

**STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD
BOARD MEETING SESSION – OFFICE OF RESEARCH, PLANNING AND PERFORMANCE
MAY 6, 2019**

ITEM 4

SUBJECT

UPDATE ON THE WATER BOARDS' POST-FIRE RECOVERY EFFORTS

DISCUSSION

The 2017 and 2018 wildfires were the largest, most destructive, and deadliest in California history. From a water quality perspective, wildfire response is broad and multifaceted—affecting human health, the environment, and agency operations. The 2017 California State Emergency Plan tasks the State Water Resources Control Board and Regional Water Quality Control Boards (collectively the Water Boards) with assisting public water systems to provide a reliable, adequate and safe drinking water source; advising water systems and the public of emergency situations (including issuing unsafe water notices); and monitoring water quality.

Emergency response is a multifaceted effort that requires coordination, collaboration, communication, and cooperation over a wide range of disciplines to provide the rapid response necessary for long-term recovery to take place. Following the 2017 wildfire season, the Water Boards established the Emergency Response Technical Working Group (ERTWG) to improve and support the Water Boards' preparedness to respond to, and support recovery from, wildfires and other emergency events. The ERTWG serves as a centralized resource and supports the Water Boards' coordinated emergency response actions. It is composed of State and Regional Water Boards staff.

This informational item introduces the ERTWG's current work and future goals. State and Regional Water Board staff will also highlight actions taken to address drinking water and water quality impacts from the 2018 wildfire season.

POLICY ISSUE

None. This is an informational item only.

FISCAL IMPACT

None. This is an informational item only.

REGIONAL BOARD IMPACT

None. This is an informational item only.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

None. This is an informational item only.