

STATE WATER RESOURCE CONTROL BOARD
DIVISION OF FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE
GROUNDWATER QUALITY FUNDING PROGRAMS

The State Water Board has two new groundwater quality funding programs to administer - \$800 million of groundwater sustainability funds through Proposition 1 and approximately \$20 million per year through the Site Cleanup Subaccount. Both of these funding programs can be used to address groundwater quality problems that have largely been unaddressed due to lack of viable responsibility parties and the financial resources to cleanup or mitigate the problem.

Assembly Bill 1471, Chapter 10 (Proposition 1)

Chapter 10, Section 79770-79744 allocates \$800 million for grants and loans for projects to prevent or clean up the contamination of groundwater that serves or has served as a source of drinking water. Prop 1 Groundwater projects will be evaluated for potential funding based on the Board approved funding guidelines.

Senate Bill 445 (SB 445 Site Cleanup Subaccount)

Provides Water Board expenditures such as staff time and contracts, and well as grants to address the harm to human health and the environment from groundwater and surface water contamination, annually appropriated no more than \$40 million annually generated by \$0.0003 of the petroleum storage fee. FY 2015/16 \$19.75 million. Site Cleanup Subaccount projects will be evaluated using criteria in SB 445 and prioritized on an annual funding list for Board consideration.

Emergency Abandoned & Recalcitrant Account (ERA)

The Emergency Abandoned & Recalcitrant (EAR) Account provides funding to the Regional Water Quality Control Boards and local agencies to initiate corrective action at petroleum underground storage tank sites which have had an unauthorized release and which require either an emergency or a prompt action response to protect human health, safety and the environment; or where the responsible party cannot be identified or located; or where an RP is either unable or unwilling to take the required corrective action. The annual allocation for EAR is \$5 million.

Project Types Submitted (so far)

- “Smaller” cleanup projects (e.g., dry cleaners) that are associated with one or a few responsible parties that contaminate a relative limited area. There may be vapor intrusion risks to mitigate in addition to addressing groundwater contamination. The RP or someone acting on behalf of the RP (e.g., the regional board) is often the applicant.
- Larger cleanup projects in which the contaminant plume is large or regional/basin wide in nature. These projects might include both source cleanup/containment and wellhead treatment elements. The applicants are generally water purveyors or other public agencies.
- Larger cleanup projects/Superfund that have a record of decision in place that may be inadequate to address the groundwater contamination issues. DTSC has identified several projects and has proposed to be the applicant.
- Drinking water treatment projects – these projects either address natural contaminants (e.g., hexavalent chromium) or are large contaminant plumes that are not amenable to cleanup (e.g., nitrates in the Central Valley/Central Coast).