

**STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD
BOARD MEETING SESSION – OFFICE OF RESEARCH, PLANNING AND PERFORMANCE
JANUARY 22, 2013**

ITEM 5

SUBJECT

PROGRESS UPDATE FROM STAKEHOLDER COORDINATORS ON PHASE 2 OF THE RESOURCE ALIGNMENT PROJECT: EVALUATING OPPORTUNITIES FOR REDUCING COSTS OF COST COMPLIANCE.

DISCUSSION

On October 18, 2011 the State Water Board adopted [Resolution No. 2011-0052](#), directing staff to prepare a report assessing and aligning Water Board priorities, resources, and performance targets ([Resource Alignment Report](#)). In August 2012, the Board directed staff to commence work on a second phase of the Resource Alignment Report. Phase 2 of the Resource Alignment Report is described in a staff [workplan for assessing costs of compliance](#) for dischargers subject to Water Board oversight in the NPDES wastewater, stormwater, irrigated lands, and waste discharge requirement programs. The overall workplan goals are to identify and implement opportunities to reduce the costs of compliance in these programs where feasible and to maximize the utility/benefit arising from discharger compliance actions, including benefits to the regulated community and to the environment at large.

The cost of compliance workplan lays out a set of tasks to be carried out jointly by both the Water Boards and cooperating stakeholders. A stakeholder kick-off meeting was held in October 2012 and four stakeholder workgroups have since been formed. The workgroups have held initial brainstorming meetings and are in the process of defining the range of compliance requirements that, in their view, should be addressed by this effort. This informational item will provide the coordinators for each stakeholder workgroup with an opportunity to update the Board on their progress and receive input. Following is a list of the coordinators for each stakeholder workgroup.

Stakeholder Group	Stakeholder Coordinator(s)
NPDES wastewater	Bobbi Larson, California Association of Sanitation Agencies Jackie Kepke, Tri-TAC Debbie Webster, Central Valley Clean Water Association
NPDES stormwater	Geoff Brosseau, California Stormwater Quality Association
Irrigated lands	Danny Merkley, California Farm Bureau Federation
Waste discharge to land (WDR)	Bob Gore, The Gualco Group Emily Rooney, Agricultural Council of California

POLICY ISSUE

None. Implementation of the existing workplan and development of a draft report, including staff recommendations for reducing costs of compliance, will not set any specific policy.

FISCAL IMPACT

None. At the present time, the Water Boards should be working within their given resource levels to provide the data and information needed for the development of the proposed report. Additionally, much of the work associated with preparing the proposed report will be carried out by stakeholders to minimize fiscal impacts to the Water Boards.

REGIONAL BOARD IMPACT

No additional impact at this time.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Incorporate State Water Board input and proceed with development of a report assessing opportunities to reduce costs of compliance.

This information item assists the Water Boards in reaching Goal 5 of the Strategic Plan Update: 2008-2012 to improve transparency and accountability. Conducting an assessment of costs compliance, as called for in the proposed workplan, would support Goal 6 of the Strategic Plan by providing opportunities for increased regulatory consistency, efficiency, and predictability.