

STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD (STATE WATER BOARD)

Environmental Requirements for State Water Board Grants

The State Water Board funds projects through various state grant programs. All applicants seeking grant funds must comply with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), and provide documents to the State Water Board so that it can fulfill its CEQA responsibilities.

LEAD AGENCY

The applicant is usually the **Lead Agency** and must prepare and circulate an environmental document before approving a project. Only a public agency, such as a local, regional or state government, may be the Lead Agency under CEQA. If a project will be completed by a non-governmental organization, Lead Agency responsibility goes to the first public agency providing discretionary approval for the project.

RESPONSIBLE AGENCY

The State Water Board is a **Responsible Agency**. As a Responsible Agency, the State Water Board must make its own findings based on information provided by the Lead Agency before funding the project.

STATE WATER BOARD RESPONSIBILITIES

The State Water Board's mission is to preserve, enhance and restore the quality of California's water resources, and ensure their proper allocation and efficient use for the benefit of present and future generations. To fulfill this responsibility, and to carry out obligations as a Responsible Agency under CEQA, the State Water Board must consider the Lead Agency's environmental document before funding a project.

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

The State Water Board's environmental review process must be completed before a project can begin construction. However, for Small Community Wastewater and Water Recycling Funding Program grants, environmental review must be

complete before the State Water Board approves funding for a project.

DOCUMENT REVIEW

The State Water Board would like to review CEQA documents as early as possible. Applicants are encouraged to consult with State Water Board staff during development of CEQA documents if considering CWSRF funding. Small Community Wastewater and Water Recycling Funding Program applicants considering grant funding should send their environmental documents to the State Water Board, Environmental Review Unit during the CEQA public review period. This way, any environmental concerns the State Water Board has about the project can be addressed early in the process.

REQUIRED DOCUMENTS

The Environmental Review Unit requires the documents listed below to complete the environmental review:

1. **Draft and Final Environmental Documents** – Environmental Impact Reports, Negative Declarations, Mitigated Negative Declarations, Notice of Exemptions;
2. **Resolution** from the applicant adopting/certifying the CEQA document and making CEQA findings, and approving the project;
3. **All comments** received during the public review period and the lead agency's responses to those comments;
4. **Adopted Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Plan**, if applicable;

5. **Date-stamped copy of the Notice of Determination** filed with the County Clerk and the Governor's Office of Planning and Research; and

6. **CEQA Compliance Request Form** completed by the applicant for each project.

Once the State Water Board receives all the required documents and determines them adequate to make its own findings, the environmental review for the funding will be completed.

CONTACT INFORMATION

For more information about the State Water Board's environmental review process, please contact Lisa Lee with the Environmental Review Unit at the Division of Financial Assistance, at (916) 327-9401.

