

**STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD
BOARD MEETING SESSION – DIVISION OF WATER QUALITY
JUNE 2, 2015**

ITEM 3

SUBJECT

CONSIDERATION OF A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO APPLY FOR, ACCEPT, AND/OR AMEND A FEDERAL CLEAN WATER ACT SECTION 319(h) GRANT AND AUTHORIZE EXECUTION AND AMENDMENT OF CONTRACTS AND GRANTS FOR SUPPORT OF THE NONPOINT SOURCE PROGRAM

DISCUSSION

Federal Clean Water Act section 319(h) (CWA 319[h]) provides grants to states to implement Nonpoint Source (NPS) Management Programs. Approximately \$8,100,000 will be available to California under CWA 319(h) for federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2015. These funds will be used to implement NPS projects and support the Regional Water Quality Control Boards (Regional Water Boards) and State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) NPS program staff.

Approximately half of the state's CWA 319(h) grant funds are directed toward NPS projects through a competitive solicitation process. The 2015 CWA 319(h) NPS Grant Program (NPS Grant Program) solicitation consisted of a two-step process. On August 4, 2014, a solicitation notice for the NPS Grant Program was released to initiate the process for determining projects to be funded through the NPS Grant Program totaling approximately \$4,000,000. In the first step, applicants submitted brief Concept Proposals using the State Water Board's online Financial Assistance Application Submittal Tool. On October 28 and 29, 2014 these proposals were reviewed and scored by a technical review committee composed of staff from the State Water Board, nine Regional Water Boards, and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (Selection Panel). Applicants with the highest-ranking proposals were invited to submit a full proposal by January 15, 2015. The selection panel convened on March 3 and 4, 2015 to review and score the final proposals and develop the recommended funding list for the NPS Grant Program. The funding list was presented to and approved by the State Water Board Executive Director on April 21, 2015.

POLICY ISSUE

Should the State Water Board adopt a resolution:

1. Authorizing the Executive Director to apply for, accept, and amend, as necessary, a FFY 2015 CWA 319(h) grant for an amount up to \$ 8,100,000 for support of the NPS Program.
2. Authorizing the Executive Director to negotiate and approve program workplans.
3. Authorizing the issuance of contracts, grants, and amendments to implement the NPS proposals presented to and approved by the State Water Board Executive Director on April 21, 2015, once the grant is received.

FISCAL IMPACT

Existing NPS Program budget authority is currently adequate to accommodate the anticipated grant.

REGIONAL BOARD IMPACT

Existing NPS Program budget authority is currently adequate to accommodate the anticipated grant.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

The State Water Board should:

1. Authorize the Executive Director to apply for, accept, and amend, as necessary, a FFY 2015 CWA 319(h) grant for an amount up to \$8,100,000 for support of the NPS Program.
2. Authorize the Executive Director to negotiate and approve program workplans.
3. Authorize the issuance of contracts, grants, and amendments to implement the NPS proposals presented to and approved by the State Water Board Executive Director on April 21, 2015, once the grant is received.

State Water Board action on this item will assist the Water Boards in implementing Priority 1 of the Strategic Plan Update: 2008-2012 to protect and restore surface water quality. In particular, approval of this item will assist in fulfilling Objective 1.1 by supporting implementation of total maximum daily loads for water bodies contained on the 2006 CWA 303(d) list and Objective 1.3 by supporting appropriate enforcement actions and innovative approaches as needed to protect and restore surface waters.

DRAFT

STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD RESOLUTION NO. 2015-

AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO APPLY FOR, ACCEPT, AND/OR AMEND A FEDERAL CLEAN WATER ACT SECTION 319(H) GRANT AND AUTHORIZING EXECUTION AND AMENDMENT OF CONTRACTS AND GRANTS FOR SUPPORT OF THE NONPOINT SOURCE PROGRAM

WHEREAS:

1. The federal Clean Water Act section 319(h) (CWA 319[h]) provides grant funds for states to implement Nonpoint Source (NPS) Programs.
2. The State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) is the designated state agency in California to administer the NPS Program.
3. On December 14, 1999 and January 11, 2000, the State Water Board and the California Coastal Commission, respectively, approved the Plan for California's Nonpoint Source Pollution Control Program (NPS Program Plan), which includes activities the state will undertake to control NPS pollution.
4. On July 11, 2000, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) and National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration approved California's NPS Program Plan.
5. U.S. EPA has notified the State Water Board that the federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2015 CWA 319(h) grant allocation of approximately \$8,100,000 will be available to the state.
6. On August 4, 2014, a solicitation notice for the 2015 319(h) NPS Grant Program was released to initiate the solicitation process for CWA 319(h) for projects totaling approximately \$4,000,000.
7. On April 21, 2015, the State Water Board Executive Director approved projects to be funded with the 2015 CWA 319(h) grant funds.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

The State Water Board:

1. Authorizes the Executive Director to apply for, accept, and amend, as necessary, an FFY 2015 CWA section 319(h) grant for an amount up to \$8,100,000 for support of the NPS Program.
2. Authorizes the Executive Director to negotiate and approve program workplans.

D R A F T

3. Authorizes the issuance of contracts, grants, and amendments to implement the NPS proposals presented to and approved by the State Water Board Executive Director on April 21, 2015, once the grant is received.

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 2, 2015.

Jeanine Townsend
Clerk to the Board