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). Due to increased CEQA reviews from the 2005/06 Consolidated Grants Program, DFA has spread out some of the CEQA workload (specifically CBI) to facilitate processing.

Small Community Wastewater Grant Program (SCWG)

Colusa:

On September 7, 2007, the Division of Financial Assistance approved a Small Community Wastewater Grant Program Preliminary Funding Commitment (No. DFA-2007-032) for \$2,000,000, and a State Revolving Fund Loan Preliminary Funding Commitment for \$15,500,000, to the City of Colusa (City) for design and construction of their Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) Upgrade and Expansion Project (Project). The City is located in Colusa County, approximately 60 miles northwest of Sacramento. The City owns and operates the wastewater collection, treatment, and disposal systems which currently serve approximately 5,670 residents. Currently, secondary treated effluent from the WWTP is discharged to an unnamed tributary to Powell Slough, a tributary to the Colusa Basin Drain. The proposed Project consists of upgrading the WWTP to comply with tertiary treatment requirements and associated effluent limitations to comply with Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board Cease and Desist Order No. R5-2002-0021 and Time Schedule Order No. R5-2007-0074.

San Joaquin:

On September 5, 2007, the Division of Financial Assistance approved a Small Community Wastewater Grant (SCWG) Program Preliminary Funding Commitment (No. DFA-2007-031) for \$1,949,136 to the City of San Joaquin (City) for design and construction of their Treatment Plant Expansion Project (Project). The City of San Joaquin is a small-unincorporated community, located in Fresno County, approximately 30 miles southwest of the City of Fresno, California. The City serves approximately 3,570 people. The proposed Project consists of: 1) construction of a new extended aeration biological treatment process to replace the existing mechanical surface aerated pond system; 2) conversion of an existing aeration basin and two sedimentation ponds into evaporation/percolation ponds; and 3) construction of a new lift station and force main parallel. The proposed Project is necessary to comply with Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board Waste Discharge Requirements (WDR) Order 2002-0103 and Cease and Desist Order (CDO) R5-2002-0104. The proposed Project will increase the treatment plant capacity from 0.252 million gallons per day (MGD) to 0.5 MGD.

Tulelake:

On August 29, 2007, the Division of Financial Assistance approved a Small Community Wastewater Grant Program Preliminary Funding Commitment (No. DFA-2007-030) for \$89,413 to the City of Tulelake (City) for planning to evaluate viable alternatives for the Tulelake Wastewater Project (Project). Tulelake, which encompasses a total of approximately 0.4 square miles, is located approximately 150 miles northeast of Redding near the California-Oregon Border in eastern Siskiyou County. Effluent from the wastewater treatment facility (WWTF) is discharged to a tributary to the Tulelake-Lower Klamath Lake reach of the Lost River Basin. Since the WWTF began operating in 1977, several significant treatment component failures have occurred, and chronic effluent limit violations have been documented. The planning grant will be used to develop an alternative to upgrade the City's WWTF to ensure consistent compliance with effluent limitations and to comply with North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board Cease and Desist Order No. R1-2004-0074.

Sheridan:

On August 22, 2007, the Division of Financial Assistance approved a Small Community Wastewater Grant Program Preliminary Funding Commitment (No. DFA-2007-029) for \$62,429 to the County of Placer Special District of Sheridan (District) for preliminary engineering and facilities planning to evaluate viable alternatives for the Sheridan Wastewater Treatment Facility (WWTF) Project (Project). Sheridan is a small-unincorporated community, located approximately 20 miles northwest of Auburn, in western Placer County. The District's pond system is not designed to nitrify and/or denitrify, and as a result, discharges to Yankee Slough contain ammonia, nitrate, and nitrate plus nitrite concentrations that exceed the effluent limitations. The planning grant will be used to develop an alternative to upgrade the WWTF to meet the effluent limitations and comply with Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board Cease and Desist Order No. R5-2002-0209.

Ventura:

On August 2, 2007, the Division of Financial Assistance approved a Small Community Wastewater Grant Program Preliminary Funding Commitment (No. DFA-2007-008) for \$1,855,242, and a State Revolving Fund Loan Preliminary Funding Commitment for \$7,400,000, to the Ventura County Waterworks District No. 16 (District) for design and construction of their Piru Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) Upgrade and Expansion Project (Project). The District is located in northern part of Ventura County, next to the Town of Piru, and approximately 12 miles west of the Town of Santa Clarita, California. The District owns and operates the wastewater collection, treatment, and disposal systems which currently serve approximately 2,200 residents. The current facility was expanded in 2003 to meet the design capacity of 0.26 million gallons per day (MGD), but is unable to comply with the final effluent limits defined by Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board in Waste Discharge Requirements (WDR) Order No. R4-2004-0032. The proposed Project consists of upgrading the WWTP to comply with WDR effluent limitations and provide additional needed capacity.

Tomales Village:

On August 14, 2007, the Division of Financial Assistance approved a Small Community Wastewater Grant Program Preliminary Funding Commitment (No. DFA-2007-024) for \$437,890, and a State Revolving Fund (SRF) Loan Preliminary Funding Commitment for \$102,000, to the Tomales Village Community Service District (District) for completion of the District's Wastewater Treatment Facilities Improvement Project (Project). The District is located in Marin County, approximately 30 miles north of San Francisco, near Tomales Bay. The District will complete Phase 2, treatment pond improvements and liner replacement, of the Project with the grant and loan funds. This project is needed to reduce inflow and infiltration and to upgrade the treatment facilities to meet San Francisco Bay Regional Water Board Waste Discharge Requirements outlined in Order No. 86-86 and to complete the improvements recommended by the Marin County Environmental Health Department.

2008 Nonpoint Source Conference

The Fourth Biennial Nonpoint Source Conference will be held May 5-7, 2008, at the Mission Valley Marriott Hotel in San Diego. The theme for this year's conference is *"Integrated Watershed Management: Reducing Nonpoint Source Pollution."* The conference is jointly sponsored by the Water Boards, California Coastal Commission, and U.S. EPA. For more information about the conference, please visit <http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/nps/conference2008.html> .