

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

ITEM 3

SUBJECT

CONSIDERATION OF A RESOLUTION TO ALLOCATE \$849,103 FROM THE CLEANUP AND ABATEMENT ACCOUNT (CAA) TO THE SAN FRANCISCO BAY REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD (SAN FRANCISCO BAY WATER BOARD) IN THE SUPPORT OF THE ARAMBURU ISLAND RESTORATION PROJECT (PROJECT)

DISCUSSION

The San Francisco Bay Water Board requests one-time funding of \$849,103 to address sediment discharges from Aramburu Island. The discharges degrade water quality in Richardson Bay, impact estuarine habitat, and compromise the quality of critical eelgrass beds and surrounding benthic habitats. Aramburu Island, part of the Richardson Bay Audubon Sanctuary, is a highly desirable target for restoration in the heavily urbanized Richardson Bay area as it is relatively isolated from the surrounding human disturbances and terrestrial predators.

The primary goals of the Project are to:

- Rehabilitate existing tidal marsh, tidal flat, shoreline, and grassland habitats and establish gradual transition zones that support diverse native vegetation types and optimum wildlife habitats.
- Expand existing sand and gravel spit shorebird roosting habitats and reduce wave erosion and shoreline retreat.
- Maintain topographic heterogeneity on the island.
- Establish additional roost habitat for herons and egrets.

The requested allocation is consistent with the purposes of Water Code Section 13442. Section 13442 provides that the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) may order moneys to be paid from the CAA to a public agency with authority to cleanup or abate the effects of a waste “to assist it in cleaning up the waste or abating its effects on the waters of the state.”

POLICY ISSUE

Should the State Water Board:

1. Approve funding \$849,103 from the CAA to the San Francisco Bay Water Board for the Project?

FISCAL IMPACT

As of September 3, 2009, the uncommitted CAA balance is estimated to be no less than \$7 million according to the most current data.

REGIONAL BOARD IMPACT

Yes, the San Francisco Bay Water Board.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

That the State Water Board:

1. Approve funding \$849,103 from the CAA to the San Francisco Bay Water Board for the Project.

State Water Board action on this item will assist the Water Boards in reaching Goal 1 of the Strategic Plan Update: 2008-2012 to implement strategies to fully support the beneficial uses for all 2006-listed water bodies by 2030.

DRAFT

STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD RESOLUTION NO. 2009-

ALLOCATE \$849,103 FROM THE CLEANUP AND ABATEMENT ACCOUNT (CAA) TO THE SAN FRANCISCO BAY REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD (SAN FRANCISCO BAY WATER BOARD) IN THE SUPPORT OF THE ARAMBURU ISLAND RESTORATION PROJECT (PROJECT)

WHEREAS:

1. The San Francisco Bay Water Board requests a one-time funding of \$849,103 for the Project;
2. This proposal requests \$849,103 from the CAA for addressing sediment discharges from Aramburu Island. The discharges degrade water quality in Richardson Bay, impact estuarine habitat, and compromise the quality of critical eelgrass beds and surrounding benthic habitats. Aramburu Island, part of the Richardson Bay Audubon Sanctuary, is a highly desirable target for restoration in the heavily urbanized Richardson Bay area as it is relatively isolated from the surrounding human disturbances and terrestrial predators.

The primary goals of the Project are to:

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 - Establish additional roost habitat for herons and egrets; and
3. The requested allocation is consistent with the purposes of Water Code Section 13442. Section 13442 provides that the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) may order moneys to be paid from the CAA to a public agency with authority to cleanup or abate the effects of a waste "to assist it in cleaning up the waste or abating its effects on the waters of the state."

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

The State Water Board:

1. Approves funding \$849,103 from the CAA to the San Francisco Bay Water Board for the Project; and

D R A F T

2. The funds will be available until June 30, 2012. Any unexpended funds as of June 20, 2012 shall revert to the 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 November 17, 2009.

Jeanine Townsend
Clerk to the Board