

**STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD
RESOLUTION NO. 2023-0031**

AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OR DESIGNEE TO ALLOW AN AMENDMENT TO A CONTRACT TO INCREASE SPENDING AUTHORITY FOR SERVICES PROVIDED TO THE STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD TO SUPPORT STATE INTERVENTION WORK PURSUANT TO THE SUSTAINABLE GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT ACT

WHEREAS:

1. The Sustainable Groundwater Management Act of 2014 (SGMA) requires groundwater sustainability agencies (GSAs) in groundwater basins designated as high-priority or medium-priority by the Department of Water Resources (DWR) to develop and implement groundwater sustainability plans (GSP) that will achieve groundwater sustainability in basins within 20 years of implementation.
2. GSPs for basins identified as critically overdrafted were due January 31, 2020, and GSPs for all other high- and medium-priority basins are due January 31, 2022.
3. In March 2023, DWR determined that six GSPs for high-priority critically overdrafted basins are inadequate and referred the basins with inadequate GSPs to the State Water Board.
4. To date, deficiencies DWR has noted in GSPs include insufficient sustainable management criteria, the potential for dewatering of domestic wells, impacts of subsidence, and lack of coordination amongst GSAs.
5. The State Water Board's role in implementing SGMA includes holding probationary hearings and, if deficiencies in a GSP are not addressed during the probationary period, potentially developing and implementing an interim plan for the basin. The State Water Board anticipates that probation hearings will begin in 2024.
6. During the state intervention process the State Water Board will work directly with GSAs and people who pump groundwater to resolve deficiencies and will collect information about the basin to determine whether deficiencies in GSPs have been addressed.

7. Given the degree of technical work that state intervention will involve, the State Water Board's SGMA program would benefit from allowing the Executive Director to execute and amend contracts for SGMA-related work and increasing the current limit on possible contracts for SGMA-related work.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

The State Water Board:

1. Authorizes the Executive Director or designee to execute and amend contracts in the amount of up to \$650,000 for groundwater support services provided to the State Water Board to support implementation of SGMA, and to do all things necessary and convenient to implement such contracts and amendments.
2. Authorizes additional spending authority increases in future years if approved in a budget change proposal or if authorized funding exists. The term of the contract may be extended to accommodate additional increases in spending authority provided that the contract funds encumbered are expended in accordance with applicable law.
3. Except as otherwise specifically provided by the State Water Board, duly authorizes the Executive Director, or the Executive Director's designee, to represent the State Water Board for the purpose of making a final determination of any dispute arising under or relating to the performance of the contract.

CERTIFICATION

The undersigned Clerk to the Board does hereby certify that the foregoing is a full, true, and correct copy of a resolution duly and regularly adopted at a meeting of the State Water Resources Control Board held on September 19, 2023.

AYE: Chair E. Joaquin Esquivel
Board Member Sean Maguire
Board Member Laurel Firestone
Board Member Nichole Morgan

NAY: None

ABSENT: Vice Chair Dorene D'Adamo

ABSTAIN: None



Courtney Tyler
Clerk to the Board