

**STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD
BOARD MEETING SESSION – OFFICE OF ENFORCEMENT,
DIVISION OF WATER RIGHTS, AND DIVISION OF WATER QUALITY
MAY 6, 2019**

ITEM 3

SUBJECT

UPDATE ON THE WATER BOARDS' CANNABIS CULTIVATION PROGRAM.

DISCUSSION

The item provides an update on the Water Boards' Cannabis Cultivation Program (Cannabis Program) after its first year of implementation and will cover key aspects of the *Water Boards Cannabis Cultivation Program, 2018 Report* (Cannabis Program Report) and the *Water Boards Cannabis Cultivation Program Procedures* (Cannabis Procedures).

The Cannabis Program Report discusses:

- Program accomplishments and statistics;
- Internal and external challenges; and
- Recommendations to improve Cannabis Program effectiveness.

The Cannabis Procedures is a comprehensive document that defines how each Division, Region, and Office in the Water Boards Cannabis Program is to permit, regulate, and enforce cannabis cultivation in accordance with the:

- [Cannabis Cultivation Policy – Principles and Guidelines for Cannabis Cultivation](#) (Cannabis Policy), which establishes the principles and guidelines (requirements) for cannabis cultivation activities to protect water quality and instream flows;
- [General Waste Discharge Requirements and Waiver of Waste Discharge Requirements for Discharges of Waste Associated with Cannabis Cultivation Activities](#) (Cannabis Cultivation General Order), which establishes statewide waste discharge requirements associated with cannabis cultivation; and
- [Cannabis Small Irrigation Use Registration Program](#), which establishes an appropriate (storage) water right that can be obtained for cannabis cultivation.

The Cannabis Procedures define roles and include guidance, protocols, and tools to aid in consistent statewide implementation of the Water Boards Cannabis Program. The Cannabis Procedures are intended to be a living, internal guidance document for Cannabis Program staff, and will be updated once per year for the first five years of Cannabis Program implementation.

POLICY ISSUE

None. Informational item.

FISCAL IMPACT

None. Guidance and protocols put forth in the Cannabis Procedures and actions recommended in the Cannabis Program Report are activities already budgeted within existing resources.

REGIONAL BOARD IMPACT

Yes. The Cannabis Procedures provide guidance and protocols for Cannabis Program staff across the Divisions, Regions, and Offices of the Water Boards. The Cannabis Program Report provides recommended actions to be implemented throughout the Water Boards to address challenges and improve Cannabis Program effectiveness.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

None. Informational item.

State Water Board action on this item will assist the Water Boards in reaching Goals 5 and 6 of the Strategic Plan Update: 2008-2012. Goal 5 is to improve transparency and accountability by ensuring that Water Board goals and actions are clear and accessible, while Goal 6 is to enhance consistency across the Water Boards, on an ongoing basis, to ensure our processes are effective, efficient, and predictable, and to promote fair and equitable application of laws, regulations, policies, and procedures.