STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD RESOLUTION NO. 2009-0009

ALLOCATION OF \$1,765,000 FROM THE CLEANUP AND ABATEMENT ACCOUNT TO THE STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD AND CENTRAL VALLEY REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD FOR SUPPORT OF WATER QUALITY PLANNING EFFORTS RELATED TO SALINITY IN THE SAN FRANCISCO BAY/SACRAMENTO-SAN JOAQUIN DELTA ESTUARY (BAY-DELTA) AND THE SAN JOAQUIN RIVER BASIN

WHEREAS:

- 1. The State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) and Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (Central Valley Water Board) jointly request funding of \$1,765,000 from the Cleanup and Abatement Account (CAA) to support a comprehensive effort to address salinity problems in the Bay-Delta and Central Valley region. This effort will include review of and potential updates to provisions of (a) the Bay-Delta Plan concerning southern Delta salinity, and (b) the Central Valley Plan concerning San Joaquin River salinity.
- 2. A salinity control program for the San Joaquin River and southern Delta is needed to abate the effects of high salt concentrations in surface water and groundwater. The review, development, and implementation of salinity standards for the San Joaquin River upstream of the Delta and in the southern Delta can help to reduce salt concentrations in the river and Delta, and may help conserve fresh water supplies in the State.
- 3. In 2000, Revised Water Right Decision 1641 directed the Central Valley Water Board to develop water quality objectives for salinity in the Lower San Joaquin River. In 2004 the Central Valley Water Board adopted a Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) for salinity for the San Joaquin River at Vernalis, which is at the Delta's boundary. Efforts are currently underway to develop water quality objectives and a TMDL for salinity for the San Joaquin River upstream of Vernalis, from the confluence with the Merced River to the Stanislaus River.
- 4. In the southern Delta, there is a need for scientific investigation of irrigation water salinity requirements, including protection of beneficial uses and management practices. The State Water Board is currently conducting a review of southern Delta salinity objectives.

The CAA funds will be used to provide contract assistance to aid in four areas: (1) watershed-specific soil salinity modeling and evaluation of crop salinity tolerance, (2) flow/water quality modeling, (3) California Environmental Quality Act compliance, and (4) economic analysis.

5. The requested allocation is consistent with the purposes of Water Code section 13442. Section 13442 provides that the State Water Board may order monies to be paid from the CAA to a public agency with authority to clean up or abate the effects of a waste in order "to assist it in cleaning up the waste or abating its effects on waters of the state."

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

The State Water Board approves the allocation of \$1,765,000 from the Cleanup and Abatement Account to the State Water Board and Central Valley Water Board in support of their respective updates to (a) the Bay-Delta Plan for southern Delta salinity, and (b) the Central Valley Plan for San Joaquin River salinity.

The funds will be available until March 31, 2012. Any funds remaining unexpended as of March 31, 2012, shall revert to the Cleanup and Abatement Account, unless the Deputy Director or Assistant Deputy Director for 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 February 3, 2009.

AYE: Chair Tam M. Doduc

Charles R. Hoppin Frances Spivy-Weber

NAY: None

ABSENT: Arthur G. Baggett, Jr.

ABSTAIN: None

Jeanine Townsend Clerk to the Board

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