

**STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD
RESOLUTION NO. 2017-0064**

**RAISING THE PLANNING GRANT CAP FOR PROPOSITION 1 GROUNDWATER
GRANT PROGRAM (PROGRAM) PROJECTS**

WHEREAS:

1. The Water Quality, Supply, and Infrastructure Improvement Act of 2014 (Proposition 1) authorizes \$800 million to the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) to provide competitive grants and loans for projects that prevent or clean up the contamination of groundwater that serves or has served as a source of drinking water (Wat. Code, § 79771.);
2. Proposition 1 directs agencies to develop and adopt project solicitation and evaluation guidelines prior to disbursing grants for any competitive grant program (Wat. Code, § 79706, subd. (a).);
3. On May 18, 2016, the State Water Board adopted the [Proposition 1 Groundwater Grant Program Guidelines](#) (Guidelines), which established a \$1 million cap on planning grants;
4. The Division of Financial Assistance (DFA) closed the first round of the solicitation for proposals on July 29, 2016, and subsequently invited potential grantees to submit final applications for twenty-nine (29) qualified proposals, of which sixteen (16) were proposed planning projects;
5. Some of the proposed planning projects exceed \$2 million in total cost and could qualify for grant funding in amounts greater than the \$1 million cap established in the Guidelines;
6. Projects to clean up or prevent the contamination of groundwater are extremely complex and often require costly investigations to identify the sources and extent of contamination, as well as costly studies and evaluations to identify feasible cleanup and prevention alternatives;
7. It is in the best interests of the State Water Board and the people of the State of California to fund planning projects that provide the best information possible to select the most effective and least costly alternatives for the cleanup or prevention of the contamination of groundwater; and
8. Increasing the Program's planning grant funding cap will incentivize applicants to develop implementation projects to clean up or prevent the contamination of groundwater, which is consistent with and supports the Governor's California Water Action Plan and the Human Right to Water Policy.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

The State Water Board:

1. Waives the planning grant cap established in the Guidelines for the qualified planning project proposals, as needed.
2. Delegates to the Deputy Director of DFA the authority to award grants of up to \$2 million for the qualified planning project proposals.

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 7, 2017.

AYE: Vice Chair Steven Moore
 Board Member Tam M. Doduc
 Board Member Dorene D'Adamo
 Board Member Joaquin Esquivel

NAY: None

ABSENT: Chair Felicia Marcus

ABSTAIN: None

Jeanine Townsend
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Clerk to the Board