

**STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD
BOARD MEETING SESSION – DIVISION OF FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE
January 18, 2007**

ITEM 7

SUBJECT

CONSIDERATION OF A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE CENTRAL COAST REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD (CENTRAL COAST WATER BOARD) REQUEST FOR FUNDING IN THE AMOUNT OF \$510,000 FROM THE WATER QUALITY CONTROL FUND CLEANUP AND ABATEMENT ACCOUNT (CAA) TO DETERMINE THE SOURCE OF METHYL TERTIARY-BUTYL ETHER (MTBE) IN THE CITY OF SALINAS WATER SUPPLY

DISCUSSION

The Central Coast Water Board is requesting funding in the amount of \$510,000 from the CAA to perform a subsurface investigation in Monterey County to determine the source(s) of MTBE in Salinas water supply wells (Project). The Monterey County Water Resources Agency (MCWRA) would lead the investigation, under contract with the Central Coast Water Board and with support from the Monterey County Department of Health, Division of Environmental Health (EHD).

MTBE was first detected at concentrations up to 400 micrograms per liter in February, 2002, in three water supply wells owned and operated by California Water Services Company, the local water purveyor. These three wells represent a significant portion of the Salinas water supply, collectively providing more than 2,800 gallons per minute (gpm). One of the impacted wells has been destroyed, to prevent the potential for vertical transfer of contaminants. The second well was taken out of service (pump removed) due to the high cost of wellhead treatment. The third well, contributing the lowest concentration of MTBE, has been placed on standby for use during peak demand periods, using wellhead treatment. The loss of use of these wells has put the water purveyor in a position of not being able to meet peak demand for water supply.

The Central Coast Water Board staff have investigated or directed investigations at permitted leaking underground storage tank sites within one-half mile of the wells, and has not found a responsible party.

The Central Coast Water Board has adopted Resolution R3-2005-0118 in support of this request. The CAA funds will provide the necessary Project funding to adequately conduct this investigation.

POLICY ISSUE

Should the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) approve funding of \$510,000 from the CAA to support Central Coast Water Board to determine a source of MTBE in the Salinas water supply?

FISCAL IMPACT

The CAA has an uncommitted balance of \$2,700,000. Approving \$510,000 for this Project will leave an uncommitted balance of \$2,190,000 in the CAA.

BOARD IMPACT

Yes, Central Coast Water Board.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

That the State Water Board approve funding of \$510,000 from the CAA to support Central Coast Water Board to determine a source of MTBE in the Salinas water supply.

**STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD
RESOLUTION NO. 2007 -**

AUTHORIZATION TO ALLOCATE \$510,000 FROM THE CLEANUP AND ABATEMENT ACCOUNT (CAA) TO THE CENTRAL COAST REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD (CENTRAL COAST WATER BOARD) TO DETERMINE THE SOURCE OF METHYL TERTIARY-BUTYL ETHER (MTBE) IN THE SALINAS WATER SUPPLY

WHEREAS:

1. The occurrence of MTBE has impacted three water supply wells serving the City of Salinas and appears to be in drinking water supply aquifers;
2. MTBE concentrations in the impacted wells exceed the water quality objectives established by the Water Quality Control Plan for the Central Coast Basin (Basin Plan) for the designated groundwater beneficial uses of municipal and domestic supply for the Salinas area, Salinas Hydrologic Units 309.10 and 309.20;
3. The Central Coast Water Board staff has not been able to identify a party or parties responsible for the release of MTBE, after directing responsible parties for known leaking underground storage tanks (LUST), historical and closed LUST, and operating underground storage tank facilities to investigate their sites as possible sources of MTBE in groundwater impacting three water supply wells serving the City of Salinas;
4. The Central Coast Water Board staff is assisting the Monterey County Water Resources Agency (MCWRA) and the Monterey County Department of Health, Division of Environmental Health (EHD) to find possible sources of MTBE in groundwater affecting the water supply wells servicing the City of Salinas;
5. The MCWRA is willing to perform a subsurface investigation for the purposes of characterizing the nature and extent of MTBE in groundwater and finding the party or parties responsible for the MTBE release, as stated in the California Water Code appendix, Chapter 52, with the input of the Central Coast Water Board;
6. Additional investigation is needed to characterize the nature and extent of MTBE in groundwater and find the source(s) of MTBE;
7. CAA funds are needed to fund an additional investigation to characterize the nature and extent of MTBE in groundwater to allow responsible parties to begin cleanup, and to find the party or parties responsible for the release of MTBE;
8. The Central Coast Water Board may take enforcement action against the party or parties responsible, once found, directing cleanup of the MTBE release, and/or recovery of incurred costs, including CAA costs, as stated in the Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act, Division 7 of the California Water Code, Sections 13440-13443.
9. The Central Coast Water Board and MCWRA do not have the funds to perform the investigation.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

The State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) approves \$510,000 from the CAA for the Central Coast Water Board to determine the source of MTBE in the Salinas water supply.

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 Board held on January 18, 2006.

Song Her
Clerk to the Board