



State Water Resources Control Board

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CALIFORNIA LEADS NATION IN AGGRESSIVELY ENACTING RECOVERY ACT PROVISIONS; STATE RANKS FIRST IN LAUNCHING WASTEWATER INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS

SACRAMENTO – In a letter to Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger, the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure has cited California as a model for other states for its aggressive implementation of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (Recovery Act).

In November, 2009, the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) completed awarding its full allotment of \$270.5 million in federal stimulus funds for 109 clean water projects throughout the state. The projects provide a three-fold benefit by protecting public health and the environment and creating jobs for Californians.

Rep. James L. Oberstar, chairman of the Committee, which has oversight over the provisions of the Act, noted in the letter to Gov. Schwarzenegger that California ranks first among the 51 states in “putting out to bid, under contract and underway” projects using the stimulus funds.

He wrote: “I expect that your State will continue to successfully implement this program and serve as a model for other States around the nation. Together, we are creating and sustaining family-wage jobs, contributing to our nation’s long-term economic growth, and helping the United States recover from the worst recession since the Great Depression.”

The State Water Board received the stimulus money on May 20, 2009 and made its first award under the program on the same day.

“I applaud the Water Board for both continuing to work with the Task Force and their efforts to make certain stimulus funds are spent quickly and efficiently,” said senior advisor and director of the California Recovery Task Force Richard Rice. “This is exactly why the Governor created the California Recovery Task Force and we will continue to work to get stimulus dollars out on the street.”

Dorothy Rice, Executive Director of the State Water Board, said: “From day one the State Water Board was ahead of the curve in getting the money out the door to fund real-world projects that serve communities throughout the state. We are proud of the Water Board’s role in putting the stimulus funds to work for all Californians.”

For a county-by-county list of water projects that have received federal stimulus funds from the State Water Board, please see:

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/grants_loans/srf/docs/economic_recovery/arra_agreements_county.pdf.

The State Water Resources Control 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.

