

**STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD
BOARD MEETING SESSION –DIVISION OF WATER QUALITY
APRIL 19, 2011**

ITEM 12

SUBJECT

INFORMATIONAL ITEM: EFFECTIVENESS ASSESSMENT DOCUMENT FOR PHASE I MUNICIPAL SEPARATE STORM SEWER SYSTEMS.

DISCUSSION

AB 739 (Chapter 610 of the Statutes of 2007) added Section 13383.7 to the California Water Code. This new section required the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) to develop a framework for conducting effectiveness assessment evaluations of municipal storm water programs. The legislation specified that the effectiveness assessments should address: (1) Compliance with stormwater permitting requirements; (2) Reduction of pollutant loads from pollution sources; (3) Reduction of pollutants or stream erosion due to stormwater discharge; and (4) Improvements in the quality of receiving water in accordance with water quality standards. Pursuant to Section 13383.7, the State Water Board appointed a Storm Water Advisory Task Force to provide input and guidance on this document.

One of the challenges associated with municipal storm water program oversight and implementation has been determining whether or not the program elements being implemented are having an effect on water quality. Due to the episodic nature of storm water flows and the diffuse sources of the pollutants, it may take a long time to see changes in a city's landscape, infrastructure, knowledge base of the citizens and changes in practices and behavior before water quality improvement can be measured. However, efforts should be taken now to begin the process of linking water quality with the programs that are being implemented.

A draft version of the Effectiveness Assessment document was circulated for public comment, and staff conducted workshops on November 4, 2010 in Sacramento and November 9, 2010 in Rancho Cucamonga. Comments received have been incorporated into the document as appropriate.

This document is to be used by the Regional Water Boards and the State Water Board when conducting Effectiveness Assessments of municipal storm water program implementation. It is anticipated that, over time, this document will be reviewed and updated as the Water Boards gain more knowledge about effectiveness assessments of municipal storm water program implementation.

The effectiveness assessment guidance document that is being presented today as an information item may be found at:
http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/stormwater/municipal.shtml

POLICY ISSUE

This is an Informational Item only.

FISCAL IMPACT

None (Informational Item only).

REGIONAL BOARD IMPACT

None (Informational Item only).

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

None (Informational Item only).

State Water Board action on this item will assist the Water Boards in reaching Goal 6 of the Strategic Plan Update: "Enhance consistency across the Water Boards, on an ongoing basis, to ensure our processes are effective, efficient, and predictable, and to promote fair and equitable application of laws, regulations, policies and procedures."