

**STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD
BOARD MEETING SESSION – DIVISION OF FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE
JUNE 2, 2009**

ITEM 4

SUBJECT

CONSIDERATION OF A RESOLUTION TO ALLOCATE AN ADDITIONAL \$100,000 FROM THE CLEANUP AND ABATEMENT ACCOUNT (CAA) TO THE LAHONTAN REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD (LAHONTAN WATER BOARD) FOR CONTINUED SUPPORT OF THE ASIAN CLAM REMOVAL PROJECT IN THE WATERS OF LAKE TAHOE (LAKE)

DISCUSSION

The Lahontan Water Board requests additional funding of \$100,000 to continue work on the Asian Clam Removal Project.

The Asian Clam is an aggressive invader and a rapidly reproducing species effecting the Lake water quality and impacting the recreation and municipal water supply by bio-fouling water intakes and littering the shore with dead shells. Dead shell matter also increases the background concentration of calcium in the water which may enable other exotic species to establish in the Lake.

Originally limited to one confirmed sighting in 2002, by April 2008, the known extent of the Asian Clam infestation included many parts of the southeast area of the Lake. The lake-wide establishment of these clams is unknown. This Project will locate clam colonies throughout the Lake, and will provide extensive information needed to develop an eradication and control plan consistent with the Asian Clam Control and Monitoring Plan Strategies of the Lake.

CAA funds of \$100,000 were previously allocated in support of the pilot project that consists of examining the removal effectiveness and impacts of various potential methods for control. The additional funds will support the next phase of the Project which will assess and survey the area to determine the extent and intensity of the non-native, invasive Asian Clam infestation in the Lake.

The requested allocation is consistent with the purposes of Water Code Section 13442. Section 13442 provides that the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) may order moneys to be paid from the CAA to a public agency with authority to cleanup or abate the effects of a waste in order “to assist it in cleaning up the waste or abating its effects on the waters of the state.”

POLICY ISSUE

Should the State Water Board:

Approve additional funding of \$100,000 from the CAA to the Lahontan Water Board for continued support of the Asian Clam Removal Project?

FISCAL IMPACT

As of April 8, 2009, the uncommitted CAA balance is estimated to be no less than \$2.5 million dollars according to the most current data.

REGIONAL WATER BOARD IMPACT

Yes, the Lahontan Water Board.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

The State Water Board should:

Approve additional funding of \$100,000 from the CAA to the Lahontan Water Board for continued support of the Asian Clam Removal Project.

State Water Board action on this item will assist the Water Boards in reaching Goal 4 of the Strategic Plan Update: 2008-2012, to comprehensively address water quality protection and restoration, and the relationship between water supply and water quality, and describe the connections between water quality, water quantity, and climate change, throughout California's water planning processes.

DRAFT

STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD RESOLUTION NO. 2009-

TO ALLOCATE AN ADDITIONAL \$100,000 FROM THE CLEANUP AND ABATEMENT ACCOUNT (CAA) TO THE LAHONTAN REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD (LAHONTAN WATER BOARD) FOR CONTINUED SUPPORT OF THE ASIAN CLAM REMOVAL PROJECT IN THE WATERS OF LAKE TAHOE (LAKE)

WHEREAS:

1. The Lahontan Water Board requests additional funding of \$100,000 to continue work on the Asian Clam Removal Project;
2. The Asian Clam is an aggressive invader and a rapidly reproducing species effecting the Lake water quality and impacting the recreation and municipal water supply by bio-fouling water intakes and littering the shore with dead shells. Dead shell matter also increases the background concentration of calcium in the water which may enable other exotic species to establish in the Lake;
3. The lake-wide establishment of these clams is unknown. This Project will locate clam colonies throughout the Lake, and will provide extensive information needed to develop an eradication and control plan consistent with the Asian Clam Control and Monitoring Plan Strategies of the Lake;
4. CAA funds of \$100,000 have previously been allocated in support of the pilot project that consists of examining the removal effectiveness and impacts of various potential methods for control. The additional funds will support the next phase of the Project which will assess and survey the area to determine the extent and intensity of the non-native, invasive Asian Clam infestation in the Lake; and
5. The requested allocation is consistent with the purposes of Water Code Section 13442. Section 13442 provides that the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) may order moneys to be paid from the CAA to a public agency with authority to cleanup or abate the effects of a waste in order "to assist it in cleaning up the waste or abating its effects on the waters of the state."

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

The State Water Board:

1. Approves additional funding of \$100,000 from the CAA to the Lahontan Water Board for continued support of the Asian Clam Removal Project; and

D R A F T

2. The funds approved today will be available until June 30, 2012. Any unexpended funds, as of June 30, 2012, shall revert to CAA, unless the Deputy Director or Assistant Deputy Director of the Division of Financial Assistance authorizes an extension.

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 June 2, 2009.

Jeanine Townsend
Clerk to the Board