AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO EXECUTE A CONTRACT TO SUPPORT THE CENTRAL VALLEY REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD’S DEVELOPMENT OF AN ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT FOR THE REGULATION OF MANURE DIGESTERS AND CO-DIGESTION FACILITIES

WHEREAS:

1. Organic materials such as dairy manure can be processed in anaerobic digesters to produce biogas for use as a fuel and protect air quality.

2. Governor Schwarzenegger’s Executive Order S-06-06 establishes targets for the use and production of biofuels and biopower, and instructs state agencies to work together to advance biomass programs in California.

3. The California Interagency Working Group’s “Bioenergy Action Plan for California” (July 2006) recommends that the State consider ways to simplify siting and permitting of bioenergy projects.

4. The State Water Board Resolution No. 2007-0059 directs staff to conduct prompt reviews of planning documents, environmental documents prepared under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), and monitoring proposals for biomass harvesting and biomass facilities.

5. Governor Schwarzenegger’s Executive Order S-14-08 directs all State regulatory agencies to give priority to renewable energy projects to facilitate the timely permitting of these projects.

6. The Central Valley Water Board expects a number of dairies in the Central Valley Region to propose anaerobic digesters that will use only manure, or co-digesters that will use manure in combination with other feedstocks, to develop bioenergy.

7. The Central Valley Water Board intends to expedite the permitting of biofuel digesters and associated biogas management facilities, through development of a General Waste Discharge Requirements Order (WDR Order).

8. The Central Valley Water Board seeks contract support to prepare an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the WDR Order.

9. Resolution 2002-0105 limits the authority of the Executive Director to execute certain contracts that exceed $500,000.
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

The State Water Board authorizes the Executive Director to execute a contract in an amount not to exceed $800,000 to support the Central Valley Water Board’s development of the EIR for regulation of manure digesters and co-digestion facilities in the Central Valley Region.

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 November 17, 2009.

AYE: Chairman Charles R. Hoppin
    Vice Chair Frances Spivy-Weber
    Board Member Tam M. Doduc
    Board Member Arthur G. Baggett, Jr.
    Board Member Walter G. Pettit

NAY: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

Jeanine Townsend
Clerk to the Board