WHEREAS:

1. The mission of the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) is to preserve, enhance, and restore the quality of California’s water resources and drinking water for the protection of the environment, public health, and all beneficial uses, and to ensure proper water resource allocation and efficient use, for the benefit of present and future generations. The State Water Board is also responsible for the protection of resources, such as fisheries, wildlife, aesthetics, and navigation, which are held in trust for the public;

2. During the recent drought, former Governor Brown issued Executive Order B-37-16, which set forth actions to make conservation a California way of life; those actions included using water more wisely, eliminating water waste, strengthening local drought resilience, and improving agricultural water use efficiency and drought planning. The State Water Board is working on multiple efforts to make water conservation a California way of life. Examples include: a rulemaking to minimize water wasted through system leaks, a rulemaking to permanently require monthly water conservation reporting, a resolution to ensure the State Water Board takes a proactive approach and considers Climate Change in all agency programs and activities (March 7, 2017), and work to carry out the directives of Assembly Bill (AB) 1668 and Senate Bill (SB) 606, passed during the 2018 legislative session, which together create a new foundation for long-term improvements in water conservation and drought planning;

3. In implementing AB 1668 and SB 606, the State Water Board will conduct a rulemaking to establish standards for efficient water use and require urban retail water suppliers to calculate and adhere to an urban water use objective based on those standards. As part of the regular rulemaking process, the State Water Board must consider potential environmental and economic impacts of the regulation. The State Water Board intends to enter into a contract to analyze prospective impacts. The contract will include a statewide analysis and the development of documentation to meet rulemaking requirements;

4. Delegation of authority to the Executive Director or designee will allow the Executive Director or designee to enter into a contract to support the environmental and economic analysis of new water efficiency standards to meet California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and other procedural requirements, as required for the regular rulemaking process;
5. The contract would: (a) commit up to a total of $2 million; and (b) provide a contract term of three years.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

The State Water Board authorizes the Executive Director or designee to execute a contract for a term of up to three years to support the environmental and economic analysis of new water efficiency standards to meet California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and other procedural requirements, as required for the regular rulemaking process.

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 June 18, 2019.

AYE:   Chair E. Joaquin Esquivel
       Board Member Tam M. Doduc
       Board Member Laurel Firestone

NAY:   None

ABSENT: Vice Chair Dorene D’Adamo
       Board Member Sean Maguire

ABSTAIN: None

Jeanine Townsend
Clerk to the Board