

**California Regional Water Quality Control Board
Santa Ana Region**

July 20, 2001

ITEM: 17

SUBJECT: FFY 2002 Clean Water Act 319(h) Nonpoint Source Grant and 205(j) Water Quality Planning Grant Proposals

Each year, the USEPA makes Federal grant funds available to California under Section 319(h) of the Clean Water Act to address nonpoint source water quality problems, and under Section 205(j) to conduct water quality studies. The grant funds are intended to support the planning and implementation activities specified in The Plan for California Nonpoint Source Pollution Control Program, adopted by the State Water Resources Control Board on December 14, 1999, and the Santa Ana Region's chapter in the Watershed Management Initiatives document, which is updated annually.

The 319(h) and 205(j) grant programs make these funds available through a 'request for proposal' (RFP) process. State Water Resources Control Board (State Board) staff, in coordination with Regional Board and USEPA staff, have developed specific guidance by which the grant proposals are evaluated and ranked. This guidance was disseminated in the RFP package to potential applicants to facilitate the submittal of proposals that adhere to the selection criteria. Five 319(h) grant proposals and two 205(j) proposals have been submitted to the Region for FFY 2002. These proposals need to be ranked given that the statewide project requests exceed the funds available.

This year's 319(h) Nonpoint Source (NPS) Program grant is estimated to total \$5 million statewide for NPS implementation projects. Of the available \$5 million, \$1.3 million in funding will be divided among the nine Regional Boards and the State Board such that each Board receives up to \$130,000 on a noncompetitive basis. This set-aside may be dedicated to a single or multiple projects to aid in meeting the Board's priority watershed needs. Our priority rankings submittal will identify our 319 proposal(s) eligible for funding under the set-aside. A proposal exceeding \$130,000 cannot be designated as a "noncompetitive" set aside proposal. The remaining \$3.7 million in NPS funds statewide will be available on a competitive basis.

The statewide 205(j) water quality planning projects grant is estimated at \$600,000-\$800,000. Even at the higher level of \$800,000 in funding from USEPA, only six to ten 205(j) projects are expected to be funded.

The 205(j) and the 319 selection criteria contain a number of common elements, listed below. A project meeting more criteria is given a higher ranking.

- The proposed project addresses a local stakeholders 'targeted project' or Regional Board priority waterbody or watershed. The targeted projects are listed in the RFP.
- The project is technically/scientifically sound and shows a well-conceived strategy to achieve its goals and objectives.

- The project includes effective measures and indicators of progress and success.
- The project demonstrates collaboration and coordination among multiple stakeholders including local agencies, interest groups, and affected parties.
- The project will result in a fully functional project through promoting or contributing to an ongoing water quality planning effort or nonpoint source implementation program throughout the project area or watershed, and possibly in other areas of the State.

Board staff have evaluated the 319(h) and 205(j) proposals submitted to us for conformance with the above criteria. The Regional priority ranking will be sent to the State Board immediately upon the Regional Board's affirmation of the lists. Two independent committees, consisting of State and Regional Board Staff, will rank all State and Regional Boards' projects from a statewide perspective using the same criteria. The State Board is expected to consider the statewide 205(j) and 319(h) priority lists for approval this November.

CWA 319(h) NONPOINT SOURCE PROGRAM PROPOSALS

1. Rathbun Creek/Big Bear Lake Sedimentation/Nutrient Control Project

Applicant: East Valley Resource Conservation District (EVRCD)

Schedule: 20 months

Funding:	319(h) Requested Amount:	\$350,000.00
	Total Project Budget:	\$583,333.00

Project Description:

The project would consist of the design, contract administration, construction, construction management, inspection and field engineering/construction surveys to improve 2500 lineal feet of Sand Canyon Creek flowline and sideslopes. Work would include re-grading of eroded areas, placing rock riprap on sideslopes, planting of vegetation and placement of surface matting for slope protection. Performance of this work is designed to help significantly reduce sediment loading to Rathbun Creek and Big Bear Lake from bank sloughing and streambed erosion that occurs during storm runoff. The site for this project connects southerly of the completed 1997 project (Clean Lakes Grant), and northerly of the completed 1999 Sand Canyon/Teton Drive project, and once completed, would total approximately 3500 lineal feet of streambed reconstruction.

2. Dairy Washwater Treatment Wetlands Project

Applicant: Orange County Water District (OCWD)

Schedule: 24 months

Funding: 319(h) Requested Amount: \$253,000.00
Total Project Budget: \$354,200.00

Project Description:

This project would demonstrate the use of wetland treatment technology to reduce the impacts of dairy waste on the Chino Groundwater Basin. Current management practices for washwater involve long-term storage in ponds where it is left to evaporate, percolate into groundwater, or the washwater is sprayed onto crops and/or disposal lands. The wetlands treatment system is expected to maximize the utility of existing storage ponds, reducing sediment loading in the washwater ponds through on-site treatment, increasing pond capacity and decreasing the need to clean and scrape storage ponds. The final product water is suitable for on-site reuse and reduces the amount of contaminants that normally enter groundwater supplies as a result of percolation of washwater stored in ponds and sprayed on disposal lands.

3. Nutrient Remediation Program to Implement the Big Bear Lake TMDL

Applicant: Big Bear Municipal Water District (BBMWD)

Schedule: 7 months

Funding: 319(h) Requested Amount: \$120,000.00
Total Project Budget: \$200,000.00

Project Description:

Excessive nutrient loads have impaired Big Bear Lake water quality, causing its listing under CWA 303(d), and a requirement to develop a TMDL. This project would apply SONAR, an aquatic herbicide, to Milfoil and coontail along the shore of Big Bear Lake. Milfoil and coontail are plants that store and recycle nutrients into the Lake. SONAR is designed to target infested areas without adversely impacting native plants, fish or invertebrates inhabiting the lake. Preliminary tests show that it is highly effective and will significantly reduce noxious aquatic plants on a long-term basis if properly applied. The product will be provided and applied by a professional contractor with considerable experience and a record of success in similar lakes throughout the western United States.

4. Urban Storm Water & Marina and Boating Pollution Prevention Educational Campaign

Applicant: City of Huntington Beach

Schedule: 6 months

Funding: 319(h) Requested Amount: \$54,000.00
Total Project Budget: \$90,000.00

Project Description:

This project will greatly increase the public's awareness of their potential to impact water quality within the Huntington Beach watersheds. The outreach campaign would include a number of activities, including the production of a 30-minute educational video, a junior high school outreach program and contest, and a Huntington Harbour educational campaign.

5. UCI Watershed Management Program

Applicant: University of California, Irvine (UCI)

Schedule: 12 months (estimated)

Funding: 319(h) Requested Amount: \$37,224.00
Total Project Budget: \$62,040.00

Project Description:

This project would provide public outreach, education, and community involvement regarding nonpoint source pollution effects, including contributions from the tributary streams and stormdrain flows in the drainage basin, on San Diego Creek/ Newport Bay Watershed water quality. The project would utilize best management practices (BMP) implementation, community outreach, education, and water quality monitoring with the goal of improving surface water quality.

CWA 205(j) WATER QUALITY PLANNING PROGRAM PROPOSALS

1. Investigation into Effects of Soil Amendments on Storm Drain Water Quality

Applicant: Orange County Public Facilities and Resources Department (OCPRD)

Schedule: 24 months

Funding: 205(j) Requested Amount: \$125,000.00
Total Project Budget: \$170,000.00

Project Description:

The application of soil amendments to urban landscapes may be a significant contributor to fecal coliform impairment in waterbodies. The objectives of this investigation are to: 1) determine the presence of human viruses and other human pathogens and biomarkers in commercial soil amendments; 2) quantify and characterize the occurrence of fecal indicators such as fecal coliform, enterococci, coliphages, and F-specific coliphages; and, 3) determine if the soil amendments contain sufficient nutrients to support the growth and/or survival of *E. coli* and *Klebsiella pneumoniae* under typical Southern California outdoor conditions or when trapped in the storm drains.

2. Data Collection for TMDL Development for Chino Basin and Reach 3 of the Santa Ana River

Applicant: Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority (SAWPA)

Schedule: 14 months

Funding: 205(j) Requested Amount: \$125,000.00
Total Project Budget: \$250,000.00

Project Description:

The Regional Board has contracted with SAWPA to serve as a neutral facilitator for the development of TMDLs in the Chino Basin and Santa Ana River Reach 3. The first kickoff meeting for the TMDL Workgroup is planned for August 2, 2001. SAWPA staff has prepared the 205(j) grant proposal to obtain funding to support local agencies in data collection costs necessary for TMDL development.

NONPOINT SOURCE PROGRAM SET-ASIDE PROPOSAL

Regional Board staff recommend the following proposal as the Santa Ana Region's set-aside:

Big Bear Municipal Water District - Nutrient Remediation Program to Implement the Big Bear Lake TMDL

The District has requested only \$120,000 in NPS Program grant funds, falling within the \$130,000 maximum allowed for a set-aside project. The proposal adheres to the set-aside criteria in that it is located in a Category 1 watershed, would implement a program to reduce nutrient loading contributing to the Lake's water quality impairment, and meets the Board's priority watershed needs.

PRIORITY RANKING OF COMPETITIVE 319(H) AND 205(J) PROJECTS

305(h) Proposed Rankings

Staff proposes the following 319(h) priority rankings based upon the RFP criteria listed above:

- 1. OCWD - Dairy Washwater Treatment Wetlands Project**
- 2. EVRCD - Rathbun Creek/Big Bear Lake Sedimentation/Nutrient Control Project**
- 3. UCI - UCI Watershed Management Program**
- 4. City of Huntington Beach - Urban Storm Water & Marina and Boating Pollution Prevention Educational Campaign**

205(j) Proposed Rankings

Staff proposes the following 205(j) priority rankings based upon the RFP criteria listed above:

1. **OCPFRD** - Investigation into Effects of Soil Amendments on Storm Drain Water Quality
2. **SAWPA** - Data Collection for TMDL Development for Chino Basin and Reach 3 of the Santa Ana River

Staff Recommendation

Board staff recommends that the Regional Board affirm the 319(h) Nonpoint Source Program and 205(j) Water Quality Planning Program grant proposals rankings as shown above. Staff also recommends that staff be directed to transmit these rankings to the State Board for inclusion in the statewide evaluation and ranking process.