

STATE OF CALIFORNIA  
REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD  
SAN FRANCISCO BAY REGION

STAFF SUMMARY REPORT (Dyan Whyte)  
MEETING DATE: August 9, 2006

ITEM: 5 A

SUBJECT: **Resolution Requesting the State Water Board Join with Bay Area Clean Water Agencies in Establishing a Joint Powers Authority for the Purpose of Providing Scientific Support to State and Regional Agencies and Municipalities**

DISCUSSION: Water Board staff propose a new joint powers authority, the San Francisco Estuary Authority, to be created via a joint powers agreement between the State Water Board and the Bay Area Clean Water Agencies (BACWA). The purpose of this entity would be the promotion and delivery of scientific and technical support functions and information management for governmental and non-governmental organizations with roles in water quality protection, policy development, and assessment. The San Francisco Estuary Authority would be administered by the San Francisco Estuary Institute (SFEI). The role that SFEI would play is similar to the work it now does in managing the San Francisco Bay Regional Monitoring Program (RMP) and providing scientific support for implementation of the San Francisco Estuary Project's Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan.

The tentative resolution (Appendix A) requests that the State Water Board, as the Regional Water Boards' contracting power, join with BACWA in establishing a joint powers authority (JPA) that would be the San Francisco Estuary Authority. California Government Code relating to the joint exercise of powers common to public agencies allows two or more public entities to create such a JPA that would allow the signatories to more efficiently deliver services that meet the needs of the people they serve.

With SFEI administering the San Francisco Estuary Authority, the Water Board would be able to more efficiently use our TMDL and monitoring and assessment contract resources and strengthen the integration of regional monitoring information generated through a variety of efforts. As we embark on implementing TMDLs, the San Francisco Estuary Authority could serve as a forum and mechanism to refine and use adaptive management principles in water quality protection and restoration by tightly connecting science to decision-making processes. But the benefits of establishing such an authority go beyond those to be gained by the signatories. The San Francisco Estuary Authority would provide an efficient way for Regional Water Boards to combine resources and collaborate on projects with other State or local entities. In addition, creation of the San Francisco Estuary Authority would resolve a long-standing problem for dischargers who have had consistent difficulties contributing funds to the RMP.

RECOMMEN-      Adopt the Tentative Resolution  
DATION

APPENDIX A:      Tentative Resolution