

**STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD
BOARD MEETING SESSION – DIVISION OF WATER QUALITY
SEPTEMBER 23, 2014**

ITEM 4

SUBJECT

CONSIDERATION OF A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING ACCEPTANCE OF A FEDERAL GRANT FOR THE LOS ANGELES REGIONAL BOARD TO ASSIST THE UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY'S SUPERFUND PROGRAM IN THE SAN FERNANDO VALLEY

DISCUSSION

The San Fernando Valley federal Superfund sites were placed on the United States Environmental Protection Agency's (U.S. EPA's) National Priority List in 1986. As part of the federal requirements, U.S. EPA must attempt to identify potential responsible parties. In addition, the existing sources of contamination must be identified and remediated.

The Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board (Los Angeles Water Board) staff has been providing assistance to the U.S. EPA's Superfund Program for the past two decades. To date, the Los Angeles Water Board has assisted the U. S. EPA in identifying hundreds of sites in the San Fernando Valley that are contaminated with Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs), heavy metals (mainly total chromium and hexavalent chromium, and other contaminants [e.g., perchlorate, 1,4-dioxane]). The Los Angeles Water Board has also issued numerous orders requiring technical reports, inspections, and cleanup or abatement. In collaboration with U.S. EPA, Los Angeles Water Board staff has participated in meetings with other regulators and stakeholders, assisted with file reviews, and coordinated the oversight of cases with the U.S. EPA project team and its contractors.

Identification of sources of contamination must be funded by general funds or other fund sources, such as federal funds. Due to the State general fund reductions, Los Angeles Water Board staff's participation and assistance in the investigation of those contaminated sites have become significantly limited. Therefore, the Los Angeles Water Board's recent efforts have been funded by a federal grant fund of \$600,000 from U.S. EPA authorized by the State Water Resources Control Board [Resolution 2011-0039](#) (adopted September 19, 2011). The additional \$600,000 federal grant to be authorized under this proposed resolution is intended to fund the continuation of the Los Angeles Water Board's assistance to U.S. EPA in the San Fernando Valley for two years (January 1, 2015 through December 31, 2016).

With the federal grant of \$600,000 over a two-year period, Los Angeles Water Board staff will be able to work on the existing non-cost-recovery cases and any newly identified cases that lack a cost recovery agreement. The Los Angeles Water Board staff's continuing participation and assistance would significantly enhance the progress of investigation and cleanup of San Fernando Valley groundwater, especially VOCs, heavy metals, and other chemical source sites.

POLICY ISSUE

Should the State Water Board authorize the Executive Director or designee to accept approximately \$600,000 in federal grant funds for the two-year period (January 1, 2015 through December 31, 2016) to continue contaminant source identification and other activities in the San Fernando Valley?

FISCAL IMPACT

Yes, the proposed federal grant would augment the State Water Board’s budget. The State Water Board’s budget for this two-year period (January 1, 2015 through December 31, 2016) has adequate expenditure authority to expend these funds.

REGIONAL BOARD IMPACT

Yes, Los Angeles Water Board. The proposed federal grant would allow continued work on contaminant source investigation activities in the San Fernando Valley.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

That the State Water Board authorize the Executive Director or designee to accept approximately \$600,000 in federal grant funds for the two-year period (January 1, 2015 through December 31, 2016).

State Water Board action on this item will assist the Water Boards in implementing Priority 2 of the Strategic Plan Update: 2008-2012 to protect and restore groundwater quality. In particular, approval of this item will assist in fulfilling Objective 2.3 to ensure the viability of high quality groundwater basins.
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D R A F T

STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD RESOLUTION NO. 2014-

AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OR DESIGNEE TO ACCEPT A FEDERAL GRANT FOR THE LOS ANGELES REGIONAL BOARD TO ASSIST THE UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY'S SUPERFUND PROGRAM IN THE SAN FERNANDO VALLEY

WHEREAS:

1. The San Fernando Valley Basin is an important source of drinking water for the Los Angeles metropolitan area, the cities of Glendale, Burbank, and San Fernando, La Canada - Flintridge, and the unincorporated area of La Crescenta.
2. A portion of the San Fernando Valley groundwater basin is polluted with volatile organic compounds and hexavalent chromium at concentrations exceeding State and federal drinking water standards.
3. The San Fernando Valley groundwater basin was placed on the United States Environmental Protection Agency's (U.S.EPA's) National Priorities List in 1986.
4. The Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board (Los Angeles Water Board) has been working with U.S. EPA to investigate sources of groundwater pollution in the San Fernando Valley for more than two decades in an attempt to identify potential responsible parties.
5. On September 19, 2011, The State Water Resources Control Board adopted [Resolution 2011-0039](#) and authorized the Executive Director or designee to accept approximately \$600,000 in federal grant funds from U.S. EPA to continue assisting U.S. EPA's Superfund program in contaminant source identification and other activities in the San Fernando Valley by the Los Angeles Water Board.
6. U.S. EPA intends to provide a grant for the two-year period (January 1, 2015 through December 31, 2016) in the amount of \$600,000 to fund Los Angeles Water Board staff to continue source identification activities and other Superfund program activities in the San Fernando Valley.

D R A F T

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

The State Water Board authorizes the Executive Director or designee to accept approximately \$600,000 in federal grant funds from U.S. EPA for the two-year period (January 1, 2015 through December 31, 2016) to continue assisting U.S. EPA's Superfund program in contaminant source identification and other activities in the San Fernando Valley by the Los Angeles Water Board.

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 23, 2014.

Jeanine Townsend
Clerk to the Board