

**STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD
BOARD MEETING SESSION – DIVISION OF FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE
JULY 21, 2020**

ITEM 4

SUBJECT

CONSIDERATION OF A PROPOSED RESOLUTION TO DELEGATE AUTHORITY FOR THE ADMINISTRATION OF AN \$800,000 GENERAL FUND ALLOCATION FOR A WATER SYSTEM NEEDS ASSESSMENT PROGRAM IN THE WATER REPLENISHMENT DISTRICT OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

DISCUSSION

Item 3940-101-0001 of Section 2.00 of Assembly Bill (AB) 74 (Stats. 2019, ch. 23), Budget Act of 2019, included Provision 2.6 (hereafter referred to as “Provision 2.6”). The funds appropriated in Provision 2.6 will be available for encumbrance until June 30, 2021.

Provision 2.6 appropriated \$18.5 million from the General Fund to the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) for ten specific water projects, which are listed in Provision 2.6, parts (a) through (j).

Senate Bill (SB) 109 amended Provision 2.6 of Item 3940-101-0001 of Section 2.00 of AB 74 to include part (k), which allocates \$800,000 for a water system needs assessment program (Needs Assessment) in the Water Replenishment District of Southern California (WRD).

The WRD Needs Assessment includes the following elements: data collection and review on community water systems serving disadvantaged communities within WRD’s service area; database development; data analysis; Technical, Managerial, and Financial (TMF) capacity assessments; cost benefit analyses; water rate studies; and community outreach and engagement events.

State Water Board staff in the Division of Financial Assistance (DFA) and Division of Drinking Water (DDW) will be in close collaboration with WRD as the WRD Needs Assessment is implemented to ensure that the work enhances and does not duplicate efforts being undertaken currently by the University of California, Los Angeles for the Statewide Needs Assessment (overseen by DDW), expected to be completed in Spring 2021.

On August 20, 2019, the State Water Board adopted a resolution delegating authority to the Deputy Director of DFA to administer the original allocations from AB 74. The proposed resolution would delegate the necessary authority for the administration of the additional funds for the WRD Needs Assessment.

POLICY ISSUE

Should the State Water Board authorize the Deputy Director of DFA, or his or her designee, to enter into an agreement with WRD for its water system Needs Assessment, and to perform all acts and to do all things necessary and convenient to facilitate the implementation of such agreement?

FISCAL IMPACT

Provision 2.6 authorizes up to five percent of the amount appropriated to be used to administer the funds.

REGIONAL WATER BOARD IMPACT / DISTRICT OFFICE IMPACT

Minor impacts. DFA staff will be coordinating with the local Division of Drinking Water District Office as well as with WRD.

HUMAN RIGHT TO WATER ANALYSIS

The actions proposed under this item are consistent with the established policy of the State recognizing the human right to safe, clean, affordable, and accessible water adequate for human consumption, cooking, and sanitary purposes (human right to water; Water Code section 106.3). The proposed actions are also consistent with [Resolution No. 2016-0010](#), in which the State Water Board adopted the human right to water as a core value and top priority. Staff have determined that the proposed actions support the human right to water by providing funding to support the assessment of the needs of water systems serving disadvantaged communities.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the State Water Board adopt the proposed Resolution.