

**STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD
BOARD MEETING SESSION – DIVISION OF FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE
MARCH 17, 2009**

ITEM 8

SUBJECT

CONSIDERATION OF A RESOLUTION TO ALLOCATE \$1.2 MILLION FROM THE CLEANUP AND ABATEMENT ACCOUNT (CAA) TO THE CENTRAL VALLEY REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD (CENTRAL VALLEY WATER BOARD) IN SUPPORT OF THE DEVELOPMENT OF A SALINITY AND NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR THE CENTRAL VALLEY

DISCUSSION

The Central Valley Water Board requests funding of \$1.2 million to conduct the first of three phases of work in support of the development of a salinity and nutrient management plan (Management Plan) for the Central Valley. [A draft work plan for this work is attached.](#)

Salinity is likely the largest long-term chronic water quality impairment to surface and groundwater in the Central Valley. Salinity and nitrate from past and current sources impair beneficial uses of waters throughout the basin and result in pollution of drinking water sources for some communities in the Central Valley. While there are salinity regulatory controls in place, a much more comprehensive approach is needed, including development of Basin Plan amendments and involvement of the many stakeholders that use Central Valley waters.

The proposed Management Plan will be incorporated into and implemented through the Water Quality Control Plans for the Delta and the Central Valley. The proposed Management Plan will result in amendments to the Sacramento River and San Joaquin River Basin Plan, the Tulare Lake Basin Plan and the Water Quality Control Plan for the San Francisco Bay/Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Estuary. The three following projects have been identified as critical components for the successful completion of the Management Plan. Each project would require approximately one year for completion.

1. **The Salinity and Nitrate Objective and Beneficial Use Study Project. The total estimated cost of this project is \$2 million - \$3 million. The amount requested from the CAA is \$1.2 million.** The Salinity and Nitrate Objective and Beneficial Use Study will establish a model using existing, reliable, and usable data from areas and water bodies within the Central Valley. This model can then be used to establish beneficial uses and objectives for areas where little or no data exist.
2. **The Collaborative Surface and Groundwater Data Collection/Analysis Project. The total estimated cost of this project is \$3 million - \$5 million. The amount requested from the CAA fund is \$2 million.** The Groundwater Data Collection/Analysis Project will address those areas or basins within the Central Valley where uses and objectives cannot be established using a standardized model. This will ensure all waters within the Central Valley are being addressed through the Management Plan.

3. **The Implementation Planning and Analysis Project. The total estimated cost of this project is \$3 million - \$5 million. The amount requested from the CAA fund is \$1.8 million.** The Implementation Planning and Analysis Project will use the objectives established through the first two projects to establish the limits or restrictions necessary to ensure the objectives are met. Once the appropriate limits and restrictions are determined, an implementation plan will be established that outlines what must be done to meet the limits.

Additional funding to complete the projects is to be provided by outside stakeholders. CAA funding for the second and third projects would be contingent upon the Central Valley Water Board demonstrating sufficient progress in implementing the project and with developing outside stakeholder support and funding.

POLICY ISSUE

Should the State Water Resource Control Board (State Water Board):

1. Approve funding of \$1.2 million from the CAA to the Central Valley Water Board to conduct the first phase of work in support of the development of a salinity and nutrient management plan?
2. Require that the Central Valley Water Board report progress on this effort to the State Water Board? The report would cover progress in implementing the project and in developing outside stakeholder support and funding.
3. Require that the Central Valley Water Board submit requests to the State Water Board for funding subsequent phases of the Project? The additional funding requests will consist of \$2 million in support of the second phase and \$1.8 million in support of the third phase of work, provided that funding is available from the account, and the Central Valley Water Board has demonstrated sufficient progress in implementing the project and developing outside stakeholder support and funding.

FISCAL IMPACT

As of February 1, 2009, the uncommitted CAA balance is estimated to be no less than \$4 million dollars according to the most current data.

REGIONAL WATER BOARD IMPACT

Yes, the Central Valley Water Board.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

That the State Water Board:

1. Approves funding of \$1.2 million from the CAA to the Central Valley Water Board to conduct the first phase of work in support of the development of a salinity and nutrient management plan;
2. Requires that the Central Valley Water Board report progress on this effort to the State Water Board. The report shall cover progress in implementing the project and in developing outside stakeholder support and funding; and

3. Requires that the Central Valley Water Board submit requests to the State Water Board for funding subsequent phases of the Project. The additional funding requests will consist of \$2 million in support of the second phase and \$1.8 million in support of the third phase of work, provided that funding is available from the account, and the Central Valley Water Board has demonstrated sufficient progress in implementing the project and developing outside stakeholder support and funding.

State Water Board action on this item will assist the Water Boards in reaching Goal 1 of the Strategic Plan Update: 2008-2012, to fully support the beneficial uses for all 2006-listed water bodies by 2003. In particular, approval of this item will assist in fulfilling Objective 1.3 to take appropriate enforcement actions and innovative approaches as needed to protect and restore all surface waters.

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STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD RESOLUTION NO. 2009-

ALLOCATE \$ 1.2 MILLION FROM THE CLEANUP AND ABATEMENT ACCOUNT (CAA) TO THE CENTRAL VALLEY REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD (CENTRAL VALLEY WATER BOARD) IN SUPPORT OF THE DEVELOPMENT OF A SALINITY AND NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR THE CENTRAL VALLEY

WHEREAS:

1. The Central Valley Water Board requests funding of \$1.2 million to conduct the first of three phases of work in support of the development of a salinity and nutrient management plan [\(Management Plan\)](#) for the Central Valley;
2. Salinity is likely the largest long-term chronic water quality impairment to surface and groundwater in the Central Valley. Salinity and nitrate from past and current sources impair beneficial uses of waters throughout the basin and has resulted in pollution of drinking water sources for some communities in the Central Valley. While there are salinity regulatory controls in place, a much more comprehensive approach is needed, including development of Basin Plan amendments and involvement of the many stakeholders that use Central Valley waters;
3. The Management Plan will be incorporated into and implemented through the Water Quality Control Plans for the Delta and the Central Valley and will result in amendments to the Sacramento River and San Joaquin River Basin Plan, the Tulare Lake Basin Plan and the Water Quality Control Plan for the San Francisco Bay/Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Estuary. The three following projects have been identified as critical components for the successful completion of the Management Plan. Each project would require approximately one year for completion;
 - **The Salinity and Nitrate Objective and Beneficial Use Study Project. The total estimated cost of this project is \$2 million - \$3 million. The amount requested from the CAA is \$1.2 million.** The Salinity and Nitrate Objective and Beneficial Use Study will establish a model using existing, reliable, and usable data from areas and water bodies within the Central Valley. This model can then be used to establish beneficial uses and objectives for areas where little or no data exist.
 - **The Collaborative Surface and Groundwater Data Collection/Analysis Project. The total estimated cost of this project is \$3 million - \$5 million. The amount requested from the CAA fund is \$2 million.** The Groundwater Data Collection/Analysis Project will address those areas or basins within the Central Valley where uses and objectives cannot be established using a standardized model. This will ensure all waters within the Central Valley are being addressed through the Management Plan.

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- **The Implementation Planning and Analysis Project. The total estimated cost of this project is \$3 million - \$5 million. The amount requested from the CAA fund is \$1.8 million.** The Implementation Planning and Analysis Project will use the objectives established through the first two projects to establish the limits or restrictions necessary to ensure the objectives are met. Once the appropriate limits and restrictions are determined, an implementation plan will be established that outlines what must be done to meet the limits.
4. Additional funding to complete the projects is to be provided by outside stakeholders. CAA funding for the second and third projects would be contingent upon the Central Valley Water Board annually demonstrating sufficient progress in implementing the project and developing outside stakeholder support and funding.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

The State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board):

1. Approves funding of \$1.2 million from the CAA to the Central Valley Water Board to conduct the first phase of work in support of the development of a salinity and nutrient management plan;
2. Requires that the Central Valley Water Board report progress on this effort to the State Water Board? The report would cover progress in implementing the project and in developing outside stakeholder support and funding;
3. Requires that the Central Valley Water Board submit requests to the State Water Board for funding subsequent phases of the Project. The additional funding requests will consist of \$2 million in support of the second phase and \$1.8 million in support of the third phase of work, provided that funding is available from the account, and the Central Valley Water Board has demonstrated sufficient progress in implementing the project and developing outside stakeholder support and funding; and
4. The funds approved today will be available until January 31, 2012. Any unexpended funds, as of January 31, 2012, shall revert to CAA, unless the Deputy Director or Assistant Deputy Director of the Division of Financial Assistance authorizes an extension.

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 March 17, 2009.

Jeanine Townsend
Clerk to the Board